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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 5

Lawnville Road CHURCH of CHRIST

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David Bosnak.....Milt Moseley
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Roger Carter

SUNDAY

Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.
Worship10:30 a.m.
Evening.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

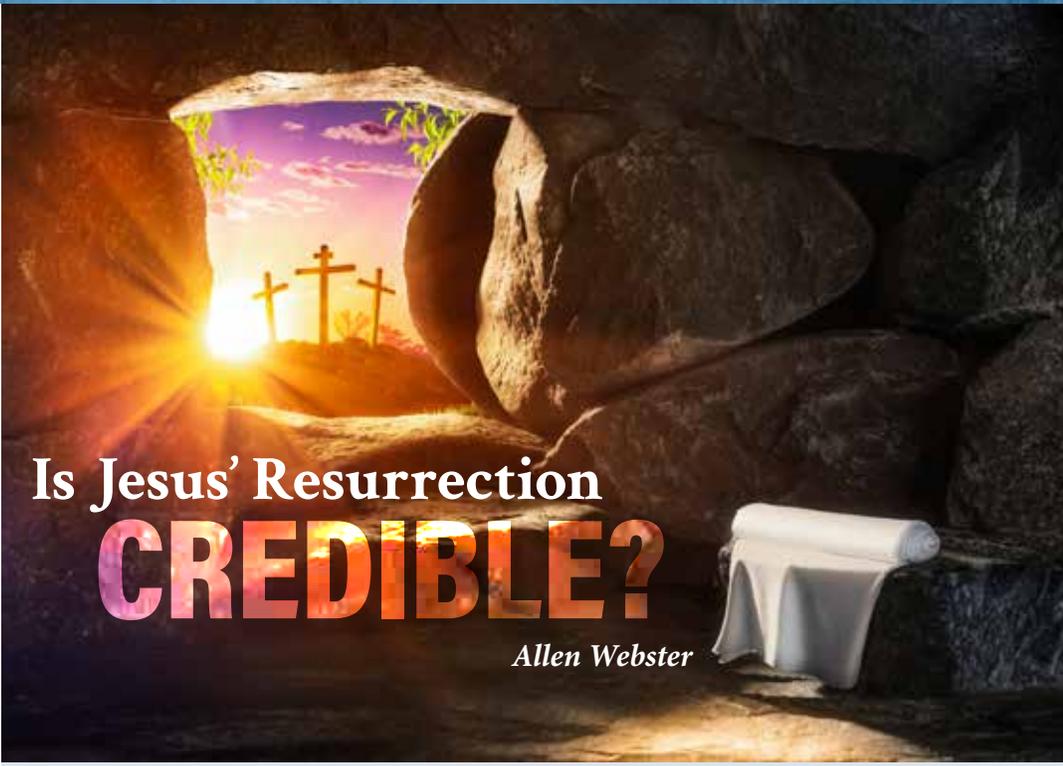
Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m.

The Lawnville Road church of Christ is a visitor friendly congregation. You will be made to feel welcome. You will not be singled out or embarrassed. Although a collection will be taken, visitors are not expected to contribute. Simply sit and listen - or better yet, participate! Right now is a great time to visit. We hope to see you soon!

SERVICES OFFERED

- Bible study courses by mail
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- Hearing assistance for the hearing impaired
- Weekly sermons posted online
- Personal Live Online Bible Studies
- Worship Streamed Online
- Worship Audio Broadcast to Parking Lot on 90.9 FM

HOUSE TO HOUSE/HEART TO HEART is published monthly. It is sent to select Kingston routes and individuals free upon request. Send all correspondence to address above. To God be the glory.



Is Jesus' Resurrection CREDIBLE?

Allen Webster

Believers and unbelievers agree on five things about the resurrection (sometimes called the five minimal facts):

- Jesus was crucified and buried (Matthew 27:50, 60).
- The tomb was empty (Luke 24:1-3).
- Jesus' disciples believed He arose and appeared to them (Luke 24:36).
- Saul suddenly changed (Acts 9).
- Jesus' brother, James, became a believer (Acts 15).

Disagreement begins with why the tomb was empty:

- Believers say Jesus was raised from the dead.
- Unbelievers say no resurrection occurred: it is either non-historical (it never happened) or non-supernatural (here is how it could have happened).

If the Christians' claim is credible, then the unbelievers' claim is incredible. If the unbelievers' claim is credible, then

the believers' is incredible. There is no middle ground. Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me" (Matthew 12:30).

C. S. Lewis said, "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance; the only thing it cannot be is moderately important." Similarly, if the resurrection is true, then Jesus is divine, and Christianity is validated. If it is false, Jesus is a fraud, and Christianity is useless. The one thing the resurrection cannot be is unimportant.

Is the resurrection credible? Luke 24 gives five facts in favor of belief. Unbelievers counter each with an alternative. Each person should decide what is credible (Acts 17:11; Philippians 2:12).

CHOICE 1: EMPTY TOMB OR WRONG TOMB? (LUKE 24:1-3).

Mary Magdalene and others came early Sunday and found the tomb empty. Hearing the report, Peter and John investigated and also found it empty.



CHOICE 2: THE ANGELS WERE RIGHT, OR THE ENEMIES TOOK THE BODY? (LUKE 24:4-7).

Where is Jesus' body now? There are four possibilities:

- An unknown grave in Palestine
- The enemies put it somewhere
- The disciples took it and hid it
- It is in heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

Angels said, "He is not here, but is risen." Angels are trustworthy. Being greater in power than humans, they are also privy to information humans know not (2 Peter 2:11; Psalm 118:8; 146:3; Proverbs 29:25). Unlike anyone denying the resurrection, the angels were eyewitnesses—participants, in fact (Matthew 28:2; John 20:11-12).

Did the enemies steal the body? They went to lengths to prevent a missing body, describing their fear of the disciples claiming resurrection worse than Jesus' promising one (Matthew 27:64). They had guards put at the gravesite and sealed the tomb (27:62-66).

The guards would prevent these enemies from corpse tampering. Further, when the guards reported the body missing, why invent a lie and pay a bribe? (28:11-15). Why not say, "We know; we took it; keep it quiet for now"? Also, how long would a court witness retain credibility who claimed to be asleep when he "saw" what he testified to? (cf. 28:13).

CHOICE 3: GRAVE CLOTHES OR RESUSCITATED? (LUKE 24:12; JOHN 20:5-8).

There are four possibilities of how Jesus was seen:

- He never died—the apostles just thought so. He passed out (swooned), appeared dead (perhaps a coma), and was buried alive but revived and escaped.
- An imposter (perhaps His brother) impersonated Him. (Jesus appeared to those who knew Him best. No imposter could fake His wounds) (John 20:19-20).
- The disciples hallucinated.
- He was resurrected.

Was Jesus resuscitated? Note the facts:

- The soldiers found Him dead (John 19:33). He was pronounced dead by

professional executioners whose lives depended on completing the task.

- A soldier speared His side to ensure death (John 19:34-35).
- Blood and water (red blood cells, serum) came from that wound indicating His blood had time to separate. Rigor mortis starts thirty minutes following death.
- Pilate did not release the body until the centurion on duty gave official notice of death (Mark 15:44).
- Joseph and Nicodemus handled the body (Matthew 27:59; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:53; John 19:40) and would have detected heartbeat, breathing, or warmth.

Suppose that He was alive in the tomb.

- In that condition (after violent physical abuse and significant blood loss), would He survive fifty hours without food, water, or medical attention?
- How could He get out of the grave clothes? "The custom of the Jews" (John 19:40) was to wrap a body in strips of cloth—like a mummy—with spices between layers to provide aroma, slow decomposition, and keep insects away. Grave clothes were like a straitjacket. Lazarus needed help to unwind himself (John 11:44). How could Jesus get out of them, especially with deformed hands?
- Would He have strength to push the heavy stone (likely over a ton) away?
- Guards would have stopped Him.
- Could He walk on injured feet?
- Would He leave naked?

CHOICE 4: EYEWITNESSES OR HALLUCINATIONS? (LUKE 24:13-35).

Proof of the resurrection depends on the testimony of those who saw, heard, and touched Jesus after death. Each biography details Christ's appearances. All ancient history is accepted on less evidence; the resurrection can be rejected only if no reasonable evidence is enough.

His fourteen post-resurrection appearances include the following:

On resurrection Sunday:

1. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-10; John 20:10-18).
2. Women accompanying Mary (Matthew 28:5-10; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10).

Angels asked why the women sought the living (Jesus) among the dead (in a cemetery) (Luke 24:4-5). The guards reported to the priests that the tomb was empty (Matthew 28:4, 11). The priests paid them to lie about why (28:11-13). All those who were there agree on these points. No denial is recorded in the New Testament besides this paid false testimony.

Unbelievers say that the women were confused; they went to the wrong tomb—an unused grave—and spread the resurrection rumor. Does this fit the facts?

On Friday, these women watched where Joseph laid Jesus (Matthew 27:55-61; John 19:25). They were "sitting opposite the tomb" (Matthew 27:61). Mark records specifically they "observed where He was laid" (Mark 15:47). Luke adds they observed "the tomb and how His body was laid" (Luke 23:55).

Common sense answers the unbelievers' quibble. Did the disciples go to the wrong tomb too? Did the soldiers guard the wrong tomb and report it empty? Why did Jesus' enemies not go to the correct tomb and embarrass the disciples?

Straighten Up

The shortest road from earth to heaven is to go straight (cf. Acts 2:40). When railways were introduced into Russia, the czar was asked to determine the line between St. Petersburg and Moscow. He drew a straight line on the map, and said, "There!" This is what God's preachers are saying, "There!" as they point to the Bible.

Cleansing Blood

A preacher was speaking from the text, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). He was interrupted by an atheist who asked, "How can blood cleanse sin?"

For a moment the preacher was silent; then he countered, "How can water quench thirst?"

"I do not know," replied the infidel, "but I know that it does."

"Neither do I know how the blood of Jesus cleanses sin," answered the preacher, "but I know that it does."

—Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*

*"Washed us from our sins
in His own blood."*

REVELATION 1:5

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10

3. Peter (Mark 16:7; Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5).
4. Two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35).
5. Ten disciples (without Thomas) in upper room (John 20:19).

One week later ("after eight days"):

6. Eleven disciples (with Thomas) (John 20:26–31).

Over forty days (Acts 1:3; 10:41; 13:31):

7. Seven in Galilee (John 21:1–2).
8. Eleven disciples in Galilee (received Great Commission) (Matthew 28:16–20).
9. Five-hundred (1 Corinthians 15:6).
10. James (1 Corinthians 15:7). Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him until after the resurrection (John 7:5; Acts 1:14; 15:13; James 1:1; Jude 1:1).
11. Those at ascension (Acts 1:9–11).

Before the close of the New Testament:

12. Stephen (Acts 7:55).
13. Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8–9; Acts 9:3–7, 27; 22:17–21; 23:11).
14. John (Revelation 1:12–13).

Unbelievers say the witnesses hallucinated. Ernest Renan (1823–1892) called the appearances "apparitions." He wrote, "The world, accustomed to attribute to its great men super-human virtues, cannot admit that they have submitted to the death common to all. When Mahomet expired, Omar, Son of Al-Khattab (c. 584–644), rushed from the tent, sword in hand, and declared that he would hew down anyone who dared say that the prophet was no more. Heroes do not die."

Renan forgets, however, that Mohammed's father-in-law, Abu Bekr (AD 573–634), said, "Whoso hath worshipped Mahomet, let him know that Mahomet is dead, but whoso hath worshipped God that the Lord liveth and doth not die." No disciple ever denied that Jesus died.

Hallucination does not fit the facts.

- Five hundred people do not share a hallucination.
- Appearances lasted through long talks (Luke 24:13–35; John 20:19–29).
- They were spread at intervals over more than a month and abruptly stopped.

- They included eating, drinking, and feeling breath (Luke 24:43; John 20:22).
- They culminated in a gathered multitude watching Him go into heaven (Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:9–11).

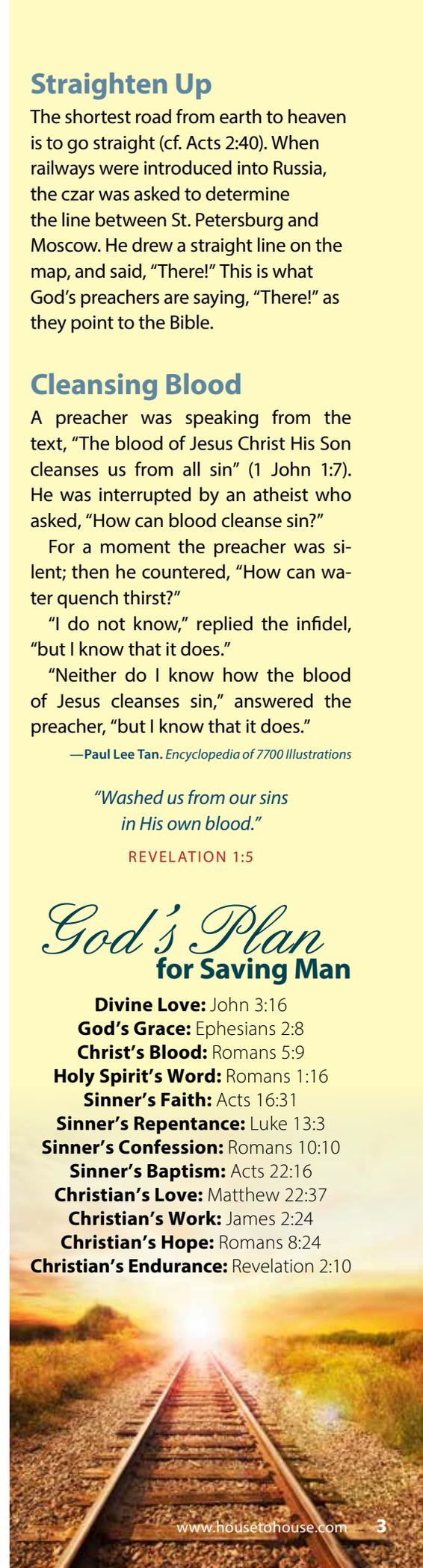
CHOICE 5: APOSTLES' TESTIMONY OR APOSTLES' FRAUD? (LUKE 24:36–53; 1 JOHN 1:1–3).

Did the disciples remove the body? The guards testified to this after being paid (Matthew 28:12–15). Purchased testimony is unreliable, especially from soldiers claiming to have been asleep.

Evidence the apostles did not steal the corpse includes the following:

- They had no opportunity. The soldiers prevented it.
- They were in no mood for daring feats. They fled in fear (Mark 14:50) and were keeping a low profile. If enemies had killed the Master, might they move on to His disciples? They did not expect the body to be missing. They had no theological motivation for claiming that Jesus had risen as they anticipated a military hero and a resurrection of all at the end of the world.
- They had no reasonable motive. Homicide detective J. Warner Wallace (b. 1961) noted that when a conspiracy is formed, one of three motivating factors is behind it—power, greed, or lust. The disciples gained no power by claiming the resurrection. They were reviled and often threatened by Jewish and Roman authorities (Acts 4:29; 5:17–20; 2 Corinthians 11:23–26). They taught that one should not desire earthly possessions, but rather spiritual ones (Colossians 3:1–2). Lust was not a factor as they taught celibacy before marriage, and fidelity after marriage (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- They would not have suffered, and eventually died, for a known lie.

"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). When Jesus appeared to doubting Thomas, He said, "Do not be unbelieving, but believing." This is His sentiment today toward all doubters. May Thomas' answer be ours: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:27–28).





I Loved You Enough

Some day when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them these things:

I loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to insist that you save your money and buy a bike for yourself even though we could afford to buy one for you.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to make you take a Milky Way back to the drugstore (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk, "I stole this yesterday, and I want to pay for it."

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me fifteen minutes.

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents are not perfect.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.

But most of all, I loved you enough to say *no* when I knew you would hate me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. I am glad I won them, because in the end you won something, too.

—Anonymous



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How to Rear Angry Children

It is a great point of prudence in a father not to provoke his children to wrath (Colossians 3:21). How may fathers provoke their children to wrath?

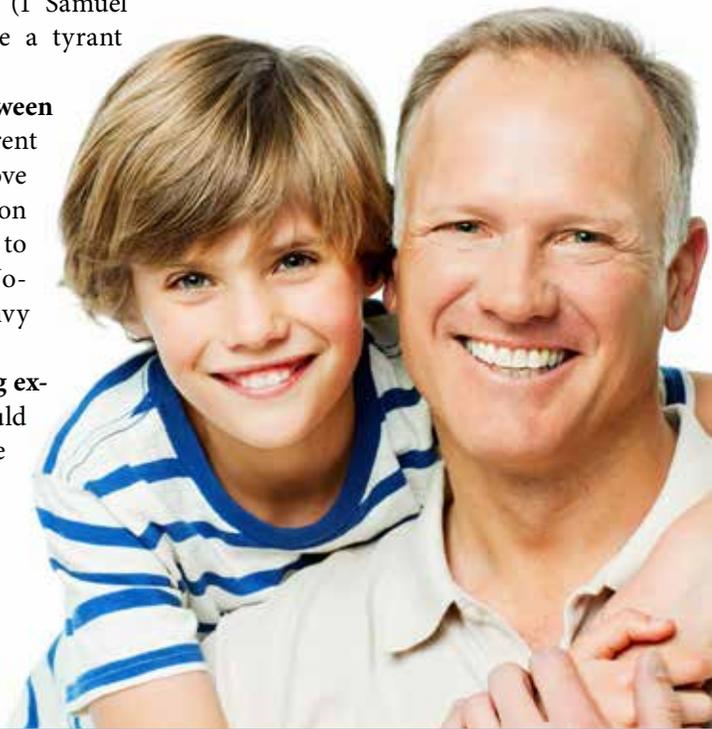
- 1. By using abusive terms.** Saul called Jonathan a "son of the perverse, rebellious woman" (1 Samuel 20:30). Some parents use imprecations and curses to their children. Would you have God bless your children, and do you curse them?
- 2. By striking them without a cause or when the correction exceeds the fault.** Saul cast a javelin at his son to smite him, and his son was provoked to "fierce anger" (1 Samuel 20:33–34). This is to be a tyrant rather than a father.
- 3. Showing partiality between siblings.** Though a parent may have a greater love for one child, discretion should lead him not to show it. Jacob favored Joseph, which provoked envy (Genesis 37:3–4).
- 4. Setting an embarrassing example.** As the child should honor his father, so the father should not dishonor the child.

- 5. Laying commands upon them that they cannot perform without wronging their consciences.** Saul commanded Jonathan to bring David to him so he could kill him (1 Samuel 20:31). Jonathan could not do this with a good conscience, but he was provoked to anger (20:34).

Parents should show prudence lest the children be discouraged (Colossians 3:21). —Thomas Watson (c. 1620–1686)

You, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath.

EPHESIANS 6:4



Just for Fun Name the Bible Figures





Which Comes First: FAITH OR REPENTANCE?

A popular view has the order of, and conditions essential to, salvation as: (1) repentance; (2) faith.

Repentance is a change of mind produced by sorrow for sin, and leading to a reformation of life. Essentially, repentance is simply a change of mind (for so the word *metanoia*, translated “repentance,” signifies), sorrow for sin merely being a condition precedent to it, and reformation of life, the result thereof.

What produces a change of mind (i.e., attitude of heart) in the sinner? In a word, all the factors involved in the scheme of redemption. The sinner, through contemplation of his lost condition, is led from feelings of gratitude for the provisions made for him to decide to turn from rebellion against God to humble and complete obedience to Him.

From what source does he derive information touching his lost condition, and where does he learn of the provisions thus made in his behalf?

From the Scriptures, of course. What prompts him to act upon the impressions obtained in this manner? His confidence in the reliability of the facts and principles presented. But is not this confidence he now enjoys in the sacred writings nothing more nor less than faith?

It is indeed, and without it there can be no repentance. Further, it is the acceptance of the facts presented that leads him to desire to repent. Faith then must precede repentance.

Faith enables the sinner to repent—in fact, prompts the desire. Without faith the sinner cannot repent; without faith he would not if he could. As irresistible and

conclusive as these facts are, they are also in hopeless conflict with much teaching.

Why? The basic assumption of the dogma of salvation by faith only. If one insists that the sinner is saved at the very instant of belief, before and without additional acts of obedience, then repentance could not come second and be essential.

To place repentance after faith would have the sinner “saved” before and without repentance. Thus to get repentance in their “plan of salvation” at all, one must place it before faith.

Such is illogical, unscriptural, and psychologically impossible. It is, however, but the inevitable consequence of a false theory regarding the plan of salvation.

—Adapted from Guy N. Woods, *Questions and Answers, FHU Open Forum, p. 249–250.*

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 27:5

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark: “Types-Antitypes—Cities of Refuge/Refuge in Christ and Bronze Serpent and Christ” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 25:3 Starts with the Letter U. 1. Uncle (Genesis 29:10); 2. Unclean (Deuteronomy 14:7–8); 3. Uz (Job 1:1); 4. Urijah (2 Kings 16:10–11); 5. Understanding (Proverbs 3:5); 6. Ur (Genesis 11:31); 7. Unleavened (Genesis 19:3); 8. Urbanus (Romans 16:9); 9. Unequally, unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14); 10. Uriah (2 Samuel 11: 3); 11. Unknown (Acts 17:23); 12. Undeified, unspotted (James 1:27); 13. Under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:3, 9); 14. Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:7); 15. Usury (Deuteronomy 23:19); 16. Unstable (James 1:8); 17. Urijah (Jeremiah 26:23); 18. Upharsin (Daniel 5:25).

V. 25:4 Starts with the Letter O. Obadiah (Obadiah 1:1); 2. Og (Deuteronomy 3:1, 8); 3. Olive (1 Kings 6:33); 4. Omega (Revelation 1:8, 11); 5. Omri (1 Kings 16:22–24); 6. Onesimus (Philemon 1:10–17); 7. Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:16); 8. Onions (Numbers 11:5); 9. Ono (Nehemiah 6:2); 10. Onyx (Exodus 28:9–12). 11. Orpah (Ruth 1:14–15); 12. Othniel (Judges 3:9–11); 13. Offering (Ephesians 5:2); 14. Oil (Hebrews 1:9); 15. Ointment (Ecclesiastes 7:1); 16. Overcome (Romans 12:21); 17. Only (John 3:16); 18. Obey (Hebrews 5:9); 19. Observe (Matthew 28:20); 20. One omer (Exodus 16:16); 21. Olivet (Acts 1:9–12); 22. Old (Proverbs 23:22).

Answers to Previous Quizzes at housetohouse.com/answers

Starts with the Letter W

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Exodus 16:20; Numbers 6:3; Joshua 6:5; 1 Kings 3:9, 28; Job 8:14; Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 12:37; 27:24; John 2:15; 4:24; 11:35; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 3:15; James 2:26; 1 John 2:15; Revelation 4:11. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- The _____ of Jericho fell flat after a trumpet blast and great shout.
- Solomon asked God for _____ when he became king.
- The trust of a man who forgets God is compared to a spider's _____.
- “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as _____ as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
- Nazarites could not shave their heads, touch dead bodies, or drink _____.
- This is the shortest verse in the English Bible: “Jesus _____.”
- “God is Spirit, and they who _____ Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- What did Pilate do before sending Jesus to be crucified? _____
- “Let us not grow _____ while doing good, for in due season we shall reap.”
- Jesus made a _____ to drive the money changers out of the temple.
- “Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and _____ away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
- “The body without the spirit is dead, so faith without _____ is dead also.”
- “Do not love the _____ or the things in the world.”
- Jesus said by _____ we would be justified, and by them we would be condemned.
- “You are _____, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power.”
- When the Israelites tried to save manna overnight, it was covered with _____ in the morning.
- “The Holy Scriptures . . . are able to make you _____ for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
- “For the _____ of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.”



Tips for Reading the Bible

We need wisdom from God to help us on our journey from earth to heaven.

Students in school have to learn to memorize if they hope to excel. Whether it is the symbols of the elements in chemistry, the names of the bones in the human body, or the chronological sequence of Shakespeare's 23 plays, students learn huge amounts of information to pass exams.

It is a good thing God gave us such large-capacity brains. We not only store the information we study, but we also keep it in order and can recall it when we need it. Our brains can store enough information to fill several million books.

Shane Parrish (fs.blog/newsletter/) wrote, "The best way to understand what you are reading is to make the idea your own. This means following the idea back to its origin, and rediscovering it for yourself.

"Mathematicians often say that to understand something you must first read it, then write it down in your own words, then teach it to someone else. Everyone has a different set of tools and a different level of 'chunking up' complicated ideas. Make the idea fit in with your own perspective and experience.

"The best way to read quickly is to read lots. And lots. And to have started a long time ago."

—web.stonehill.edu/compsci/History_Math/math-read.htm

"I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold."

PSALM 119:127

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Recommended Resource



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A Study in Prayer Psalm 32:6



The Omni God



Five Pictures of Hope



Make Jesus Your Banker



A Procession of Cross Bearers



Why Do People Lie?



Of Hidden Treasures and Found Pearls



Salvation Is Free, but It's Not Cheap



What Must I Do to Be Saved?

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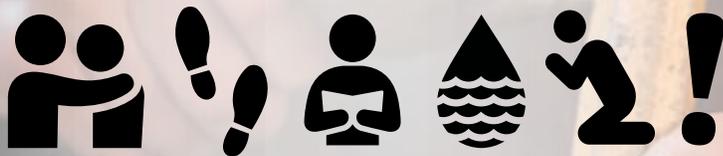


TYPES & ANTITYPES

NOAH as a type of CHRIST

God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are examples of God prefiguring the future. Types are the shadows in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament. An example of this type/antitype relationship can be found in comparing the life of Noah to that of Jesus the Christ.

Through God's grace and Noah's obedient faith, Noah and his family were saved from the flood by seeking salvation in the ark. Likewise, through God's grace and obedient faith, we can be saved from our sins by seeking salvation in Jesus the Christ.



NOAH TYPE	JESUS THE CHRIST ANTITYPE
--------------	------------------------------

His name means console and comfort (**GENESIS 5:29**).

Jesus consoles and comforts us (**MATTHEW 11:28; JOHN 14:18**).

He was righteous and walked with God, even in a wicked world (**GENESIS 6:5-9**).

He was righteous among sinners and always walked with God (**HEBREWS 7:26; JOHN 8:29**).

He was a preacher of righteousness (**2 PETER 2:5**).

Jesus was a preacher of righteousness (**MATTHEW 4:17; 5:20**).

The water of the flood washed away the filth of the world, while the ark was the refuge and hiding place of Noah and his family (**1 PETER 3:21**).

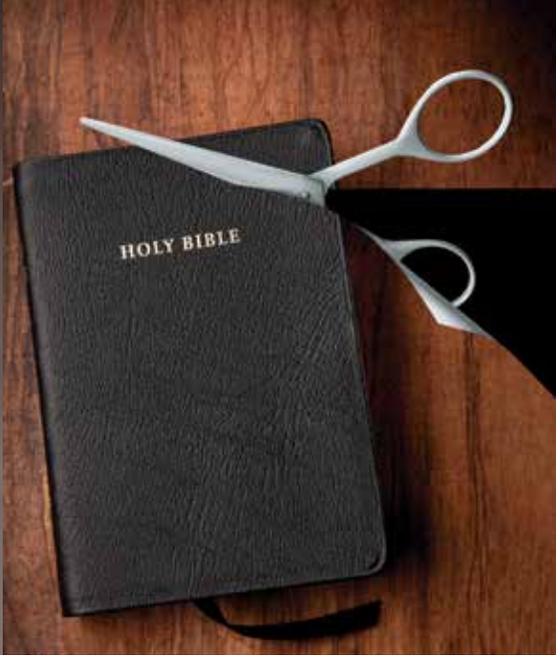
The waters of baptism wash away the filth of the world by Christ's blood, and the church of Christ is the refuge and hiding place for Christians (**ROMANS 6:1-6**).

Noah was saved by obedient faith (**HEBREWS 11:7**).

Jesus always did the will of the Father (**JOHN 6:38**).

The flood was foretold (2 Peter 2:5), but still came as a surprise to those who ignored the warnings (**MATTHEW 24:37-39**).

Jesus' return has been foretold, but will come as a surprise to those who ignore the warnings (**MATTHEW 24:37-39**).



Too Many Divisors

For centuries Christendom has been divided.

Denominations claim unity in diversity, commonality in differences, and a singular faith within countless doctrines, but denominationalism is by definition divisive (emphasizing "denominational differences to the point of being narrowly exclusive: sectarianism," Webster's Dictionary).

The prophet asked a pertinent question: "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

The denominator in a mathematical fraction is called the divisor. Men's doctrines and practices are divisors. When a doctrine inherits its name from a particular man, as the Marcionites from Marcion, the Valentinians from Valentinus, then that indicates it does not come from the gospel but is a doctrine of men.

God is not pleased with division and confusion (1 Corinthians 3:1-4, 21-23; 14:33). It hinders world evangelism (John 17:20-21). The church is Christ's body (Colossians 1:18). A single head (Christ) sits on a single body (the church).

Unity cannot come within the structure of Catholicism or Protestantism. It can only come when all strictly follow the Bible (1 Corinthians 1:10).

—Anonymous

"That they all may be one."

JOHN 17:21



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Don't Settle for AVERAGE

If a man were to stand with one hand on a hot stove and one hand in a freezer, some statistician would assert that, on average, he's comfortable.

This reminds me of some who seem to feel that they can come to church services on Sunday and yet live like the devil during the week. They say that they are, on the average, pretty good people.

Such a person cannot be comfortable any more than the man with one of his hands on the stove and the other in a freezer. He is "a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). He has only enough religion to be miserable, but not enough to go to heaven.

Jesus does not want average; average nauseates Him. He will vomit out of His mouth those who are lukewarm (Revelation 3:15-16).

Let us all get all the way on the Lord's side now, lest we spend eternity with the devil. —Anonymous

"Do it with your might."

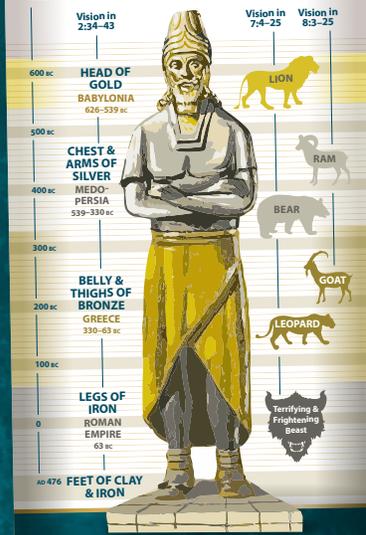
ECCLESIASTES 9:10



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IDENTIFICATION OF THE 4 KINGDOMS

Chronology of Major Empires in the Book of Daniel



THE PROPHECY OF THE CHURCH IN NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

DANIEL 2:31-33

God revealed approximately 1,000 years of history to Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC) (Daniel 2:31-35, Isaiah 45:1-7, 48:5-8, 49:1-6, 52:1-5, 54:1-8). In God's providence to clearly identify God's continuing revealed grace kingdom for thousands of years before they happened (Genesis 3:15, 12:3, 49:10, 22:26, Numbers 24:7-24, Deuteronomy 4:2-21, Acts 17:16). We know the meaning of the image; interpretation is easy to remember. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was an outline of coming history.

- 1. The **Head of Gold** represented the Babylonian Empire (606-539 BC) (Daniel 2:37-38). Babylon's great leader was **Nebuchadnezzar**. The head represented leadership and intelligence.
- 2. The **Chest and Arms of Silver** was the **Medo-Persian Empire** (539-330 BC) (Daniel 2:39). Siding power from Babylon in 539 BC, this empire lasted for two centuries. Cyrus was its most successful ruler.
- 3. The **Belly and Thighs of Bronze** was the **Greek Empire** (330-63 BC) (Daniel 2:40, 41). Alexander the Great, a well-known military genius, conquered the Medo-Persians. He tried to blend the cultures of Asia and Europe into a brotherhood. His soldiers were known as the **Bronze-coated Greeks**.
- 4. The **Legs of Iron** was the **Roman Empire** (63 BC-476 AD) (Daniel 2:41-43). Pompey conquered the Seleucid part of Greece in 63 BC. Octavian Caesar conquered the rest; he accurately portrayed the strange ruler of Rome. While the Romans represented the last of the power we know each kingdom, the great leaders were **Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar** in the last days of the Roman Empire. It split into two, and was weakened.

The **Feet of Iron and Clay** that destroyed the statue represented God's Kingdom, the church. Daniel's prophecy that God would set up a kingdom is parallel with Jesus' promise: "On this rock, I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). It would be an eternal, indestructible kingdom.

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