



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Matthew 2 Title: The Mastermind
Author	Ps Peter Lim
Summary of Chapter	Jesus was born and the Magi visited Him but King Herod tried to kill Him. Despite the opposition, Jesus fulfilled four Old Testament prophecies by the sovereignty of God, the Mastermind behind the story of redemption.
Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
⁵ <i>“for this is what the prophet wrote:</i>	<p>God had an important mission for Jesus to fulfill but fierce opposition came from King Herod. Yet, in spite of that, we see everything unfold according to what God had already planned centuries before! So, not only do these fulfilled prophecies prove that Jesus is the promised Messiah, they also assure us that God is in control even of situations that seem to work against His plans.</p> <p>When my dream of getting an overseas scholarship was crushed, I was devastated. But if I had gotten it, I would have been bonded to the organization for at least 6 years, and wouldn't have been able to do some things which God wanted me to do to prepare me for full-time ministry. So, all those obstacles and “setbacks” actually paved the way for me to fulfill my calling.</p> <p>No matter what opposition or obstruction you face today, you can trust the Mastermind to orchestrate circumstances in order to put you where you ought to be. All you need to do is pursue Christ (like the Magi did) and obey God (like Joseph and Mary did).</p>
¹⁵ <i>This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”</i>	
¹⁷ <i>Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:</i>	
²³ <i>This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”</i>	
APPLICATION REFLECTIONS	
Adult:	What oppositions, setbacks, or difficulties have you experienced currently or in the past which seem to work against you? How can God turn things around to help you live out your calling and destiny? What ambition, dream or plan do you need to surrender to God?
Youth:	What failures have you faced in your studies, relationships, and other pursuits? How do these failures determine the final score on your life's report card? How has God used negative circumstances for good in your life?
Child:	For Parents: Play and fit a jigsaw together. Keep away a few pieces of the puzzle without the child's knowledge. When child discovers there are missing pieces, ask, "How do you feel about this incomplete puzzle?" Though we see the 'missing pieces', God's view is always clear and complete. (Fit in the 'hidden pieces' to show God's view) For Child: What does this activity tell you about God's plan for your life?
PRAYER	
Praying Scripture:	Dear heavenly Father, I know that you are the Mastermind who work all things for the good of those who love you (Romans 8:28). Whatever the enemy meant for evil, you can turn it around for good (Genesis 50:20). When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. (Psalm 56:3)
Thanksgiving Prayer:	Thank you for showing yourself to be in absolute control of everything. Thank you for your loving kindness that you should work all things for our good.

Intercessory Prayer:

We pray for those who are facing some opposition, setbacks or tragedies. Lord, comfort and heal them. We ask you to intervene and bring breakthrough. Help each one to continue to trust, seek and obey you in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Salvation Prayer:

Thank you for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. May _____
(names of unsaved loved ones) see that Jesus is the true Messiah and put their faith in Him. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.