

# dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship

**\*\*Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship\*\***

**Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship** serves as an invaluable resource for anyone delving into the foundational texts of the Hebrew Bible. Whether you are a theology student, a biblical scholar, or simply someone fascinated by ancient scriptures, this dictionary offers a rich blend of historical context, linguistic detail, and theological insight. Its careful compilation of modern research provides clarity on complex themes and terms found within the Pentateuch—the first five books of the Old Testament.

Exploring this resource opens doors to understanding the cultural, literary, and religious significance of these ancient texts, often called the Torah. By presenting comprehensive entries written by leading scholars, the dictionary illuminates the nuanced meanings behind Hebrew words, ancient customs, and theological concepts. Let's dive deeper into how this contemporary compendium shapes our comprehension of the Pentateuch and why it remains a cornerstone in biblical studies.

## Understanding the Pentateuch: The Heart of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch, consisting of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, is considered the bedrock of Judeo-Christian tradition. Studying it requires more than just reading the text; it involves interpreting language, historical background, and the socio-political context of ancient Israel. The dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship is designed precisely to assist in this multifaceted exploration.

## The Role of the Dictionary in Biblical Scholarship

This dictionary acts as a bridge between ancient biblical language and modern readers. It offers:

- **\*\*Lexical Clarification\*\***: Many Hebrew words in the Pentateuch carry layers of meaning that can be lost or oversimplified in translation. The dictionary provides detailed explanations of these terms, often including their roots,

usage in other biblical contexts, and comparisons with cognate languages like Akkadian or Ugaritic.

- **Cultural and Historical Context**: Understanding ancient Israelite customs, laws, and societal structures is critical. Entries often explain festivals, legal codes, and ritual practices mentioned in the Pentateuch, grounding them in archaeological findings and historical research.

- **Theological Insights**: The Pentateuch is rich with theological themes such as covenant, law, creation, and divine-human interaction. Contemporary scholarship helps interpret these themes in light of both ancient contexts and modern theological inquiry.

## **Key Features of the Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch**

What sets this dictionary apart from other biblical reference works are its scholarly depth and contemporary approach. Here are some standout features that make it an essential tool:

### **Comprehensive Alphabetical Entries**

Each entry, whether it is a person, place, concept, or Hebrew term, is exhaustively researched and clearly presented. For example, entries on significant figures like Moses or Aaron not only recount biblical narratives but also discuss their historical and literary significance.

### **Interdisciplinary Contributions**

The dictionary benefits from contributions by experts in various fields: linguistics, archaeology, theology, and history. This interdisciplinary approach enriches the content, providing readers with a well-rounded understanding of each topic.

### **Incorporation of Modern Biblical Criticism**

Contemporary biblical scholarship is not limited to traditional exegesis but incorporates critical methods such as source criticism, form criticism, and canonical criticism. The dictionary reflects these methodologies, offering readers insight into how scholars analyze the formation and transmission of the Pentateuchal texts.

# Why Use a Contemporary Compendium for Studying the Pentateuch?

Many modern readers might wonder what new perspectives a recent dictionary can bring to texts that have been studied for centuries. The answer lies in the evolving nature of biblical scholarship and the continuous discoveries that shape our understanding.

## Bridging Ancient Texts and Modern Knowledge

Archaeological discoveries in the Near East, advances in linguistics, and new theological approaches constantly influence how scholars interpret the Pentateuch. A contemporary compendium like this one integrates these advancements, ensuring that readers access the most up-to-date information.

## Enhancing Bible Study and Teaching

Pastors, educators, and students find this dictionary particularly useful for sermon preparation, academic research, and classroom teaching. It helps clarify difficult passages, provides background for biblical laws and narratives, and encourages deeper engagement with the text.

## Supporting Multidisciplinary Research

Because biblical studies intersect with history, literature, anthropology, and religious studies, a resource that embraces this diversity enhances scholarly work. The dictionary's comprehensive entries support cross-disciplinary projects and foster a more holistic understanding of ancient Israelite culture.

## Examples of Key Entries Worth Exploring

To appreciate the richness of the dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship, let's look at some examples of the kinds of entries that illustrate its scope.

### Theological Terms: Covenant (ברית, Berith)

The concept of covenant is central to the Pentateuch. The dictionary explores not only the Hebrew term but also its usage across biblical texts, how

covenants functioned in ancient Near Eastern treaties, and their theological implications for Israel's relationship with God.

## **Legal Codes and Rituals**

Entries on laws, such as those found in Leviticus or Deuteronomy, clarify their origins, purposes, and how they relate to ancient legal practices. Ritual purity, sacrifices, and festivals are also examined, shedding light on their significance for Israelite identity and worship.

## **Geographical and Historical Contexts**

Places like Sinai, Horeb, and the wilderness are discussed with attention to archaeological findings and historical geography. This contextual information helps readers visualize the narrative settings and understand their symbolic meaning.

## **Tips for Making the Most of the Dictionary in Your Studies**

Using a comprehensive dictionary effectively can transform your study of the Pentateuch. Here are some practical tips:

- **\*\*Start with Key Terms\*\***: Identify pivotal words or themes in your reading and look them up to deepen your understanding.
- **\*\*Cross-Reference Entries\*\***: Many topics are interconnected; follow cross-references within the dictionary to see how concepts relate.
- **\*\*Combine with Other Resources\*\***: Use the dictionary alongside commentaries and atlases for a fuller picture.
- **\*\*Note Scholarly Debates\*\***: Pay attention to differing scholarly opinions presented to develop critical thinking.
- **\*\*Apply Insights to Textual Analysis\*\***: Use the dictionary's explanations to inform your interpretation of challenging passages.

## **The Lasting Impact of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship**

In an age where biblical interpretation faces both new challenges and opportunities, resources like the dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship are indispensable. They ensure that ancient texts remain accessible and relevant, helping readers navigate their complexity with confidence.

By blending traditional exegesis with modern research, this dictionary not only enriches academic study but also invites broader audiences to engage with the Pentateuch in meaningful ways. It stands as a testament to the ongoing dialogue between past and present, inviting us to discover the enduring wisdom contained within the Old Testament's first five books.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the 'Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch' about?**

It is a comprehensive reference work that provides contemporary scholarly insights and detailed information on the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.

### **Who are the main contributors to the 'Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch'?**

The dictionary features contributions from a wide range of leading biblical scholars and experts in Old Testament studies from around the world.

### **What makes this dictionary a valuable resource for biblical studies?**

It combines up-to-date scholarship with accessible entries that cover historical, literary, theological, and cultural aspects of the Pentateuch, making it invaluable for students, pastors, and scholars.

### **How is the 'Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch' organized?**

The dictionary is organized alphabetically by topic, including entries on key terms, characters, places, and themes found within the Pentateuch.

### **Does the dictionary engage with contemporary debates about the Pentateuch?**

Yes, it addresses current scholarly debates, including discussions on authorship, historical context, and theological interpretations within modern

biblical scholarship.

## **Can this dictionary be used for both academic and personal study?**

Absolutely, its clear explanations and thorough scholarship make it suitable for academic research as well as personal Bible study and sermon preparation.

## **In what ways does the dictionary reflect contemporary biblical scholarship?**

It incorporates recent archaeological findings, linguistic research, and methodological approaches, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of Old Testament studies today.

## **Additional Resources**

Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship

**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship** stands as a pivotal resource for theologians, biblical scholars, clergy, and students alike seeking a deeper understanding of the foundational texts of the Hebrew Bible. This comprehensive dictionary offers an authoritative synthesis of current academic research, linguistic insights, historical context, and theological interpretations surrounding the Pentateuch—the first five books of the Old Testament. As contemporary scholarship continues to evolve, this compendium serves as a crucial bridge between ancient scripture and modern critical inquiry, providing clarity and scholarly rigor to one of the most studied collections of biblical literature.

## **In-depth Analysis of the Dictionary's Scholarly Contribution**

The dictionary distinguishes itself by marrying meticulous biblical exegesis with up-to-date archaeological findings and linguistic research. Unlike traditional lexicons or general biblical dictionaries, this compendium focuses exclusively on the Pentateuch, allowing for a concentrated and detailed exploration of terms, names, places, and theological concepts specific to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

One of the dictionary's notable strengths lies in its editorial approach. Contributors to this volume are leading scholars from diverse theological and academic backgrounds, ensuring a balanced representation of critical

methodologies including historical-critical, literary, and canonical approaches. This diversity enriches the entries, allowing readers to encounter multiple perspectives on contentious issues such as the Documentary Hypothesis, Mosaic authorship, and the socio-political milieu of ancient Israel.

Furthermore, the dictionary excels in its integration of Hebrew linguistics with cultural and historical context. Entries on key Hebrew terms are not limited to mere definitions but extend to explore semantic ranges, cognates, and usage across different biblical corpora. This linguistic depth is invaluable for those seeking to understand the nuances of the original language that are often lost in translation.

## Features That Set the Dictionary Apart

Several features enhance the utility and appeal of this compendium:

- **Comprehensive Cross-Referencing:** The dictionary includes extensive cross-references between entries, facilitating a holistic understanding of interconnected themes such as covenant theology, priestly laws, and patriarchal narratives.
- **Inclusion of Archaeological Data:** Archaeological discoveries that shed light on the historical context of the Pentateuch's composition and setting are incorporated, grounding textual analysis in material culture.
- **Balanced Theological Perspectives:** Contributors offer interpretations from various faith traditions and secular viewpoints, allowing readers to weigh differing scholarly opinions critically.
- **Up-to-Date Bibliographies:** Each entry concludes with curated bibliographies that guide readers toward further specialized research, highlighting the latest monographs, journal articles, and critical editions.
- **User-Friendly Layout:** Despite its academic depth, the dictionary is organized for easy navigation, with clear headings and succinct summaries that cater to both experts and lay readers.

## Comparing with Other Biblical Dictionaries

When placed alongside other established biblical dictionaries and encyclopedias, the dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship fills a unique niche. General biblical

dictionaries often allocate limited space to the Pentateuch or approach it as part of the broader Old Testament. This specialized dictionary, however, delves deeply into Pentateuchal themes, offering granular detail that surpasses more generalized works like the Anchor Bible Dictionary or the New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.

Moreover, while lexicons such as the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon focus primarily on linguistic aspects, this compendium broadens the scope to include theological, historical, and cultural dimensions. This multifaceted approach appeals to a wider audience, including seminary students, pastors preparing sermons, and scholars conducting advanced research.

## **Exploring Key Themes and Entries**

The dictionary's coverage spans a wide range of topics, from individual names and geographical locations to complex theological constructs. A few exemplary entries illustrate the depth and breadth offered:

### **Covenant and Law in the Pentateuch**

The concept of covenant is central to Pentateuchal theology, and the dictionary provides a nuanced exploration of its development from Genesis through Deuteronomy. Entries dissect the lexical roots of covenant terminology and trace the evolution of legal codes, such as the Decalogue and the Holiness Code. This thematic focus helps readers appreciate how covenant shaped Israelite identity and religious practice.

### **Patriarchal Narratives and Historical Context**

Entries detailing patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are enriched with archaeological insights and comparative ancient Near Eastern literature. The dictionary discusses how modern scholarship questions and affirms traditional understandings of these figures, providing a balanced view that acknowledges both faith perspectives and critical methods.

### **Priestly and Ritual Language**

Given the Pentateuch's extensive ritual content, the dictionary's attention to priestly terminology and sacrificial systems is particularly valuable. It explains the significance of Hebrew terms related to purity, sacrifice, and tabernacle worship, offering readers a window into the religious life of ancient Israel.

# Utility for Various Audiences

The dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship serves multiple user groups effectively:

- **Academic Researchers:** It is an indispensable tool for those engaging in detailed textual criticism, offering updated scholarly consensus and debates.
- **Clergy and Theological Educators:** The dictionary aids sermon preparation and curriculum development by clarifying difficult terms and contextualizing biblical narratives.
- **Students of Biblical Studies:** Undergraduate and graduate students benefit from accessible yet authoritative entries that elucidate complex concepts.
- **Lay Readers Interested in Deeper Study:** While scholarly, the dictionary's clear prose and structure make it approachable for serious laypersons exploring the Pentateuch.

## Potential Limitations

Despite its many strengths, the dictionary may present challenges for some readers. Its academic density and specialized terminology could be daunting for novices without prior biblical or linguistic training. Additionally, the breadth of perspectives, while a strength, might sometimes leave readers without a definitive stance on controversial issues, necessitating further study.

## Final Reflections on Its Place in Biblical Scholarship

The dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship represents a significant contribution to the field of biblical studies, particularly for those focused on the Pentateuch's textual, historical, and theological dimensions. By compiling contemporary research and presenting it in an accessible yet rigorous format, it affirms its role as an essential reference work. As biblical scholarship continues to advance, resources like this dictionary will remain critical for navigating the complex interplay between ancient texts and modern interpretation.

## **Dictionary Of The Old Testament Pentateuch A Compendium Of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship**

**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship:** *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* T. Desmond Alexander, David W. Baker, 2002-12-13 Exploring the major themes and issues of the Pentateuch, this encyclopedic work offers authoritative overviews, detailed examinations and new insights from the world of the ancient Near East. Edited by T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker.

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**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship: Dictionary of the Old Testament** David Weston Baker, T. Desmond Alexander, Tremper Longman, Bill T. Arnold, H. G. M. Williamson, Peter Enns, 2003

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**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship: Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings** Tremper Longman III, Peter Enns, 2008-06-06 Tremper Longman III and Peter E. Enns edit this collection of 148 articles by over 90 contributors on Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Ruth and Esther.

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**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship: Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets** G MCCONVILLE, MARK J BODA, 2020-05-21 The writings of the prophets make up over a quarter of the Old Testament. But perhaps

no other portion of the Old Testament is more misunderstood by readers today. For some, prophecy conjures up knotted enigmas, opaque oracles and terrifying visions of the future. For others it raises expectations of a plotted-out future to be reconstructed from disparate texts. And yet the prophets have imprinted the language of faith and imagination with some of its most sublime visions of the future - nations streaming to Zion, a lion lying with a lamb, and endlessly fruiting trees on the banks of a flowing river. We might view the prophets as stage directors for Israel's unfolding drama of redemption. Drawing inspiration from past acts in that drama and invoking fresh words from its divine author, these prophets speak a language of sinewed poetry, their words and images arresting the ear and detonating in the mind. For when Yahweh roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem, the pastures of the shepherds dry up, the crest of Carmel withers, and the prophetic word buffets those selling the needy for a pair of sandals. The *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets* is the only reference book of its kind. Not only does it focus exclusively on the prophetic books; it also plumbs their imagery of mountains and wilderness, flora and fauna, temple and Zion. It maps and guides us through topics such as covenant and law, exile and deliverance, forgiveness and repentance, and the Day of the Lord. Here the nature of prophecy is searched out in its social, historical, literary and psychological dimensions as well as its synchronic spread of textual links and associations. And the formation of the prophetic books into their canonical collection, including the Book of the Twelve, is explored and weighed for its significance. Then too, contemporary approaches such as canonical criticism, conversation analysis, editorial/redaction criticism, feminist interpretation, literary approaches and rhetorical criticism are summed up and assayed. Even the afterlife of these great texts is explored in articles on the history of interpretation as well as on their impact in the New Testament.

**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship:** *Spirit and Scripture* Kevin L. Spawn, Archie T. Wright, 2011-11-10 This book considers the academic treatment of biblical interpretation in the renewal movement, the fastest growing tradition in Christendom today. The initial chapter surveys the history of biblical interpretation in the renewal tradition and provides a conceptual basis for the book. In Part II, six renewal scholars outline a proposal for the future of biblical hermeneutics in the tradition. These authors address certain key questions. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in biblical interpretation? What are the distinctive presuppositions, methods and goals of renewal biblical hermeneutics? Three prominent biblical scholars (Craig G. Bartholomew, James D.G. Dunn, R. Walter L. Moberly) respond to the proposals outlined above. These critical responses deepen the examination of renewal biblical hermeneutics as well as increase its appeal to biblical and theological scholars in general. The final chapter offers a synthesis and evaluation of the accomplishments of the discussion, as well as an assessment of the state of the discipline with an eye toward the future.

**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship:** *So All Israel Shall Be Saved* Nathaniel Parker, 2025-01-28 Is it feasible to speak of a Moore School of Biblical Theology? The biblical theology program at Moore Theological College can be traced back to Donald Robinson. One unique contribution of Robinson to Moore's program was his distinction theology concerning the role of Israel in redemption history as his attempt at providing an alternative to dispensationalism and covenant theology. By examining Robinson's view of Jew and gentile in the New Testament church, the reciprocal role of the gospel going forth from Jewish Christians to the gentiles and back to unbelieving Jews (to fulfill the Rom 11 promise "so all Israel shall be saved") and Robinson's eschatological concept of both Jew and gentile forming a new man, and by tracing how his view has been affirmed, revised, rejected, or ignored by biblical theologians at Moore College who were influenced by or who followed Robinson (including Graeme Goldsworthy, Lionel Windsor, D. Broughton Knox, and William Dumbrell), this book seeks to clarify the reception of Robinson's legacy at Moore College as well as offer an assessment on the plausibility of a distinct Moore School of Biblical Theology.

**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship:** *Bible Review* , 2003

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**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship: DELIVERANCE THROUGH RESTORATION OF HONOR: SHAME AND HONOR IN PSALM 22** Jose Manuel S. Espero, 2023-12-06 This book shows that in Psalm 22 the psalmist complains to God about his shame experiences and he prays to him for his deliverance from shame and the restoration of his honor. The book also presents the shame and honor values and means found in Psalm 22 which are related to the shame and honor status of the psalmist. It discusses the social values of patronage, kinship/family, and trust which are the key values the psalmist held on to maintain his honor. are discussed in the book. It also explains the means of forsakenness/abandonment, taunt speeches, nakedness, and feast/meal that factor in the psalmist's shame and honor. The book also surveys the different deliverance terms which convey the psalmist's deliverance from shame. It shows Yahweh's active role in the restoration of the psalmist from shame to honor. The study adds an overview of the similarities and differences of how the same values and means were practiced in the Mediterranean and Mesopotamian, and Israelite backgrounds.

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**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship: The Prophet and the Sage** Brian M. Koning, 2023-03-29 Job and Habakkuk represent the Bible's most focused interlocutors on the concepts of justice and theodicy. Both works center upon men chosen by God who see and suffer evil (Job 1:8, cf. Hab 1:1). Both books record the cries of these men as they wrestled to make sense of the world in which they lived (Job 3, cf. Hab 1:2-4). While they have a passing similarity, what if there is something more fundamental to their connection? What if these books are not merely two unconnected discourses on suffering, but linked in a significant way? By examining the texts themselves, this study explores the possibility that a

textual relationship exists between portions of Habakkuk and Job and how the underlying transformation of Job's theodicy shapes Habakkuk's dialogue with God.

**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship:** *Everyone Will See the Salvation of God* Lesław Daniel Chrupcała, 2015-04-01T00:00:00+02:00 The volume comprises ten studies on Lukan theology relating especially with the theme of salvation, but also with christology and kingdom of God in Luke-Acts, as well as with the author of the two-volume work of Luke: - Luke the Jew? Current Trajectories of Scholarship - Jesus Christ, Salvation and Kingdom of God: For a Discussion on the Thematic Unity of Luke-Acts - Our Father Abraham and the Universal Promise of Salvation in the Lukan Writings - The Lukan Story of Salvation as an Insight: Re-reading Isaiah in Luke-Acts - The Law and the Kingdom of God in the Soteriology of St Luke - Faith and Works in Luke: The Case of Circumcision - 'And the Lord turned': A Lukan Feature in the Itinerant Behaviour of Jesus - The Practice of Prayer by Jesus in the Lukan Teachings - The Finger of God (Luke 11:20) in Modern and Patristic Exegesis - The Plan of God and the Announcement of the Kingdom in the Light of Acts 28:17-31

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**dictionary of the old testament pentateuch a compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship:** *Mastering the Discipline of Bible Study* Jenai J. Rasmussen Ed.D., 2022-07-22 This work, along with the other volumes in the Foundational Knowledge of the Bible series, can help those who are young in the faith to seek a Christian relationship with God. All who choose to enter into the new covenant must concurrently embrace a new perceptual field. By heeding God's call to service, believers embark upon a Christian journey to become wise from the application of spiritual knowledge. This is made possible with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who guides covenant believers in the faithful word of God, which is the source of all spiritual truth in this world. The

intended purpose presented in this plan of action is to speak the truth of God in love so that the brethren can learn godly discernment, be equipped with sound doctrine, and grow together in all things according to Christ's authoritative leadership (Eph. 4:15). By becoming covenant Christians set apart by God for his particular use, we can be diligent by precisely and accurately handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). This series can serve to edify and ground those who are new in the faith because the revelation of God provides all the essential answers to life's pressing spiritual questions, whether general or specific. Accordingly, Christ's disciples need to comprehend the questions before the answers can have real meaning. No greater reason can be given for studying the Bible. Therefore, the people of God are duty-bound to master this Christian discipline. The first volume in this series is divided into three phases of Bible study: "Why" addresses the importance of knowing God's word, study motivations, conditions for discipleship, Christian distinctions, and the attributes needed to study biblical truth. "How" covers preliminary actions, Bible versions, principles, study considerations, and necessary skills. "What" offers a unique sevenfold framework for understanding the Bible. Divine power can move the Scriptures to be more than words on a page. It can become a life-changing force for good in the world. To that end, this resource directs the reader on how to inquire, search, and ask diligently concerning godly truth. Invaluable information, accessible resources, clear educational materials, and deep biblical insights will all quickly serve to establish beginning students in the Sacred Text. This work will also prepare the reader to receive the Scriptures by learning how to obtain a faithful accounting of spiritual truth. To be sure, wisdom is the result of applying biblical knowledge to our lives. By speaking divine truth in love, believers can grow together in Christ as fellow workers who labor in the word of God. There is no greater work in this world than to share this life-saving truth with others. The obligation of receiving divine knowledge requires that it be shared. Truly, giving the hope and joy that is found in Jesus Christ, and the message he brought from the Father, is the greatest privilege of a human life. Amen, and amen.

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