

JANUARY 2026

STAND — on the — WORD *Journal*

A companion for your journey through the Bible



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY, AND FREEDOM

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Content contributor: Dr. Kenyn Cureton
Interior layout design/typesetting: Lisa Parnell
Copyeditor: Lisa Parnell

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Introduction to Genesis

Genesis is a book of firsts. The first man and woman, the first marriage, the first sin, the first children, the first sacrifices, the first murder, and so on. We are also introduced to concepts such as self-government, family government, and civil government. In addition, it is important to point out that the great questions of life are answered in Genesis:

1. Where did we come from? (God created us: 1:1)
2. Why are we here? (We are here to have a relationship with God: chaps. 1–2, based on faith: 15:6)
3. What is wrong with the world? (Sin has corrupted all of creation, including us: chap. 3)
4. What is God's plan to fix it? (God will send a Savior: 3:15)
5. Where am I going? (We have a destination after death: 25:8)

Consequently, we not only learn about the first humans and their sin—its spread and its destructive effects on the rest of humanity—but we also get a glimpse of God's gracious plan to atone for that sin through the “seed of a woman” (3:15). He will be a future son of Abraham and a ruler from the tribe of Judah (22:18; 49:10), whom Satan the serpent will bruise, but this promised Savior will crush the serpent's head! Truly, the book of Genesis is a key that unlocks the rest of the Bible. Therefore, it is fitting that we take the time to dig deeper into this amazing book.

Background

The book of Genesis is first of the five books of Moses, which together are called the “Torah” in Hebrew or the “Pentateuch” in Greek. Conservative Bible scholars accept Moses as the author of everything in those five books except the last few verses that chronicle his death. Moses likely wrote Genesis in the mid-fifteenth century BC during the forty years in the wilderness after he and the children of Israel came out of Egypt. However, plenty of critics have suggested Moses could not have known enough to write authoritatively on history going 2,500 years back, let alone give an account of creation. Consequently, it is important to answer the critics' claim.

First, consider the prophecies of the Bible. More than three hundred prophecies about the Messiah are in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled in His first coming alone. The Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to see into the future, so could the Holy Spirit not enable a writer to understand the things of the past? Second, tangible archaeological evidence exists of written records. Earlier critics claimed we only had oral history and that there were no written records. Some even claimed Moses probably could not even write. Yet volumes of archaeological discoveries annihilate these claims. Discoveries in the past 150 to 200 years have uncovered pre-flood (or antediluvian) writings revealing that historical records were kept and have been preserved. Records carved in

stone, discovered near Nineveh dating to 3500 BC, even depict an account of creation. Vast libraries have been discovered in and around Ur, where Abraham came from, revealing that it had been the center of literacy or literary culture for generations before Abraham.

Why is this important? Abraham would have learned, most likely from his ancestor Shem, who was told by his father Noah, who was told by Methuselah, who was told by Adam the story of creation and the fall of man—and they all overlapped because of their lifespans. So, Adam told Methuselah and so forth until it reached Abraham. It's reasonable to assume that records were kept through this process, and even Abraham kept a record from the moment of his call by God, which Moses could have then used, along with other historical records, to write most if not all of the book of Genesis.

Outline

The first eleven chapters of Genesis provide a brief history of God's creation and broad story of humanity. Then Moses zeroed in on the history of God's special relationship with the forefathers of the Jewish people—their origins, their journeys, and their covenants with God. Consequently, the book of Genesis can be divided into two main sections: Primitive History and Patriarchal History.

The first section offers a record of Primitive History:

1. The Creation (chaps. 1–2)
2. The Fall (chaps. 3–5)
3. The Flood (chaps. 6–9)
4. The Dispersion from Babel (chaps. 10–11)

The second section offers a record of Patriarchal History, specifically the lives of four principal people:

1. Abraham (chaps. 12–25:8)
2. Isaac (chaps. 21:1–35:29)
3. Jacob (chaps. 25:21–50:14)
4. Joseph (chaps. 30:22–50:26)

Looking at the broad span of history, the book of Genesis covers the period from creation to the death of Joseph in Egypt at the age of 110. Genesis covers more than 2,000 years of history, which is significant because the entire Bible itself spans approximately 4,200 years, from Genesis to Revelation. This means Genesis covers about half the time frame of the entire Bible. Additionally, the events contained in the rest of the Pentateuch are responses to the promises of God found in Genesis. Such a history would have not only provided encouragement and inspiration to those former slaves seeking freedom but firmly established their identity as God's chosen people Israel in their promised land.



Week 1

— THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 1-3

Verse of the Day:

“This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.” —Genesis 2:4

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What do you think it means that humankind was created in the “image” of God (see 1:26-28)?
2. What was the serpent (Satan) doing by asking Eve, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’” (see 3:1)?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

— FRIDAY, JANUARY 2 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 4-5

Verse of the Day:

“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”—Genesis 4:7

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What do you think God was communicating to Cain when He said, "...sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it" (see 4:7b)?
2. Who "walked with God and was not, for God took him" (see 5:21-24)?
 - a. Seth
 - b. Enoch
 - c. Methuselah
 - d. None of the above

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

[illegible]

— SATURDAY, JANUARY 3 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 6-9

Verse of the Day:

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” —Genesis 6:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What was the condition of the earth when God declared to Noah that he would destroy it (see 6:5,13)?
2. What was the sign of the covenant God gave Noah that He would never again destroy the earth by flood?
 - a. A comet in the sky
 - b. His rainbow in the cloud
 - c. A fire on the mountain
 - d. A sunset on the sea

Notes on Today's Bible Reading



Week 2

— MONDAY, JANUARY 5 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 10-13

Verse of the Day:

“And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’”

—Genesis 11:4

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. While God did not approve of the motivation behind the building of the tower of Babel, what did He point to as a key to their achievement (see 11:6)?
 - a. They had superior building materials
 - b. They had a smart design
 - c. They had clever engineering
 - d. They were unified
2. What did God commit to do for those who blessed Abram as God led him out to begin a new nation (see 12:1-3)?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

— TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 —
Today's Reading: Genesis 14-17

Verse of the Day:

“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” —Genesis 15:1

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. In these chapters, what was the first of many problems for Lot when he lived in Sodom (see 14:8-12)?
 - a. He got in a bidding war for a house
 - b. He got into trouble with the HOA
 - c. He became a POW and had to be rescued
 - d. None of the above
2. What did God reveal to Abram about his descendants (see chapter 15)?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

[illegible]

— WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 18-19

Verse of the Day:

“For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”—Genesis 18:19

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How did Abraham respond to the message that God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the people's sin (see 18:22-33)?
 - a. He celebrated their impending judgment
 - b. He objected that the punishment was too harsh
 - c. He interceded repeatedly
 - d. None of the above
2. What did the men of Sodom do when Lot appealed to them not to sexually assault the strangers who were staying in Lot's house (see 19:4-9)?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

[illegible]

— THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 20-22

Verse of the Day:

“So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide;” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”
—Genesis 22:14

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Why did Abraham tell Abimelech that Sarah was his sister and not his wife?
 - a. He believed there was no fear of God there
 - b. He believed he would be killed because of her
 - c. Both of the above
 - d. Neither of the above
2. How did God test Abraham regarding his son Isaac (see chapter 22)?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 23-24

Verse of the Day:

“The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.” —Genesis 24:7

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. By the end of chapter 23, what property did Abraham own in the Promised Land?
2. Where did Abraham's servant (Eliezer) turn for help in finding a wife for Isaac (see 24:12)?
 - a. A matchmaker
 - b. A dating app
 - c. Yahweh, God of Abraham
 - d. None of the above

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

[illegible]

— SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 —

Review of This Week's Readings: Genesis 10-26

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What passage uniquely spoke to you this week?
2. What insights did you gain about God?
3. What application might this have to what is happening in the world today?
4. How would God have you apply this truth to your life?

Notes from Reflecting on This Week's Bible Readings

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Today's Reading: Genesis 27-28

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”—Genesis 28:15

1. What unfortunate family behavior do we see in this passage?
2. What did this deception do to the family?

[illegible]

— TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 29-30

Verse of the Day:

“And Laban said to him, ‘Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake’” —Genesis 30:27

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What is the stated reason that God opened the womb of Leah?
2. What was one of the main reasons Laban said he wanted Jacob to stay and continue serving him?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 34-36

Verse of the Day:

“And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel.” —Genesis 35:10

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What was Jacob's response to the actions of Simeon and Levi?
2. What actions might Jacob have taken that would have averted the massacre at Shechem?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 37-39

Verse of the Day:

“...The LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”

—Genesis 39:21

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What made the difference between the lives of Er and Joseph?
2. What were the two trespasses that Judah committed?

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Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 40-41

Verse of the Day:

“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” —Genesis 41:39-40

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Why did Pharaoh select Joseph to oversee the collection and distribution of grain?
2. What is the reason given for the repeating of Pharaoh's dream?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 —

Review of This Week's Readings: Genesis 27-41

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What passage uniquely spoke to you this week?
2. What insights did you gain about God?
3. What application might this have to what is happening in the world today?
4. How would God have you apply this truth to your life?

Notes from Reflecting on This Week's Bible Readings

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Week 4

— MONDAY, JANUARY 19 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 42-44

Verse of the Day:

“Then they said... ‘We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us.’” —Genesis 42:21

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. When Joseph's brothers encountered trouble in Egypt, what did they attribute it to (see 42:21)?
2. Who offered himself as a slave in place of Benjamin to spare their father heartbreak (see 44:18-24)?
 - a. Simeon
 - b. Reuben
 - c. Levi
 - d. Judah

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

— WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 —

Today's Reading: Genesis 48-50

Verse of the Day:

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”
—Genesis 50:20

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What did Joseph tell his brothers when their father, Jacob, died (see 50:20)?
2. How old was Joseph when he died?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— GENESIS 1-50 —

Final Thoughts and Takeaways from Genesis

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Introduction to Job



The author of the book of Job is unknown, but most likely an eyewitness who recorded the detailed and lengthy conversations found in the book, which has been categorized as wisdom literature since it reflects on how to make sense of suffering. We don't know much about Job personally other than that he was a wealthy landowner, husband of one wife, and father of a large family, who was stripped of everything, his faith was severely tested, and yet he survived by the grace of God, who became one of the best-known biblical heroes. We read that Job lived in the land of Uz (Job 1:1), but no one really knows where Uz was located. Scholars believe it was outside of Canaan, near the desert because "the customs, vocabulary, and references to geography and natural history relate to northern Arabia."

We think Job probably lived during the time of the patriarchs, approximately 2100 to 1900 BC. According to Job 42:16, Job lived an additional 140 years after his tragedies occurred, perhaps to around 210 years total. His long lifespan generally corresponds to that of Terah (Abraham's father), Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Also, Job's wealth was measured in livestock (Job 1:3; 42:12), as was Abraham's (Genesis 12:16). Like the patriarchs, Job used God's unique title "El Shaddai" (God Almighty). The book of Job does not mention the Mosaic Law; indeed, Job's daughters were equal heirs with his sons, and Job himself, though not a priest, offered sacrifices—things not possible under the Law (Leviticus 4:10; Numbers 27:8).

The prologue gives us an inside look into God's throne room and how Satan requested and God allowed him to afflict Job. From that prologue we learn: 1) Satan cannot bring physical or financial destruction upon us unless God allows it. 2) God has power over what Satan can and cannot do. 3) Not all suffering is the result of sin. Then, through a series of dialogues and monologues arranged in a pattern of threes, human wisdom attempts to explain the unexplainable, until finally God Himself speaks. The final chapters of Job record God's masterful defense of His sovereign majesty and eternal transcendence above creation—in contrast with Job's frailty as a mere man: "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? / Tell Me, if you have understanding" (Job 38:4).

At the end of the day God does not supply a clear answer regarding Job's suffering, but he does graciously restore Job's wealth and family, so that his later state is greater than his former.

Job's plight of undeserved suffering compels us to ask the age-old question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" The answer given to Job may or may not satisfy the reader. God allows pain and suffering sometimes for reasons beyond our understanding, but we know that God is sovereign, that he loves us, and for those who love him, He works all things, even our suffering, together for good and for His glory. So trust God in your trials, allow him to refine you in that refiner's fire until your character comes forth as gold, and you reflect his glory. Know that your Redeemer lives, and one day we will see Him face to face and at that point all of our questions will dissolve into worship.

— FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 —

Today's Reading: Job 5-8

Verse of the Day:

“Behold, blessed is the one whom God reprove; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.”—Job 5:17

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How did Job's friend Eliphaz interpret Job's grievous situation?
2. Where did Job believe his affliction was coming from?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 —

Review of This Week's Readings:
Genesis 42-50; Job 1-12

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What passage uniquely spoke to you this week?
2. What insights did you gain about God?
3. What application might this have to what is happening in the world today?
4. How would God have you apply this truth to your life?

Notes from Reflecting on This Week's Bible Readings

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— MONDAY, JANUARY 26 —

Today's Reading: Job 13-16

Verse of the Day:

"I also could speak as you do, if your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you...but I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief." —Job 16:4-5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Job talks about how a tree is better off than a man because it can sprout again. We know the end of Job's story, but he didn't during his trial; as a result, he was discouraged and ready to die. What can we learn about difficulty from the life of Job?
2. Job said, "Though He (God) slay me, yet will I _____."

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

— TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 —

Today's Reading: Job 17-20

Verse of the Day:

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth;” —Job 19:25

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Job's friends ratchet up their rhetoric, which sends Job into even more profound despair. In Job's response, we get a glimpse of the total rejection and misery he was enduring. What was the one thing he held onto that gave him hope?
2. What can we learn from how Job's friends responded to his situation?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 —

Today's Reading: Job 21-24

Verse of the Day:

“My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

—Job 23:11-12

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Although everyone is telling Job he is to blame for what has come upon him, he is confident that is not the case even though he is suffering and cannot explain the reason this trouble has come upon him. What gives Job this confidence?
2. What point is Job making in this second portion of his response to Eliphaz?

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Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 —

Today's Reading: Job 25-29

Verse of the Day:

“And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”—Job 28:28

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What do you think Job is communicating about God in his response to Bildad in 26:14?
2. What do you think enabled Job to say, “My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.”?

Notes on Today's Bible Reading

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— SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 —

Today's Reading: Job 33-35

Verse of the Day:

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” —Job 33:4

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Elihu, the youngest of Job's "friends," is now compelled to speak. There is wisdom in some of his words, but what is missing in their comments is something Paul wrote about in Romans 11:33.
2. What do Job's friends fail to recognize or acknowledge in Job's situation?

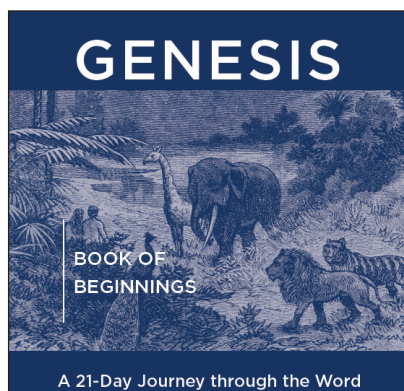
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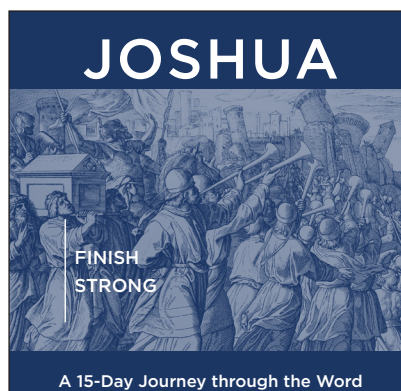
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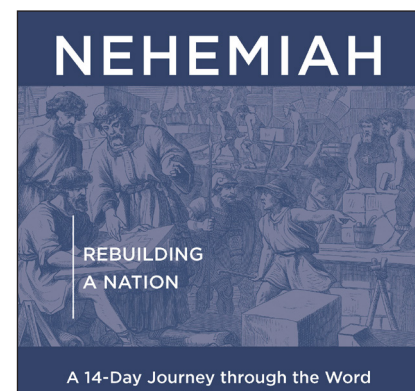
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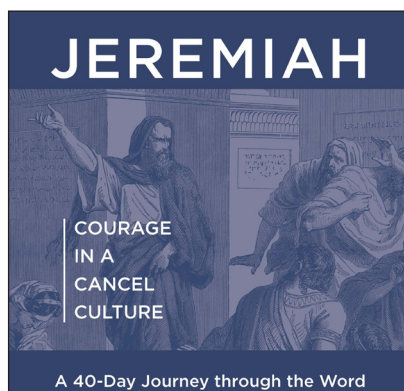
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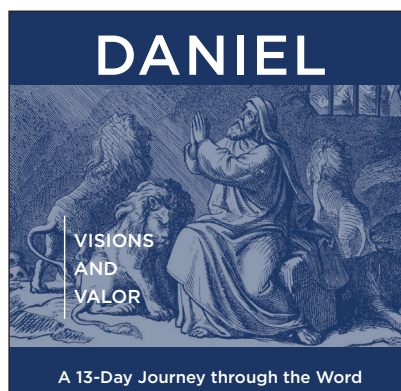
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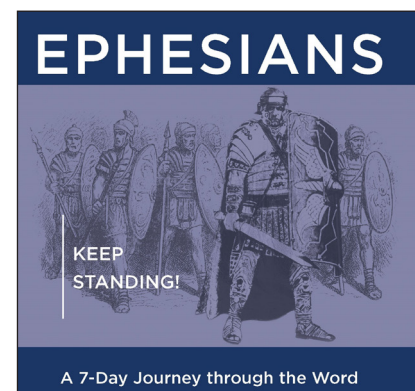
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