

THE EDIFIER

The background of the entire cover is a large, detailed painting depicting the biblical story of the Exodus. It shows a massive crowd of people, including men, women, and children, as they flee from Egypt. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a turban, likely Moses, is walking towards the viewer. Behind him, the crowd is dense, with many people carrying items on their heads and backs. Several oxen are being led, some carrying loads. The scene is set in a desert landscape with rocky ground and distant mountains under a dramatic, cloudy sky. A single bird is visible in the sky. The overall tone is one of urgency and divine guidance.

Church of God (Seventh Day) Australia

May 2025

A Mother's Love

Why Read The Bible?

Environmentally Friendly God

The Third Exodus

A magazine dedicated to
uplifting and transforming lives
through the uncompromised Word of God

THE EDIFIER



The truth will make you free

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Contact details:

Postal: PO Box 29, Tanunda SA 5352, Australia

Telephone: +61 8 8563 3189, 04 2999 2777

Email: office@cog7.au

Web: <https://www.cog7.au>

About:

The Edifier magazine is published by the Church of God (Seventh Day) Australia, and is dedicated to transforming peoples' lives through the uncompromised Word of God.

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Editors:

John KLASSEK, Richard Todd, Joshua Anderson

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Cover Photo:

Pictured is an artist's depiction of the exodus of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Artwork/photo by Pixabay. In this edition of The Edifier we explore the nature of exodus on a personal as well as a universal level.

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From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2025 edition of The Edifier magazine. Many thanks to all who have contributed with either articles, artwork, photos and prayer.

Jesus commissioned His followers to share the good news of the gospel by being His witnesses. It means proclaiming the identity and Lordship of Jesus even when it is not politically correct to do so. It means standing up for the truth, when "truth has stumbled in the public square," to quote the prophet Isaiah. It also means having to carry our cross daily – a metaphor for being willing to suffer for Jesus.

Suffering for a righteous cause is not unknown throughout history. In fact, we marvel at those who stand up for their beliefs in adversarial circumstances. We appreciate those athletes who uphold moral values when, for example, transgenderism is being written into many sporting codes.

Do you recall the conscientious objector featured in the movie "Hacksaw Ridge" refusing to bear arms in the military? Initially ridiculed and punished for his sincere beliefs, the film finally exonerated the main character Desmond Doss, who was also a Sabbatarian, as a hero.

Jesus encouraged His followers when He said:

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Perhaps it is this very generation that will face the most challenging times ever in human history. With cancel-culture and the rapid dissemination of misinformation, we need to know where we stand, where our strength lies and where our hope comes from.

May our faithful stewardship truly reflect the hands, eyes, ears and heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. □

John KLASSEK
Western Australia





A mother's love! There is nothing quite like it. It should be no surprise that God even pictures His comfort, as a mother's comfort. This, of course, is honouring mothers and encouraging to us.

Isaiah 66:13 says, "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

There is a sweet mystery in the comfort of a mother that our culture often dismisses. We live in a culture where children try to act like adults and adults act like children. Life is denied and death is affirmed, honest men are smeared while thugs are celebrated, God is denied, Mother Earth is worshipped, but motherhood is often despised.

Yet God has filled the arms of a mother with healing, soothing comfort, love, and security. Motherhood is truly a grand and glorious calling. God's grand plan

for motherhood is the same plan that he has for everything He has created. He created all things for His glory.

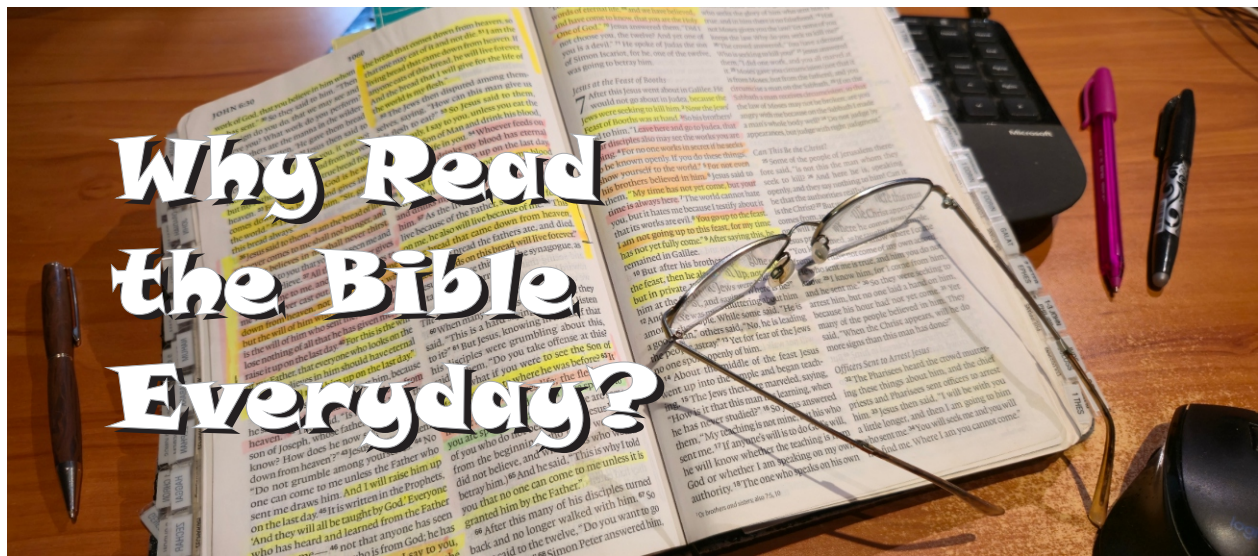
So, motherhood is about creating, cultivating, and nurturing life for His glory. And God has designed and equipped women to nurture life in a very special and mysterious way. I am thankful today for the comfort of my earthly mother and my Heavenly Father, who is the God of all comfort.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (II Corinthians 1:3-4) □

*Brian Larsen,
Spokane, WA, USA*



A MOTHER'S LOVE



Why Read the Bible Everyday?

Reading a little of anything each day, is proven to be effective for retention and understanding. It's like learning a new language.

It doesn't matter how much you read or study the Bible, what matters most is how often you read or study the Bible.

It doesn't need to be much; it just needs to be frequent and consistent. That is the way new habits are formed.

Reading for half an hour each day leads to better outcomes and memory retention than does cramming three hours in one day, once a week. This is due to our brain needing to consolidate memories and learning during sleep, shifting information from short term into long term memory. Otherwise, we will be subject to what James warns us against, which is also applicable to reading:

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:24)

Whereas knowledge is just information, wisdom is the practical and right application of knowledge.

Repetition over time builds strong connections in the brain via the formation of new neural pathways. What starts as a barely seen track through the bush ends up being a well-worn defined path through constant use. It then becomes harder for the native vegetation "the cares and riches of the world" to over grow it.

The Bible is not a novel, where you read it once and that is all you need to know.

Much of what it takes to build a solid foundation for being an effective Christian is putting in the time – for a long time – and finding ways to convert that knowledge into wisdom through its modification and application to present day circumstances, demands and needs. The Bible is not a novel, where you read it once and that is all you need to know. It is a manual; a guide for life.

However, don't be hard on yourself if you don't get it right the first time. Anything worthwhile takes time.

Keep trying and applying it. Circumstances change all the time. What worked in one situation may not work in another. In this way you will convert knowledge into wisdom, via experience.

But the first step is reading the Bible, which will give you the tools you need to build a sure foundation. □

*Richard Todd
South Australia*



A Man After God's Own Heart

That day changed everything. King Saul made the tragic decision to take matters into his own hands in direct opposition to God's will (1 Samuel 15:9), and that was the day that marked the beginning of the tragic and disastrous tenure of his rulership.

Saul wanted to do things his own way once he was anointed as King of Israel. In 1 Samuel 15:1-3, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the prophet Samuel gave Saul specific instructions. When he started out in battle, it looked like Saul was intent on destroying the wicked Amalekites as directed, but unfortunately it came with his own caveat. Saul did not follow the instructions given to him, and instead went against God's will and purpose.

David, who became the next king and in stark contrast to his predecessor, had a remarkable meekness to bow down to God's will and sovereignty. He was handpicked by God and anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the future king of Israel. We read in 1 Samuel 16:10-13 that David was chosen from among the many sons of Jesse for this leadership role. This must have been an exhilarating time for David. He was the youngest, least-regarded son, chosen by God as the next king. Even from his youth, God's Spirit was upon him in power and wisdom.

Everything pointed towards a rosy future. It wasn't long before he achieved a tremendous victory for the Israelite army against the Philistines by single handedly slaying the ruthless Goliath. After that famous victory, David was heralded as a hero and the people gave him greater honour than Saul. It was at that point that the spirit of envy entered Saul's heart.

What happened next was a complete anti-climax; for the next thirteen years, David fled for his life as a hunted fugitive. Day after day, year after year,

David would have wondered if that was his last day of life. We would think that God who chose David to be king, would have immediately removed disobedient Saul and for David to be crowned as king. But it did not happen that way. God had other plans and David had to wait patiently. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Under the life-threatening circumstances that David was faced with, would you blame David for trying to assert his destiny by getting rid of Saul? David could have easily overtaken Saul; he even reluctantly cut a piece of Saul's skirt to show that he could have killed him. Saul, however, continued his murderous intent to kill David.

Despite the urging of his men, David nevertheless chose to put his faith and trust in God. Here, David is a type of Christ by choosing to do God's will, under huge stress, by refraining from doing what others thought was justified.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ made a similar decision to do God's will in the Garden of Gethsemane. The reality that He would have to drink the cup of pain with all of mankind's sin poured out on him was so difficult that He sweated drops of blood in prayer, saying, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22: 42)

Despite his flaws in later life, David was indeed a man after God's own heart, (Acts 13:22) and God was able to work many victories through him. The contrast between Saul and David illustrates this for all time.

Loving, trusting and doing God's will, and rejecting self, results in great blessings in our life sooner or later, for God extends to us peace, security, deliverance, healing, fulfilment and a deeper relationship with Him. □

*Gabe Doraisamy
Western Australia*



Following the Church of God (Seventh Day) business session at the Australian Convention 2024 featuring the theme of “Today and That Day”, the idea of a church National Council was proposed to help better collaboration across this vast country in our efforts as a national body working together further for God’s glory.

The theme of “Today and That Day” was developed across several days in songs, testimony, sermons and fellowship, where God has something for us to do “Today” and something yet in the future that He will fulfill (“That Day”), and just as in times past, He works through His servants; so we see we all have a part to play.

The National Council looks to facilitate the development, unity and growth of its churches, forming them into a cohesive and vibrant Christ-community. This will include but not limited to, interface with the church’s International Federation, help in the planning of our biennial convention, provide oversight for Emmaus Equipping Bible College and The Edifier magazine,

coordinate travel and cross-pollination of speakers between churches, as well as developing and supporting a path for commissioning deacons and elders.

At the church’s convention in March 2024, our local congregations were tasked to nominate members of various gifts, experiences, age demographic and vocations, yet with “one Lord” and “one Faith” to serve on the National Council.

The members of the Council have now been appointed and humbly look to serve by seeking God's counsel for the work ahead, by His power, His might and His Spirit, working in them – and not of their own volition.

From our congregations in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia, the National Council members are: Omar Afiouni, Hannah Klassek, Sam Haitisma, Sue Kordahi, Richard Todd, Joshua Anderson and John Klassek. These will serve on the National Council until the next convention planned for 2026. □

*Joshua Anderson
Western Australia*



“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)



Environmentally-Friendly God

Is it time to listen more to God than, for example, the Greenies? God has everything worked out for our greater good in every area of life, including the environment.

Remember the amazingly positive effects on the environment of the recent short lockdowns. God's Sabbath commandment would have all industry, institutions and businesses (except urgent life-support activities) shut down from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset 52 days a year, every year.

The 10th Commandment, "Thou shalt not covet" and the Bible's related teachings against greed and materialism would result in far less pollution as people would not be fixated on having the latest gadgets, latest fashions and new and improved things to keep up with the Jones'.

If we followed God's fundamental instruction to love our neighbours as ourselves, the whole military sector would be unnecessary. Just imagine the

environmental benefits of no wars, no nuclear or missile tests and no war-related exercises and industrial activity. Also, we would be far more concerned about not damaging the environment for those around us.

More could be said about why turning to God's wisdom would be far more environmentally beneficial than current efforts, but alas, we all fall short in heeding God's wisdom.

Alas, some unwise environmental ideas are followed instead, such as city planning significantly increasing pollution by greatly increasing the time cars spend polluting whilst in avoidable traffic jams (at least where I live).

This is not to say the Greenies have not done many significant things for the environment. However, there is also great wisdom God has given us in this area to heed and if we followed it we would all be far better off now and for eternity! □

*David Kidd
New Zealand*





The Third Exodus

The epic biblical story of ancient Israel's exodus from slavery and oppression to freedom and promise has implications for us today. In fact, the Bible tells us of an exodus on a much larger scale is to again occur in the future.

The recent federal election results are now evident. It was a resounding victory for a political system which is essentially anti-Christ in its ethos and practice. Australians have taken yet another step away from Godly morality. As part of the church collective, we face the challenge of living as exiles in an increasingly foreign world.

"Australia" was derived from the Portuguese explorer who, on navigating the world, named what he thought was "The South Land of the Holy Spirit." Despite origins as a penal colony, Australian society quickly grew on Christian values; until the late 1950s.

Basic honesty is what older generations remember when witnessing today's theft and violent crimes. However, God has always had faithful people who upheld His standards when all around them society fell into evil misadventure. When the prophet Elijah felt threatened and alone, God reminded him there were 7,000 faithful people who also had not bowed their knee to Baal.

Today, the church is facing societal irrelevance. In recent royal commissions into child abuse, the

institutionalised church has caused many Australians to turn away from God.

Millennia ago, the prophet Isaiah lamented that, "Truth has been lost in the public square." There is a sense of prevailing dishonesty in our post-Christian culture: Do we trust the promises made by politicians? Do we trust the media to report the truth? Or the education system not to indoctrinate our youth in the lie of evolution and sexual deviation?

In 1910, 90% of all Australians identified culturally as Christian. When a town or locality was established, often the first civic asset to appear was a church building. Australia remained as a culturally Christian country until the end of the 1950s.

When the 1960s arrived, the birth control pill was in widespread use. Coupled with sexualised music, we witnessed a sexual revolution and drug culture. Forsaking Christian virtues resulted in increased crime, changed family values and a redefining of identity.

We have forgotten the stabilising roots that once blessed us with greatness and prosperity. At the heart of our collective yearning is a search for identity.

Sadly, our "experts" encourage finding identity by exploiting the sexualisation of our youth. The masquerading Safe Schools program, for example, targets early primary school years. The mantra is that anyone can choose to be of any of the allegedly 57

identified sexual preferences – in defiance of basic, scientific human biology.

As one commentator put it, “We are searching for a new way forward, but we haven’t yet found anything to replace Christian virtue,” as stated in the Ten Commandments. Christian virtue was foundational in Western law and civil life.

This is identified in the Bible as symbolic “Babylon,” an anti-God rhetoric, an anti-God government and educational system, supported and enforced through legislation.

Democracy cannot and does not work where there is corruption, self-interest, misinformation, and oppression.

Australian history professor Dr Elisabeth Taylor recently stated that, statistically every civilisation throughout history that embraced LGBTQ values, within a generation, were conquered by a stronger foreign power.

How do faithful believers successfully navigate the times in which we live?

Well, in Matthew chapter 24 we read “As in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man...” Jesus, implying that life will continue normally and unabated, with people not caring about God, nor enquiring of Him. The times in which Noah lived also included extreme violence, sexual depravity and every imaginable evil.

The cry in Revelation is, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues.” In other words, be separate. Don’t have one foot in the world and the other in Christ! No one can serve God and mammon at the same time.

Jesus’ prayer in John chapter 17 was that although His followers were to remain in the world, they were not to be of the world. There is a distinction between what is good, holy and true, and that which is perverse and evil.

We must know what to embrace, and what to flee from. As exiles in a foreign land, Daniel and his three friends didn’t object to being given Babylonian names, wearing Babylonian clothes, or learning the Babylonian language.

What they did object to and drew a firm non-negotiable line was when it came to eating the gentile king’s food. God’s ways were greater than the edict of a most powerful king!

The lesson for us is to know what it is to be Christ-centred and Commandment-observing faithful disciples, and fully abiding in Jesus Christ and His word.

Only then can we be lights in a darkened world, reflecting a powerful witness of Godliness in all that we do and speak.

In today’s society this involves sacrifice.

We must prayerfully seek wisdom and favour. To quote Jesus, “That men may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Ancient Babylon still influences society today! Because in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision this Babylonian image would exist in various manifestations until Jesus returns.

Coming out of the “great tribulation” as detailed in Revelation, is an innumerable multitude from every nation, tribe and language, now repentant and singing salvation songs to God and to Jesus Christ.

Formerly held captive by “Babylon”, they are the ones who witnessed the testimony of our lives today.



When Babylon falls, so will the deceptive and untruthful narrative that dominated the public square for so long. The blind and enslaved will finally be liberated. This is what we’ll call the third exodus.

The first exodus occurred 3500 years ago for the ancient Israelite people as they departed Egypt, before entering the promised land.

The next exodus was our own personal redemptive journey from sin and enslavement, responding to the divine call, and repenting from our sins.

The third exodus is when the dominant world system of Babylon finally falls; when the anti-Christ rhetoric that enslaved billions is destroyed.

The Third Exodus

The Babylonian age is inevitably coming to a close. Until that day, followers of Jesus have work to do. We must not fail in an authentic stewardship as faithful witnesses of Jesus by knowing who we are, where we stand firm, and knowing that Christ has already achieved victory!

In his letter, the apostle John reminded the faithful that, "He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world," – the latter referring to the devilish puppet-master giving its power to Babylon.

Our testimonies will eventually aid many others in what we've described here as the third exodus.

This assertion is based on Jesus' departing words when He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18)

We just happen to live at the ends of the earth aptly named, "The South Land of the Holy Spirit!" The task we have is big. However, the God we serve has not only equipped us with His Spirit, but given us every opportunity to testify to Jesus' redemptive work.

In our personal exodus from this world and its ways, we appreciate Paul's insightful advice:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) ☐

*John Klassek
Western Australia*

General Bible Trivia



ACROSS

- 1 Paul's last days
- 3 Jeremiah's birthplace
- 6 Bethesda pool city
- 8 Ten Commandments given
- 9 Red Seas left arm today
- 11 Kidron Brook flows into
- 12 Jesus visited Mary, Martha and Lazarus
- 13 John commends for love, faith & perseverance
- 14 Joppa today
- 15 King Saul's tribe
- 18 Bitter water was made sweet
- 19 John said despite their poverty, they were rich
- 20 Capital of Attica

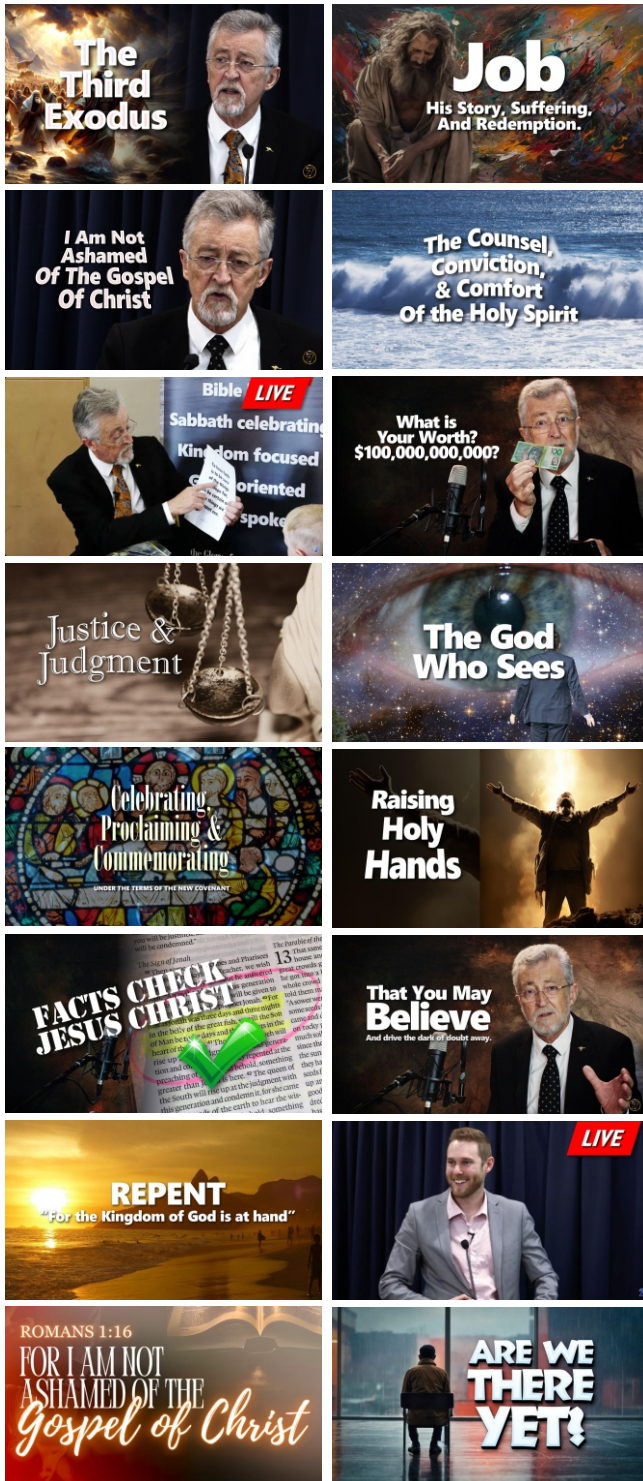
DOWN

- 2 John said they lost their first love
- 4 Israel's smallest lake
- 5 Tiberias
- 7 Thebes built along
- 10 Philistines captured Ark from Israel
- 16 Amman is capital of
- 17 Tribe with two land allotments

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"No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light."

(Luke 8:16 ESV)

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to



the rock of our salvation!

Original Artwork by Leah Anderson, Western Australia



The Father calls,
Jesus Christ equips,
the Holy Spirit convicts,
the church nurtures,
and the world needs us.

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The Church of God (Seventh Day) Australia sponsors Emmaus Equipping College Bible Classes. This course initiative is designed to assist the development of the church in Australia by equipping men and women, according to their gifts and calling in the Holy Spirit, for works of service within the Body of Christ.

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