

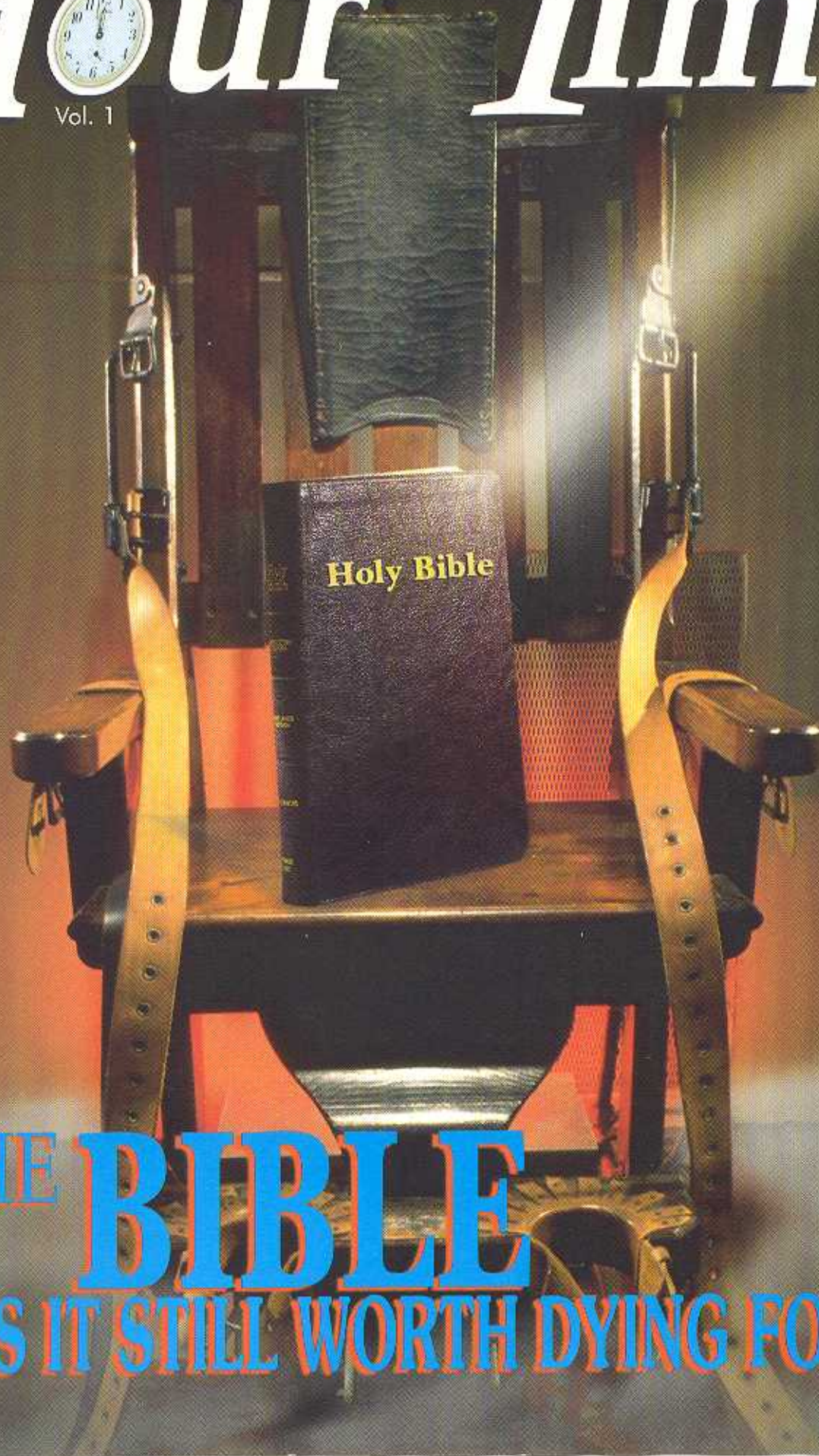
Hour Times

\$2.00



Vol. 1

Issue 5



THE BIBLE
...IS IT STILL WORTH DYING FOR?

Editor
JAY
GALLIMORE

Associate Editor
DWIGHT HALL

Assistant Editor
CARI HAUS

Design Layout
EDDIE
HERNANDEZ

Graphics Design
PENNY HALL
and
EDDIE
HERNANDEZ

Marketing
Representatives
ROYCE SNYMAN
and
SCOTT ERB

Copyright © 2000 Remnant
Publications

Cover:
Photo by PNI

FEATURES

Six Steps Toward Living by the Word..... **10**

The Sure Word of Prophecy



.... **14**

DEPARTMENTS & COLUMNS

Editorial..... **3** Lifestyle Matters..... **12**

Words of Hope and Encouragement **4** Recipes **13**

Berean Corner **8**

COVER STORY

The Nameless Book



5

COMING ISSUE



Unmasking the Great Deception

What do the big bad wolf, the Trojan horse and the devil all have in common? Deception! Come along as we unmask the greatest deception ever practiced on the Christian church.

Our Mission:

Hour Times, published by Remnant Publications, a nonprofit organization, is produced for the sole purpose of leading individuals, families and society to "A Better Way of Life," as found through God's Holy Word, the Bible. We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God; its principles and counsel are as relevant and binding upon humanity today as they have been throughout the ages.



The Fool Has Said in His Heart, "There Is No God"

By Jay Gallimore

When it comes to the questions of evolution and the existence of God, it seems that the scientific community is having to face some of its own science these days. Not only is there a total lack of cell-level evidence that life could have begun with some lucky lightning strike in a primeval chemical soup, but science itself is pointing unmistakably to a Designer and Creator.

Dr. Michael Behe, a professor of biochemistry at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, has written a book called *Darwin's Black Box*. In his book, Dr. Behe points out that Charles Darwin was really just guessing about how life began, for he couldn't look into or understand the inner workings of a living cell. But with today's scientific sophistication, the cell is no longer a black box. Scientists can actually look inside the cell and understand that, like a car, it has several different systems that must be in place and working all at once in order for life to exist.

For example, a car must have electrical, fuel, cooling, air intake and lubricating systems all in place. The absence of any one of these would render the motor useless. A living cell is even more complicated. This astonishing discovery, and the changes in thinking it has naturally inspired, are shaking and shaping the future of science. In the words of one scientist, evolution is the "great cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century."

There are a lot of smart fools in our world today, and this should not surprise us seeing how highly intelligent the devil is. Intelligence is not wisdom. Wisdom is the wise application of intelligence for life and happiness.

These smart fools have led lots of people to look at the Bible as a book of fairy tales. Yet, despite all the attacks on its authenticity, the Bible still has power to change human lives. Its message can take the wrecks of humanity and change them into absolutely new people—something that education simply can't do. For though worldly wisdom can make smart, sophisticated sinners, it can never create born-again people, filled with unselfishness and love.

The Word of God has always had creative power. "In the beginning was the Word." (John 1:1) "He [God] spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." (Ps. 33:9, NASB). How can anyone believe that the three trillion cells of the human body, each containing 140,000 genes and billions of chemical reactions, were put together by chance?

Evolution is the "great Cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century".

A STRIKING WITNESS

The whole creation is a witness to a Creator. When you look at a building do you see the architect, the builders, the energy or the intelligence behind that building? Of course not. But you don't doubt their existence. If you were asked to admire a striking feat of architecture, would you say, "Well, I can see this beautiful, comfortable building, but I doubt there was an architect or a builder"? People would look at you as though you had lost your mind.

Here is the real reason why people don't want to acknowledge a Creator: if they do admit there is a Creator God, they will have to be accountable to Him. They would have to acknowledge that God would no doubt reveal Himself to His created children. Then they would feel compelled to listen to Him. But people want to do what *they* want to do. So they find it easier just to say He doesn't exist.

Nevertheless, God has revealed Himself through the prophets who wrote down His messages to the world. And there is plenty of evidence that the Bible has divine origins. But most important, the Bible reveals a Creator who loves us. It also answers the ancient riddle of why we experience all this suffering. It reveals a self-sacrificing Savior, who was treated as we deserved so we could be treated as He deserved. This book has stood, and still stands, the test of time. It is truth. The words of the following old poem explain it best:

One eve I stood beside the blacksmith's door
and heard him ring the vesper chime.
Then looking in upon the floor,
I saw old hammers worn with the beating years of
time.

Have many anvils have you had, said I,
to wear and batter all these hammers so?
Just one, said he, with twinkling eye,
the anvil wears the hammers out you know.

And so I thought, the anvil of God's Word,
for ages skeptics' blows have beat upon,
yet the anvil is unchanged
and the hammers gone! ✠

"There is more good news in the Bible than in any other book ever printed. It is radiant with hope and courage, a veritable bookful of happiness."

**—Arthur S. Maxwell,
Good News for You, 39**

"Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens."

—Psalm 119:89 (NIV)

"The Bible is a book which has been refuted, demolished, overthrown, and exploded more times than any other book you ever heard of. Every little while somebody starts up and upsets this book; and it is like upsetting a solid cube of granite. It is just as big one way as the other, and when you have upset it, it is right side up, and when you overturn it again, it is right side up still. Every little while somebody blows up the Bible; but when it comes down, it always lights on its feet, and runs faster than ever through the world."

—H. L. Hastings, *Will the Old Book Stand?* 11

"The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears."

—Ellen White, *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 6, 393

"How happy are those

who hear the word of God and obey it!"

—Jesus, in Luke 11:28 (TEV)

"Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

—Paul, in Romans 15:4 (NIV)

"If we will assume that the Bible is just what it appears to be, and study its books to know their contents, we will find there a Unity of Thought indicating that One Mind inspired the writing and compilation of the whole

series of books; that it bears on its face the stamp of its Author; that it is in a unique and distinctive sense THE WORD OF GOD."

—Henry H. Halley, *Halley's Bible Handbook*, 12

Lord, I have made Thy word my choice,

My lasting heritage;

There shall my noblest powers rejoice,

My warmest thoughts engage.

I'll read the histories of Thy love,

And keep Thy laws in sight;
While through Thy promises I rove,

With ever fresh delight.

—Isaac Watts

"Don't worry about what you do not understand of the Bible. Worry about what you do understand and do not live by."

—Corrie ten Boom, *Each New Day*, April 6

**O God of light, Your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
And show your grace, Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.**

**Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;
And questing mortals longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion in the Savior's face.**

—Sarah E. Taylor

We value the opinions and thoughts of our readers. Please share how *Hour Times* has made an impact on your life. Your feedback is essential to our success. Thank you.

Hour Times P.O. Box 426, Coldwater, MI 49036

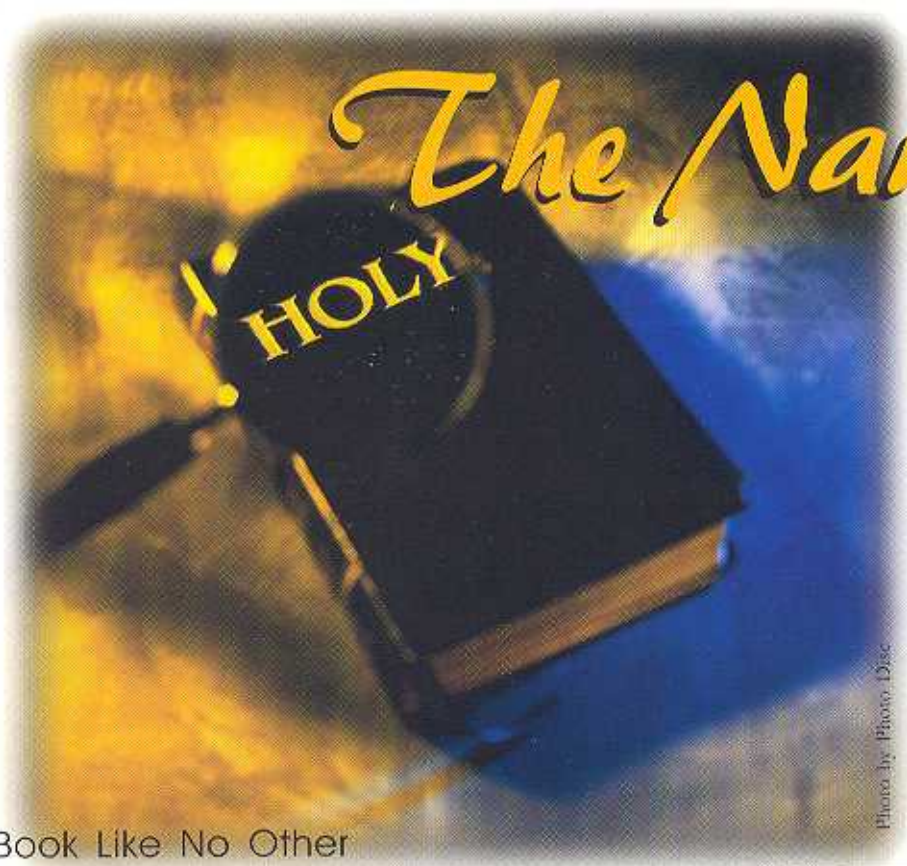


Photo by Photo Disc

The Nameless Book

A Book Like No Other

By Samuel Koranteng-Pipim, Ph.D.

There is a book—a nameless book—that has changed events in this world in a number of measureless ways. Without this nameless book there would be no sacred music, oratorios, beloved hymns, or Negro spirituals.

The composer of “The Hallelujah Chorus,” George Friedrich Handel, was not a religious man. Yet, even this world-famous composer was moved and inspired by words from this nameless book.

After several years of failure in opera, Handel was plunged into poverty. At the age of sixty he was bitter, depressed and defeated. When asked to write the music for a sacred oratorio, he glanced through the pages of the manuscript with little enthusiasm for the task. But something happened when his eyes suddenly caught the words, “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people. . . . For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. . . . He shall lead His flock like a shepherd. . . . Come unto him all ye that labor and are heavy laden.”

As Handel kept reading, the text began to quicken his pulse, warm his heart and inspire wonderful melodies. The glorious words, “He shall reign for ever and ever. . . . King of kings, and Lord of lords. . . . Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!” fired his creative genius.

Grasping a pen, Handel jotted down in feverish haste the wonderful notes that raced through his mind. For twenty-four days and nights he worked tirelessly, as if transported to another world, paying little attention to the meals that were brought to him and hardly stopping to rest. His faithful servant became greatly worried; he had never known his master to act like this. Indeed, he appeared to be mad—writing, writing, writing, then striding about the room with tears coursing down his cheeks and singing “Hallelujah” at the top of his voice.

The Messiah, the greatest oratorio ever written, was born of an experience—induced by the power of a “book.” Handel said of the occasion, “I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself.” No wonder King George II was so moved when the oratorio was first presented in London that he rose spontaneously to his feet at the beginning of “The Hallelujah Chorus” and all the throng with him! No wonder audiences

Without this nameless book there would be no sacred music, oratorios, beloved hymns, or Negro spirituals.

still rise today every time "The Hallelujah Chorus" is sung!

A NAMELESS BOOK

But what is this book that inspired Handel's "The Hallelujah Chorus"? What is this book that has power to warm hearts, inspire hope and transport even nonreligious people to behold God in His majesty?

Strangely, this book is a nameless book! It is simply called *the Book*.

Many know the Book by the title *Bible*. The word *Bible* is derived from a Latin term meaning simply "the book." Since the Bible is the supreme book in all the world, it does not need a name; it is enough to simply call it the Bible, or the Book.

A RESPECTED BOOK

Indeed, many of the world's most renowned people have testified to the value and inestimable importance of the Bible.

Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest scientists of all time, once said: "We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever."

George Washington Carver, the African-American genius of Tuskegee Institute who has been called the world's greatest biochemist, once testified before the U.S. Senate on the possibilities of the peanut. Though initially given only ten minutes to speak, he so captivated the committee that the chairman said, "Go ahead, brother. Your time is unlimited." Carver spoke for one hour and forty-five minutes.

At the conclusion of his presentation, the chairman asked, "Dr. Carver, how did you learn all of this?"

"From an old book," Carver replied.

"What book?" inquired the senator. To which the famous sci-

entist replied, "The Bible."

"Does the Bible tell about peanuts?" the surprised senator asked.

"No sir," Dr. Carver replied. "But it tells about the God who made the peanut. I asked Him to show me what to do with the peanut, and He did."

Thomas Jefferson also speaks about this Book: "I have said and always will say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands.... The Bible makes the best people in the world."

Similarly, Daniel Webster, a foremost American statesman, author and orator, testifies, "I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the will and word of God."

A TIMELESS BOOK

Because their ideas no longer fit the thoughts or needs of the human heart, books other than the Bible come and go. But the Bible, unlike these other books, is truly a timeless Book. Henry Van Dyke, author, diplomat and one-time professor at Princeton University, has accurately remarked:

"Born in the East and clothed in Oriental form and imagery, the Bible walks the ways of all the world with familiar feet and enters land after land to find its own everywhere. It has learned to speak in hundreds of languages to the heart of man. It comes into the palace to tell the monarch that he is a servant of the Most High, and into the cottage to assure the peasant that he is a son of God. Children listen to its stories with wonder and delight, and the wise men ponder them as parables of life. It has a word of peace for the time of peril, a word of comfort for the day of calamity and a word of light for the hour of darkness. Its oracles are repeated in the assembly of the people, and its counsels whispered in the ear of the lonely. The

wicked and proud tremble at its warning, but to the wounded and the penitent it has a mother's voice. The wilderness and the solitary place have been made glad by it, and the

Since the Bible is the supreme book in all the world, it does not need a name.

fire on the hearth has lit the reading of its well-worn page. It has woven itself into our deepest affections and colored our dearest dreams; so that love and friendship, sympathy and devotion, memory and hope, put on the beautiful garments of its treasured speech, breathing frankincense and myrrh."

"No man is poor or desolate who has this treasure for his own. When the landscape darkens and the trembling pilgrim comes to the valley named 'of the shadow,' he is not afraid to enter: he takes the rod and staff of Scripture in his hand; he says to friend and comrade, "Good-bye; we shall meet again"; and comforted by that support, he goes toward the lonely pass as one who walks through darkness into light."

Truly, this Book is like no other book.

A UNIQUE BOOK

The Bible was written by some 40 different authors on three different continents (Africa, Asia and Europe), in countries hundreds of miles apart, over a period of about 1500 years. It deals with matters of universal interest—history, philosophy, science, health, architecture, religion, prophecies, etc. It speaks to the needs of every generation, offers solutions to life's perplexities and even reveals the origin and future of our world. It has brought peace to troubled consciences, comfort to the sorrowful, hope to the despairing, courage to the despondent and the assurance of reunion to the bereaved.

Originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, the Bible has been published in more languages than any other book in history, and yet it has not lost its original emphasis.

This unique Book appeals to the young as well as the old, the rich as well as the poor, the simple as well as the wise. It advocates the rights of every individual, including the cause of the poor and defenseless, and it demonstrates a mysterious power to transform lives.

A careful reading of this unique Book reveals that it was written by men from every level of political and social life—from the king upon his throne down to the herdsmen, shepherds, fishermen, and petty politicians. Parts of it were written in tents, deserts, cities, palaces and dungeons. Some of it was written in times of imminent danger, while other parts were written in times of ecstatic joy.

But the remarkable thing about the Bible is that despite the circumstances that gave birth to its 66 books, its contents still show a unique and beautiful harmony. "It contains all kinds of writing," observed H. L. Hastings, "but what a jumble it would be if sixty-six books were written in this way by ordinary men. Suppose, for instance, that we get sixty-six medical books written by thirty or forty different doctors of various schools...bind them all together, and then undertake to doctor a man according to that book... Or suppose you get thirty-five ministers writing books on theology, and then see if you can find any leather strong enough to hold the books together."

A WELL PRESERVED BOOK

But there is more; the Bible has been remarkably preserved during the process of transmission. Despite the fact that it was written on perishable material and copied and recopied hundreds of years before the advent of presses or computers, the

Bible displays an unusual correctness in transmission.

This remarkable accuracy is due, in part, to the strict set of rules followed by the scribes who copied the Old Testament. For example, no word or letter could be written from memory. The words and letters were each counted, and new copies that did not agree with the old were discarded.

Unfortunately, because of the high demand for copies of the Scripture among New Testament believers, the same rules of accuracy were not followed for the New Testament. However, because of the many New Testament manuscripts that have been preserved, we can always crosscheck any section where there is doubt.

Because of the unique preservation of the original text of the Bible, Christians can be absolutely certain of its essential accuracy. The late Sir Frederic Kenyon, one-time director of the British Museum and an authority on Bible manuscripts, put it this way: "The Christian can

The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions and studied by millions.

take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries."

AN ENDURING BOOK

Of all the books ever produced, the Bible has suffered the most vicious attacks. Yet it has survived the persecution of critics and enemies. Like an anvil, it has worn out the hammers of criticism. The hammers of agnostics, atheists and higher-critics have been picking away at it for ages—yet the anvil remains while the hammers are gone. If the Bible had not been the Book of God, human

beings would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers, communists and revolutionaries have all tried their hand at it; they die, and the Book still lives.

The Book has come down to us floating on a sea of blood—every page stained with the blood of martyrs.

Bernard Ramm, Christian Scientist and theologian, once asked rhetorically whether, besides the Bible, there has ever been a book on philosophy, religion, psychology or any other subject that has been so "chopped, knifed, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified...with such venom and skepticism? With such thoroughness and erudition? Upon every chapter, line and tenet?" He concluded: "A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and the committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put.... Considering the thorough learning of the critics and the ferocity and precision of

the attacks, we would expect the Bible to have been permanently entombed...but such is hardly the case. The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions and studied by millions."

Jesus said it best almost 2,000 years ago: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35).

How do we account for the remarkable power, universal appeal, unity and survival of this ancient Book?

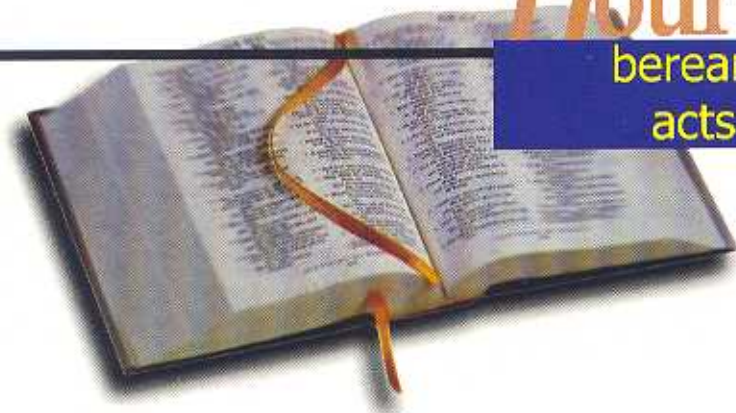
AN INSPIRED BOOK

Though written by human writers, the Bible makes a bold claim to its divine origin. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," wrote the apostle Paul. (2 Tim. 3:16). The Greek origin of the word *inspiration*

Continued on page 9.

Hour Times

berean corner
acts 17:11



Use King James Version for answers.

Across

2. Ahab's wife (1 Kings 21:4-5)
4. What does Rabboni mean? (John 20:16)
6. Used a fleece to confirm God's word (Judges 6:36-37)
8. Israel ate this for forty years (Exodus 16:35)
10. "If anyone will not work, neither should he _____" (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
12. Number of days Israelites marched around Jericho (Joshua 6:15)
13. Was spared, along with those with her, in the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:17)
15. Son of Noah who saw his father's drunken nakedness (Genesis 9:20-22)
17. Relative of Peter whom Jesus healed of a fever (Matthew 8:14-15)
19. Queen before Esther (Esther 1:19)
20. Jochebed used _____ and pitch to make baby Moses' basket watertight (Exodus 2:3)
21. "Be _____ and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)
22. King when Jesus was born (Matthew 2:1)
23. Number of wives Solomon had (1 Kings 11:3)

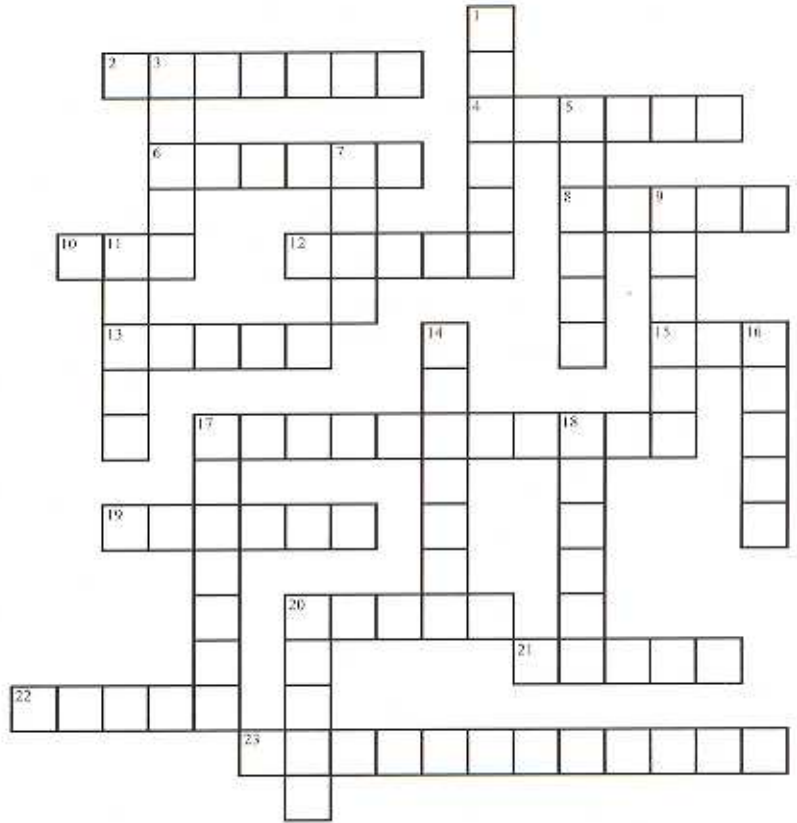
Down

1. Killed 1000 men with a jawbone (Judges 15:16)
3. Number of people spared in the flood? (Genesis 7:13)
5. Anointed Saul as king of Israel (1 Samuel 10:1)
7. "To _____ is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22)
9. Relation of Lot to Abram (Abraham) (Genesis 12:5)
11. Who was to be Moses' "mouth"? (Exodus 4:14-16)
14. Bargained with God to save Sodom (Genesis 18:17-32)
16. Spoke to God face to face (Exodus 33:11)
17. "The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of _____ seed" (Matthew 13:31)
18. Jesus asked Peter three times, "_____ thou Me?" (John 21:15-17)
20. Melchizedek was king of _____ (Genesis 14:18)

Answers

1. HIRSH 2. JESEBOTH 3. SEVEN 4. RABBI 5. WOLLE 6. FLEECES 7. SACRIFICE 8. MANNA 9. FATHER 10. SHALL NOT EAT 11. BROTHER 12. SEVEN 13. RAHAB 14. ABRAHAM 15. HAM 16. FACE 17. TARE 18. KNOWEST THOU 19. HATHACH 20. GOLDEN 21. QUIET 22. HEROD 23. SEVEN

Study to show thyself approved . . . rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.



God's Answers to Your Questions
Answers from the source of all wisdom
THE BIBLE
If you like crossword puzzles, you'll love *God's Answers to Your Questions*
This unique book lists hundreds of thought-provoking questions on topics such as:
The Future Death The End of Suffering & Sin Health Baptism Prophecy

Order Yours Today \$9.95
800-423-1319 Plus \$3.00 S&H

means "God-breathed." In other words, all the books of the Bible have a divine origin.

Probably the most mysterious thing about the Bible is the manner in which God, the Principal Author of the Book, was able to employ fallible human beings as His instruments to write down His message in a trustworthy manner.

"Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man," wrote the apostle Peter, "but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21). Because the Bible is the product of this cooperative effort between God and people, its message is "sure."

"For we did not follow cleverly invented tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.... And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:16-19, NASB).

A TRUSTWORTHY BOOK

One unmistakable evidence that the Bible has a divine imprint is the impartial manner in which its human writers recorded biographical accounts of its heroes and heroines.

Noah, a survivor of the flood, got drunk and exposed his nakedness. Abraham, the friend of God, lied and doubted God, Lot, the hero of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, got drunk and had an incestuous relationship with his daughters. Miriam, the beautiful singer and prophetess of Israel, had a racial and jealousy problem for which she was struck with leprosy. Rahab, a woman of faith and an ancestor of Christ, was once a prostitute. David, a man after God's own heart, was guilty of adultery and murder. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, lived the life of a fool. Judas, one of the most influential among the twelve dis-

ciples of Christ, was a thief and a traitor. Peter, a leading apostle of Christ, denied his Master with curses and swearing. John, the apostle of love, called for fire to destroy his enemies. And Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, persecuted the followers of Christ.

If the biographical accounts in the Scriptures were simply human efforts to enhance the moral standing of some prominent men and women, the writers would have covered up, judiciously omitted or reconstructed the negative and embarrassing aspects of those lives.

"This is the way men write his-

It is a Book of divine origin destined from the beginning to fill a unique need among the human family.

tory; but when the Lord undertakes to tell *His* story of a sinful man, He does not select a poor, miserable beggar, and show him up; He does not give even the name of the thief on the cross, nor of the guilty woman to whom He said, 'Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more'; but He takes King David from the throne, and sets him down in sackcloth and ashes, and wrings from his heart the cry, 'Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.' And then when he is pardoned, forgiven, cleansed, and made whiter than snow, the pen of Inspiration writes down the whole dark, damning record of his crimes, and the king on his throne has not power, nor wealth, nor influence enough to blot the page....

"And a book which tells the faults of those who wrote it, and which tells you that 'there is none righteous, no not one,' bears in it the marks of a true book: for we all know that men have faults and fail-

ings, and sins; and among all the men whose lives are recorded in that book, each man has some defect, some blot, except one, and that is 'the man Christ Jesus.'" (Hastings).

A SPIRITUAL BOOK

"The Bible is more than a good book, however. Man may write a good book, a true book, even a wonderful book, but man has never produced a volume that compares with the Holy Scriptures. The Bible *lives!* Through its sacred pages God moves and speaks to human hearts. It is a Book of divine origin destined from the beginning to fill a unique need among the human family. No other volume has successfully challenged it."

The Living Book points out to sinners a way of pardon, of peace and of redemption. It tells us how human beings, subject to like passions as we are, may yet be people of mighty faith, having fellowship with God and prevailing in effectual and fervent prayer. It tells us how we, who have sinned against the Most High, may be cleansed from blood-guiltiness, be washed and made whiter than snow, and find life and peace in Christ the Lord. It tells us how we, redeemed through God's mercy, may stand as sinless as the angels in the presence of the eternal King.

A NEGLECTED BOOK

Though there are unmistakable evidences of the Book's power to transform lives, though it remains the world's best-selling book, and though copies of it can be found in many homes, hotel rooms and libraries, the surprising thing is that the Bible is the most neglected book!

In the words of George Whitefield, a famous English minister, "God has condescended to become an author, and yet people will not read his writings. There are very

Continued on page 10.

few that ever gave this Book of God, the grand charter of salvation, one fair reading through."

One of the most acclaimed Christian writers, Ellen G. White, wrote: "If we will let it speak to us, the Bible will teach us what nothing else can teach. But alas! Everything else is dwelt upon except the Word of God. Worthless literature, fictitious stories, are greedily devoured, while the Bible, with all its treasures of sacred truth, lies neglected upon our tables. The Sacred Word, if made the rule of life, will refine, elevate, and sanctify. It is the voice of God to man. Will we heed it?" (*Messages to Young People*, p. 257).

A LIFE-CHANGING BOOK

"There are men who study philosophy, astronomy, geology, geography, and mathematics," observed H. L. Hastings, "but did you ever hear a man say, 'I was an outcast, a wretched inebriate, a disgrace to my race, and a nuisance to the world, until I began to study mathematics, and learned the multiplication table, and then turned my attention to ge-

ology, got me a little hammer, and knocked off the corners of the rocks and then studied the formation of the earth, and since that time I have been happy as the day is long; I feel like singing all the time; my soul

"If we will let it speak to us, the Bible will teach us what nothing else can teach."

is full of triumph and peace; and health and blessing have come to my desolate home once more?' Did you ever hear a man ascribe his redemption and salvation from intemperance and sin and vice to the multiplication table, or the science of mathematics or geology?"

"But I can bring you, not one man, or two, or ten, but men by the thousand who will tell you, 'I was wretched; I was lost; I broke my poor old mother's heart; I beggared my family, my wife was heartstricken and rejected, my children fled from the sound of their father's footsteps; I was ruined, reckless, helpless, home-

less, hopeless, until I heard the words of that Book!'"

"And he will tell you the very word which fastened on his soul. Maybe it was 'Come unto Me; all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'; perhaps it was, 'Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world'; it may have been, 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' He can tell you the very word that saved his soul. And since that word entered his heart, he will tell you that hope has dawned upon his vision, that joy has inspired his heart, and that his mouth is filled with grateful song. He will tell you that the blush of health has come back to his poor wife's faded cheek...that his rags have been exchanged for good clothes; that his children run to meet him when he comes; that there is bread on his table, fire on his hearth, and comfort in his

Six Steps Toward Living by the Word

Adapted from *Receiving the Word* by Samuel Pipim

Although God's Word is the "Bread of Life," provided for our spiritual nourishment and growth, many Christians find themselves afflicted with "theological and biblical malnutrition." In order to recover from our present ailing condition, we must be willing to:

1. RECEIVE THE WORD

We need to be "people of the Book," receiving the Word "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." (1 Thess. 2:13).

Rather than holding up human traditions, opinion polls, subjective experience, secular psy-

chology or the pronouncements of learned people as sources of dependable knowledge, we must always insist upon the Bible—and the Bible only—as the rule of faith and lifestyle.

2. FEED ON THE WORD

Food cannot benefit our bodies unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our very being. Similarly, a theoretical knowledge of the Bible will do us no good. We must feed on the Word, receiving Christ into our heart, so that His life becomes our life. In the Word we will find a fountain of mercy and love, which, as we feed upon it, will help even spiritual chil-

dren grow "wise unto salvation." (2 Tim. 3:15).

3. DELIGHT IN THE WORD

It is not enough merely to read the Bible, we must enjoy it and testify about it. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." (Jer. 15:16). "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Ps. 119:103). Such has been the experience of God's people through the centuries.

We are not speaking of collecting Bible "trivia" here or analyzing

dwelling. He will tell you all that, and he will tell you that this Book has wrought the change.”

Yes, there is power in the Book, a power that can change your life and your circumstances. Its power rests on the fact that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

A BOOK LIKE NO OTHER BOOK

When was the last time you read the Book? How much time do you spend daily with the Bible? Don't you think it is about time to begin reading God's inspired Word—the Book that is like no other book?

“The Bible is the word of life,” wrote Woodrow Wilson. “I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourselves—read, not little snatches here and there, but long passages that will really be the road to the heart of it.

text patterns, but rather communing with the living Lord into whose presence the Bible takes us—a joy that only His own true disciples know. The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we heard it with our own ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God's Word. We would regard the reading and contemplation of the Scriptures as an audience with God Himself!

4. HEED THE WORD

In Christ's parable of the two builders (Matt. 7:24-27), what distinguished the wise man from the foolish man was the fact that the wise man not only heard the Word, he heeded its message. We must let God's Word mold our actions, our words and our thoughts, realizing that to hold God's Word as any less

“You will find it not only full of real men and women, but also of the things you have wondered about and been troubled about all your life, as men have been always; and the more you read, the more will it become plain to you the things that are worthwhile and what are not, what things make men happy—loyalty, right dealing, speaking the truth, readiness to give everything for what they think their duty, and, most of

When was the last time you read The Book? How much time do you spend daily with the Bible?

all, the wish that they may have the approval of Christ, who gave everything for them; and the things that are guaranteed to make men unhappy—selfishness, cowardice, greed, and everything that is low and mean.

“When you have read the Bible you will know that it is the word of

than this is to reject it. In the words of an old hymn, we must “let our words be echoed by our ways.”

5. BE GUIDED BY THE WORD

All our decisions must be guided by a serious study of the Scriptures. As Christians we need to avoid pluralistic theology and profit-driven ministries, and stand firm amid the winds of secularism. We need to ground our beliefs, teachings and music in the Word of God, rather than the views of self-appointed “thought leaders” no matter how “Christian” they may be. We need to learn from the Master Teacher and, as followers of Christ, no longer listen without protest to the perversion of truth that has found its way into the classrooms, publications and even churches of

God, because you will have found it to be the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.”

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

The promise God gave to Joshua can be ours if we heed His counsel: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all

that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8, NKJV).

This promised blessing will bring peace to our troubled consciences, comfort to our broken hearts, light to our perplexed minds, and strength to our discouraged souls. Yes, there is no other book like the Book—and it will change our hearts—if we let it. ✕

¹Robert Pierson, one-time President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

today. We must make the Bible, and the Bible only, our guide in every aspect of our lives, regardless of our position or standing.

6. STAND UP FOR THE WORD

Our individual spiritual lives depend on the Inspired Word, and as Christians, we must have the courage to stand for that Word. This means not adopting postures of theological neutrality when God's truth and honor are being jeopardized. With the prospect of an end-time deception before us, we should not be afraid to stand up for the truth even if we have to lose our privileges, opportunities, positions, sources of livelihood, cherished relationships and yes, even our own lives. (See Luke 14:26, 27, 33.) ✕



Obedience

By Vicki B. Griffin, Ph.D., MACN, Author, Lecturer, Researcher

OBEDIENCE FOR HEALTH'S SAKE?

People are interested in health for many different reasons. We are living in an era when many individuals vigorously pursue a lifestyle devoted to health for "health's sake." To many, health becomes a god in itself, a reason for living. Dedication to a healthful lifestyle becomes their "salvation" and security, a substitute for a relationship with God. They strongly believe in obedience to physical laws. But obedience to nature's laws becomes an end in itself—a hapless attempt to escape the reality of aging and mortality—a prospect doomed to failure.

SALVATION WITHOUT OBEDIENCE?

On the other hand, there is a large class of people who believe in the Bible, but believe that the Bible has little to say about how to live. They strongly believe in the moral law, but they are sure that God does not require dominion or authority over their habits or lifestyle choices. They do not realize the strong impact of physical habits on the moral and spiritual nature, and do not think that God requires obedience to natural laws that keep the body healthy.

Fast Facts

- **Young men who smoke may experience altered genetic material in their sperm, adversely affecting fertility, and negatively affecting mental and psychological development of offspring. *Medical Tribune: Internist & Cardiologist Edition* 39.n21:30, 1998.**
- **Symptoms of eating disorders have increased fivefold among teen-age girls on Fiji since television came to the Pacific Island nation, from 3% to 15% a study found. Sixty-two percent reported dieting in the past month. *American Psychiatric Association*, May 1999.**

THE MISSING LINK

Both groups engage in some behaviors or attitudes that bring some health benefits. But there is a vital missing link for both groups. The missing link is that God is not in either philosophy. God requires obedience to both the moral and physical laws He has made—and we cannot separate them because God does not separate them: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus." 1 Thess. 5:23. "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1. The Bible teaches that people need salvation and cannot have true peace or hope without a living relationship with the Savior. "At that time ye were without Christ...having no hope, and without God in the world." Eph. 2:12. The Bible also teaches us that before we came to Christ, every faculty was an instrument of our enemy, the devil—for our evil. Now every faculty belongs to God—for our good! "For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." Rom. 6:19.

SAVED TO SERVE

We are saved by grace—a free gift from God—"not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:9. But grace is given for a purpose—and that purpose is obedience. "By whom we have received grace...for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name." Rom. 1:5. Why? "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10. The Bible teaches that true salvation involves more than mental assent to Bible doctrines. "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." 1 Cor. 4:20. Through the grace and power He imparts, He requires obedience to both the moral and lifestyle principles He outlines for His people—and obedience is not optional. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself." 1 Cor. 3:16-18.

FOR OUR GOOD!

God's command for dominion over our beings is

really an expression of His loving desire for our freedom from oppression, unhappiness, disease, and untimely death. "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day." Deut. 6:24. He wants us to gain the richest benefits in every way, even in this sinful world. "Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out." Deut. 28:6. He wants us to be spared needless pain, disability and disease that so often attends the violation of God's laws, both moral and physical. "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." Ex. 15:26.

TANGIBLE BENEFITS!

Can we expect tangible health and mental benefits for those who adhere to Bible religion? In an analysis of 212 peer-reviewed studies, it was shown that 75% indicated that religious commitment has a beneficial impact on a variety of health conditions, including alcoholism, heart disease, anxiety and depression. Adhering to Bible principles of faith combined with lifestyle has been associated with 50% fewer deaths from coronary disease, 56% fewer deaths from emphysema, 74% fewer deaths from cirrhosis, and 53% fewer suicides. Patients under-

Patients without religious commitment were three times more likely to die.

going heart surgery who were "deeply religious" were more likely than others to be alive six months after surgery. Patients without religious commitment were three times more likely to die.

GIVE ME THAT OLD-TIME RELIGION

Sheena Sethi, a psychologist from Stanford University, and Martin Seligman, from the University of Pennsylvania, studied 623 members of nine different sects. They concluded that "old-time religion" gives its adherents a strong mental health edge over religious liberals and unbelievers. The highest levels of optimism were linked to fundamentalists who allow religion to influence their daily life—what they eat, wear and whom they marry. "What we found was exactly the opposite of what we expected," said Sethi, who suggests more studies of the effects of religion on mental health. Science is simply verifying what the Bible has said all along: "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord." Prov. 21:30. We suggest not waiting for more studies before trying it! ⌚

References:

1. Larson D, Religion and Mental Health: Should They Work Together? *Alternative and Complementary Therapies* 1996 Mar/Apr:91-98.
2. Matthews D, Healing Faith: Religious Commitment Is Good for Your Health. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 1995 Apr. 4 (suppl 10).
3. Parker S., Experts Call Spirituality an Untapped Therapy. *Internal Medicine News* 1996, Jan. 16.

recipes

VIVA LA FRENCH TOAST

Ingredients:

- 2/3 C Raw cashews
- 1 2/3 C Water
- 2 tsp Vanilla or maple extract
- 1/2 C Milk powder (soy, tofu, or rice)
- 1 tsp Salt
- 2 Tb Honey
- 1/2 C Whole wheat flour
- 1 C Oats
- 1/4 C Soy flour
- 16 Slices Whole wheat bread

Directions:

- Blend ALL ingredients except flours and bread. Blend very well.
- When ingredients are blended well, add flours and continue blending.

- Pour batter into bowl. Add more water if too thick.
- Dip bread one slice at a time into batter, covering completely.
- Quickly place dipped bread onto sprayed, hot Teflon-coated griddle. Brown on both sides; don't undercook.
- Place on plate in warm oven until ready to serve.

Serving Suggestions:

- This is a mild, versatile recipe.
- Serve with nut butter or Better Butter and maple syrup.
- French toast is also great with hot applesauce on top.
- This toast is lovely served plain and warmed with a little fruit for a light supper.



Guilt-free Gourmet—Your Vegan Cookbook and Lifestyle Resource Book.

Finally, a cookbook featuring recipes that taste good and are good for you! More than 300 pages of scrumptious, mouth-watering creations that are nutritious, cholesterol-free and easy to make.

Order yours today. Only \$19.95
1-800-423-1319

The Sure Word of Prophecy

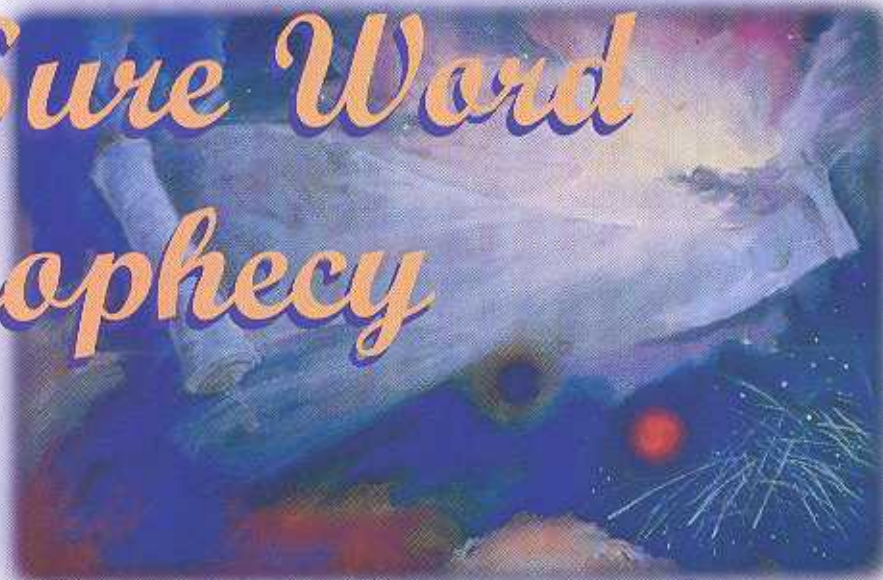


Illustration by Joe Maniscalco

By Cari Haus

One of the most prosperous seaports in Bible times was the magnificent city of Tyre, capital of Phoenicia. In Tyre's heyday, Phoenician merchants roamed the seas in small trading vessels, carrying pottery, glassware, spices, metals and the marvelous color of purple to many a distant port. As a result of this booming trade, Tyre grew by leaps and bounds.

Unfortunately, the wickedness of the bustling capital advanced right along with its economy. To its sins of greed and arrogance Tyre added the cruel practice of human sacrifice.

The treachery of Tyre did not go unnoticed by the God of heaven.

The treachery of Tyre did not go unnoticed by the God of heaven. "Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus," thundered the prophet Ezekiel. "And thou shalt be no more; though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord God." (Eze. 26:3, 4). Ezekiel went on to prophesy that

- more than one nation would rise against Tyre;
- Babylon, under the direction of King Nebuchadnezzar, would destroy it;
- the stones, timber and dust of Tyre would be laid in the water;
- the site of Tyre would become flat like the top of a rock—a place for fishermen to spread their nets; and
- the city would never be rebuilt. (See Ezekiel 26:1-21.)

To all human logic, Ezekiel's prophecy seemed incredibly unlikely. Tyre was well fortified, at the zenith of its strength and glory. Yet shortly after the prophecy was given, Nebuchadnezzar did lay siege to Tyre. And after 13 long and bitter years, Babylon's army

finally battered its way through the walls.

During the siege, however, the Phoenicians had somehow loaded their ships with treasure and escaped to an island a half mile away. So while Nebuchadnezzar did destroy the magnificent city, his shipless army stopped at the edge of the sea.

This partial fulfillment, of course, only made the remaining portions of the prophecy seem all the more fantastic. Since Tyre had been destroyed, why would other nations bother to lay its stones, timber and dust in the water? Why should it become like the top of a rock, a place for fishermen to spread their nets?

The prophecies seemed completely unreasonable, yet against all this human logic stood the Word of God. About two years after the destruction of Tyre, Alexander the Great turned his attention to the island of the Phoenicians. Alexander saw immediately that his invasion craft would be smashed if he dared to approach by sea. So he devised a more spectacular plan of attack—scraping up the rubble of Tyre left by Nebuchadnezzar and flinging everything—stones, timber and even the dust—into the sea. Using these materials as a base, Alexander constructed a huge causeway from the mainland out to the island.

As a result, the vast bulk of the city is now buried, the former site is as flat as the top of a rock, and the city has never been rebuilt. Instead, it has become a favorite place for fishermen to dry their nets.

And it's all a mute but powerful testimony to the truth of God's prophetic Word, no matter how implausible it may seem when given.

The doom of Tyre was just one of many spectacular prophetic developments in the Bible. Right in the Garden of Eden, just after the fall of Adam and Eve, God predicted with alarming accuracy the incredible battle between

good and evil to take place on this earth—together with its ultimate outcome. (See Gen. 3:15.)

The lamb Abel offered was a prophetic symbol of the innocent Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world. (See Gen. 4:4.) Then there was Methuselah, whose very name (meaning “when he dies it will come”) was a harbinger of doom for the antediluvian world. A careful check of the Genesis genealogy will show that Methuselah died the year of the flood.

God promised Abraham that, though childless and aging, he would be the father of many (see Gen. 12:2) and progenitor of the Messiah (see Gen. 12:3). In addition, God informed Abraham that his children would be both freed from bondage and given “great substance” by their captors. (See Gen. 15:13-14.)

The biblical record shows that each of these prophecies was exactly fulfilled. Abraham did indeed father a child of promise in his old age (see Gen. 21:2), the Messiah was his descendant (see Matt. 1:1) and the children of Israel “spoiled” the Egyptians the night before their Exodus from the land of Egypt (see Gen. 15:14).

Paging through the Old Testament, we find predictions of restoration for a butler (see Gen. 40:13), doom for a baker (see Gen. 40:19), together with years of famine and plenty (see Gen. 41), all wrapped up in prophetic dreams. Then there were the awful pronouncements of Moses, who was moved to predict the twelve terrible plagues one by one (see Exodus 3-12), until the dreadful culmination when the angel of death took all the firstborn of Egypt.

Although some of it is conditional, the entire history of the Jewish people is wrapped up in prophecy. Just before his death, Moses detailed the blessings and curses that would attend the children of Israel (see Deut. 29, 30) according to their behavior. While great honor, wealth and glory were promised as long as they served and honored God, an equally awesome list of tribulation awaited them should they fall away—together with the promise of restoration should they repent.

The working of God’s hand wasn’t limited to Israel, either. Throughout the Old Testament various heathen nations (such as Tyre)

were warned, and if necessary, punished for their sins. Examples include Sodom, Gomorrah, Babylon, Ninevah and Moab.

Sometimes God even moved upon a heathen king to fulfill His prophecy. Such was the experience of Cyrus, the Persian ruler who had no earthly motive to order the rebuilding of God’s temple. Yet when he saw how the prophet Isaiah had:

- named him, Cyrus, as God’s “anointed” more than a hundred years before his birth;
- predicted the exact manner in which Cyrus would conquer Babylon (entering through the open leaved gates under the city); and
- prophesied that he would give orders to free the captives and rebuild both Jerusalem and the temple (compare Isaiah 45:1-3, 13, 44:28, and Ezra 1:1-4), Cyrus’ spirit was stirred. Convicted that God had called him and brought him to power to fulfill this prophecy, Cyrus made a proclamation, thereby enacting the very decree God had ordained him to enact!

THE ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT

Of course, the most compelling fulfillments of prophecy were made by Jesus.

Jesus had the right genealogy to be the Messiah (see Matt. 1:1-16), not to mention being born in the right place (see Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7) at the right time (see Daniel 9:25, Luke 2:1-2). Old Testament prophets also predicted that Christ’s bones would be unbroken (see Ps. 34:20), His enemies would gamble for His coat (see Ps. 22:17-18), and that He would be resurrected and ascend to be at God’s right hand (see Ps. 16:10, 49:15, 68:18).

Jeremiah predicted the slaughter of the innocents (see Jer. 31:15), while Isaiah foretold the virgin birth (see Is. 7:14), the location of Christ’s ministry (see Is. 9:1-2) and His mission to “heal the brokenhearted” (see Is. 61:1-2). Isaiah also foretold that Christ would be:

- rejected by the Jews (Is. 53:3),
- hit and spit upon (Is. 50:6),
- silent to His accusers (Is. 53:7),
- numbered with the transgressors (e.g. the thieves on the cross; Is. 53:12); and

- buried with the rich (Is. 53:9).
- In addition, Old Testament prophets predicted that Christ would be:
- called by God out of Egypt (where Jesus spent his first few years; Hos. 11:1),
 - betrayed by a friend (Ps. 41:9),
 - sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12),
 - pierced through the hands and feet (Zech. 12:10),
 - scorned and mocked (Ps. 22:7-8),
 - offered vinegar for His thirst (Ps. 69:21) and
 - praying for His enemies (Ps. 109:4).

Jesus was well aware of these prophecies, for when He talked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, “He expounded unto them

The most compelling fulfillments of prophecy were made by Jesus.

in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself,” beginning at Moses and all the prophets. (Luke 24:27).

THE SOURCE OF ALL PROPHECY

In addition to fulfilling many prophecies, Jesus was the source of all prophecy. Jesus used this method of revelation to:

- build faith in His followers. (John 14:29) and
- prepare His people for the future (Rev. 1:1).

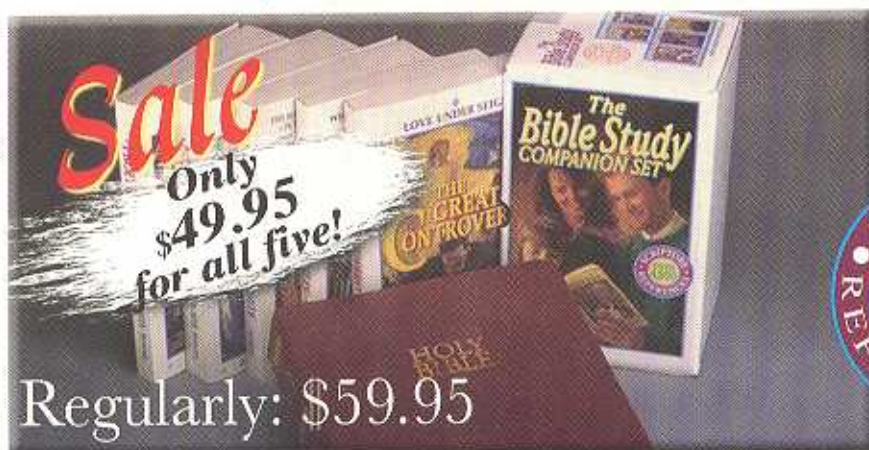
Many biblical prophecies (especially in Daniel and Revelation) reach down through history, even to our day. Daniel and Revelation are especially relevant in this day and age for the Bible pronounces a specific blessing on those who study the book of Revelation, and Daniel is the key to unlocking that book.

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Rev. 1:3).

May God help us all as we study His hand in history, and strengthen our faith as we continue to prepare for His soon return. ☒

The Bible Study COMPANION SET

An indispensable aid to Bible study!



"I just can't understand the Bible!"

• How did the universe begin? How did the world get here? Where and how did the human race start? *Patriarchs and Prophets* is a book about beginnings. In fascinating, easy-to-read language, it describes exactly how planet Earth—and the people who live on it—began.

• *Prophets and Kings* is volume two of the five-volume set that covers human history from the beginning of our time—and on into the future. This book begins with the reign of King Solomon and ends just prior to the first advent of Jesus Christ.

• The inexpressible desire of all ages cannot be found in things, fame, power or pleasure-seeking. It can be found only in a Person. *The Desire of Ages* is His story. This book will be the end of your search.

• You will again witness the enormous power of the early church as you read *The Acts of the Apostles*, a remarkable commentary on the book of Acts. Then you are invited to request it—and experience it—for yourself and your church.

• *The Great Controversy* begins at the dawning of the Christian era, traces the rise and fall of nations and religious powers down to our day, then plunges ahead to preview the future. And what this book sees coming is not based on guesswork. It is based on a source of predictions that has never yet missed in its prophecies.

To order by mail send your request to Remnant Publications, 649 E. Chicago Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036

Hour Times

Remnant Publications
P.O. Box 426
Coldwater, MI 49036

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Coldwater, MI
Permit #199

ORDER NOW!
800-423-1319