

# Hidden Truth

A hand is shown tearing a hole in a blue, textured surface. Through the hole, a large, detailed blue eye is visible, looking directly at the viewer. The scene is illuminated by bright, glowing light rays emanating from the hole, creating a dramatic and revealing effect. The background is dark blue with faint, repeating text like 'Hidden' and 'TRINITY'.

Amazing Bible  
Facts

Revealed!

# Blurred Biblical Truth



Every December, we see breathtaking nativity scenes displaying the familiar but pleasant picture of the three wise men and the shepherds gazing with adoration at the Christ child in the manger, with his loving parents Joseph and Mary and a menagerie of domestic animals looking on.

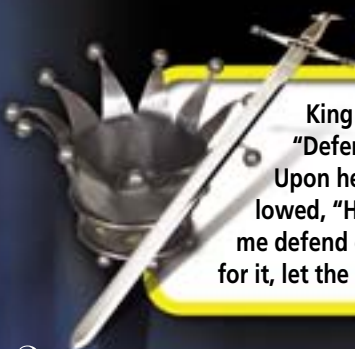
Yet did you know that in reality, the Bible never says that any animals were present—or that the wise men saw the shepherds or Jesus while He was in the manger? "And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him" (Matthew 2:11).

In fact, it may have been over a year after the birth of Jesus before the wise men even arrived! This theory is supported well when we read that King Herod commands his soldiers to kill all the infants in Bethlehem two years old and under (Matthew 2:16).

Even more interesting, nowhere in the Bible does it say there were three wise men. But have you ever seen a Christmas card with four wise men or two?

Much of the world, and even many Christians, have been confused by a series of myths that have managed to take firm root in churches around the world ... and pass as legitimate Bible teachings. Some of these phony fables are fairly harmless, but others present "doctrines of devils" that can be devastating to one's faith, concept of God, and eternal destiny (1 Timothy 4:1).

## Amazing Fact!



King Henry VIII once received the title "Defender of the Faith" from the Pope. Upon hearing this, the court Jester bel-lowed, "Ho! Ho! Good Harry, let you and me defend one another; but take my word for it, let the faith alone to defend itself!"


The purpose of this magazine is to finally let the Bible speak for itself—to defend the faith it was designed to convey.

In the process, you will see truth rub away the rust and tarnish of popular but dangerous traditions—allowing the true beauty of God's Book to shine with its natural, glorious splendor.

Utilizing an easy-to-understand question-and-answer format and sprinkled with amazing facts, this unique resource will boldly peel away the layers of confusion, revealing the Bible's beautiful hidden truth.

## Amazing Fact!

### A Central Bible Thought



What chapter is right in the middle of the Bible? Psalm 118. (The shortest chapter: Psalm 117; the longest chapter: Psalm 119!)

It's preceded by 594 chapters, and it's followed by 594 chapters. If you add the number of preceding chapters to the number of following chapters, you get 1188 ... and Psalm 118:8 is the center verse, which says: "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

*"Sin will keep you from the Bible, or the Bible will keep you from sin." —Dwight L. Moody*



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# Can the Bible Be Trusted?



3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes together, he desired to kill Christ. ... when he had inquired of the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Beth...

In these perplexing days—when many trusted, spiritual leaders have proven false; when safe places for investments are rare; when lying in politics seems to be the norm; when those you depend on most often hurt you the deepest—is there anything left you can trust?

**Yes!** You can fully trust the Bible, God's written Word. Take a look at the evidence...

## Amazing Fact!

It is estimated that approximately 10 percent of everything Jesus says in the New Testament is a direct or indirect quote of the Old Testament.

## Amazing Fact!

The word "Bible" comes from the Greek term *Biblia*, which means "books." It takes about 70 hours, 40 minutes to read the entire Bible at an average reading speed.



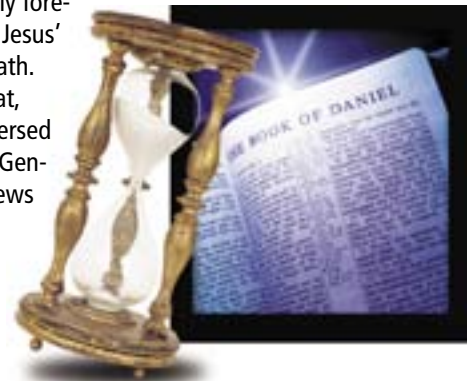
## 3 Do Bible prophecies confirm the inspiration of Scripture?

The Bible says:

“I am the LORD. ... New things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them” (Isaiah 42:8, 9).

Many precise Bible predictions of future events confirm the inspiration of Scripture as they come to pass. Consider just a few of the hundreds of examples of fulfilled Bible prophecies:

- In Daniel 2, 7, and 8, the Bible foretells with stunning accuracy the five primary world powers that would arise, in their exact order. They are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the European divisions of Rome.
- The Bible foretold that after Babylon's destruction, it would never be inhabited again (Isaiah 13:19, 20; Jeremiah 51:37). (Former dictator of Iraq Saddam Hussein's grand goal was to rebuild the city, but he failed to do so before he was taken from power!)
- Daniel 9 precisely foretells the year of Jesus' baptism and death.
- God foretold that, after being dispersed throughout the Gentile world, the Jews would someday repossess Israel (Luke 21:24).



## 1 What does the Bible say about itself?

The Bible says:

- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16).
- “Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21).
- “Thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

The Bible claims to be entirely inspired by God and absolutely true, written by men guided by the Holy Ghost.

## 2 How did Jesus demonstrate confidence in Scripture?

The Bible says:

When tempted by the devil, Jesus responded, “It is written,” and then quoted Scripture (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). Jesus often quoted Scripture as the ultimate authority for the truth He was teaching.



Joining an American flag and other items from earlier missions, a microfilm packet containing Genesis 1:1 in 16 languages was placed on the moon by Apollo 14 astronauts.

## Amazing Fact!



14 When he was about to take the young child and his mother by night, and depart into Egypt...

15 And was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

### Amazing Fact!



A director for the Standard Oil company happened to read Exodus 2:3, which records that the ark of bulrushes that Moses' mother made to carry him was "daubed with slime and with pitch."

The director reasoned that where there was pitch, or tar, there must be oil—and if oil existed in Moses' time, it was probably still there. So he dispatched Charles Whitshott, a geologist and oil expert, to investigate. And sure enough, great deposits of oil were discovered.

## 4 Isn't the Bible just a collection of books by authors with different ideas?

Absolutely not! The Bible says:

🕯️ "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16).

One of the greatest miracles of the Bible is its unity. Even though the 66 books of the Bible were written ...

- 🕯️ On three continents,
- 🕯️ In three languages,
- 🕯️ Over a period of about 1,500 years,
- 🕯️ By about 40 different people with different educations, backgrounds, and professions (kings, shepherds, scientists, attorneys, a general, fishermen, priests, and a physician) ...

... their teachings as a whole remain amazingly in harmony with one another. Talk about astounding! Even three witnesses of an accident often offer wildly contradicting versions of events. Yet the Bible reads as if written by one great mind.



In spite of very stringent weight requirements, a full-sized Bible was standard equipment for every Pony Express rider!

### Amazing Fact!



## 5 What is the greatest evidence of the Bible's inspiration?

The Bible says:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Millions have experienced changed lives when they chose to follow Jesus and obey Scripture.

The alcoholic becomes sober; the immoral, pure; the addicted, free; the profane, reverent; the fearful, courageous; and the rude, kind. These wonderful transformations constitute the most heartwarming evidence of the Bible's power and inspiration.



### Amazing Fact!

An atheist was visiting an island whose natives were once cannibals. When he spotted an old man reading a Bible, he ridiculed the old man for reading a book "full of myths and fables." The native smiled at him and said, "My friend, be grateful we do believe this Book. Otherwise, we would be serving you for dinner." The Bible really does change people!



# 6 Do Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah really point to Jesus?

The Bible says:

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27). The Bible also says that Apollos showed “from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 18:28 NKJV).

Yes! Old Testament predictions of the coming Messiah are so specific and so clearly fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth that both Jesus and the apostles successfully used these prophecies to prove He was, indeed, the Messiah.

Most people don't know, but the Old Testament holds more than 300 of these prophecies. Here are just 12 of them:

Prophecy About the Messiah	Old Testament Verse	New Testament Fulfillment
1 Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
2 Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-23
3 Of David's lineage	Jeremiah 23:5	Revelation 22:16
4 Attempted murder by Herod	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
5 Betrayal by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18, 19, 26
6 Sold for 30 silver coins	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:14-16
7 Pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:16-18, 37
8 Lots cast for His clothes	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35
9 No bones broken	Psalms 34:20; Exodus 12:46	John 19:31-36
10 Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
11 Year, day, hour of His death	Daniel 9:26, 27; Exodus 12:6	Matthew 27:45-50
12 Raised the third day	Hosea 6:2	Acts 10:38-40

## Amazing Fact!

Dr. Peter Stoner, former chairman of the departments of mathematics, astronomy, and engineering at Pasadena College in California, worked with 600 students applying the “principle of probability” to the prophecies of the Messiah.

They chose just eight from the hundreds available and determined that the chances of all eight being fulfilled in one man in a lifetime is:

**1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000!**

What would happen if we included all of the more than 300 Messianic prophecies? We would not have enough pages to print that number in this magazine! The fact is that the odds are so astronomical, there is no way that Jesus was just a coincidence.



## Amazing Fact!



The Bible, in part or whole, has been translated into nearly 2,000 languages. The first complete English versions of the Bible were made by John Wycliffe in 1379. Later in 1526, William Tyndale was arrested and executed for creating his own English translation.

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## 7 What world events brought the Bible's power and appeal into sharp focus?

The Bible says:

- *"The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God" (Psalm 53:1 NKJV).*

The failure and collapse of atheistic communism has spotlighted the Bible. Built on a foundation of Marxism, the former U.S.S.R. failed miserably.

Closely related, evolution, Marxism's first tenet, is also losing its credibility. The more science advances, the more this theory crumbles under the weight of truth. Just one example among thousands: Molecular biologists have shown that even a single cell of life is busier and more complex than New York City's vast transportation network at rush hour—the accidental origin of life is a mathematical absurdity.

## Amazing Fact!

The first book printed on movable type was the German Bible by Johannes Gutenberg in 1455. Between 1815 and 1975, 2.5 billion Bibles were printed, and it remains the most widely distributed and influential book in the world.

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## 8 Why does the Bible have such universal appeal?

The Bible says:

- *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).*
- *"These things have I spoken unto you ... that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).*
- *"I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).*

The Bible answers our most important questions regarding life, such as:

1. **"Where do I come from?"** God created us in His image. (We did not accidentally begin from some primeval ooze.) We are sons and daughters of God, the Mighty King (Galatians 3:26). We are so precious to God (Isaiah 13:12) that He gave His Son to die in our place for our sins so we could live forever (John 3:16).
2. **"What am I doing here?"** Learn to trust and love God and love our fellow man (Romans 8:29).
3. **"Where am I going?"** Jesus will come very soon to dispense one of two rewards—everlasting life or death (John 14:1–3; Revelation 22:12).

And, weary seekers of the best,  
We come back laden from our quest  
To find that all the sages said  
Is in the book our Mothers read.

John Greenlief Whittier



# DID A LOVING GOD MAKE A DEVIL?



**M**ost people in the world are being bamboozled by a highly successful evil genius plotting their destruction. This brilliant but depraved being is often called the devil, or Satan, but this prince of darkness is not what most people think.

Many people believe he's just a symbolic figure of evil, but the Bible says he is real and represents the very essence of consummate evil!

He is ever subverting families, churches, and even entire nations. And his plans for escalating immorality, sorrow, pain, destruction, and sin are succeeding to an incredible degree.

His plan for your life is ... death. What more does the Bible have to say about this powerful force in the world?



## Amazing Fact!

The Octopus is among the most versatile and pliable of all creatures. It can squeeze into amazingly small spaces, which pays off when chasing its prey into tiny cracks.

And when threatened, an octopus can instantly expel a cloud of dark ink, and jet away while also changing its appearance—leaving the predator totally confused. Thanks to special skin cells, it has the ability to change color and texture, assuming a thousand combinations. In the blink of an eye, they can fade into the sea floor.

One clever species often takes up residence in a vacant clamshell, using its tentacles to slowly open and close the shell, just like a live clam, and wiggling the tip of its tentacle like a worm to attract hungry fish! Octopus' clever trickery fools sea creatures of every kind, snatching and destroying them—not too unlike another master deceiver.

## 1 What was Satan's name before he sinned, and where did he come from?

The Bible says:

- "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" (Isaiah 14:12).
- "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

The fact that the Bible mentions him by name (Lucifer) and his first home (heaven) is a very strong indication that he's not just a fable in a red Halloween costume.

## Amazing Fact!

When King Ptolemy decided to build the great Pharos lighthouse in the second century B.C., he chose the architect Sostrates to design the structure that would become one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Ptolemy II insisted that the building bear his inscription as a personal memorial; however, Sostrates didn't want the king to get lasting credit. So he put the title of Ptolemy II on the front of the lighthouse in a light plaster, which was worn away by the relentless waves shortly after the king died. In the foundation of granite, the inscription "Sostrates, Son of Dexiphanes of Knidos, on Behalf of All Mariners to the Savior Gods" was revealed for all time.

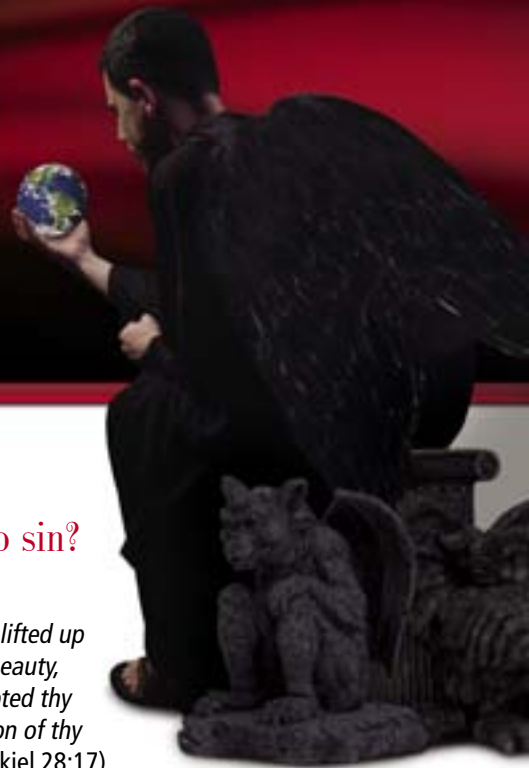


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"For thou hast said in thine heart, ...  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of  
God: ... I will be like the most High."

Isaiah 14: 13, 14



## 2 Why would a loving God make a devil?

The Bible says:

- "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:15).
- "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth" (Ezekiel 28:14).
- "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty ... every precious stone was thy covering ... the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee" (Ezekiel 28: 12, 13).

**God did not make a devil**—He created a perfect angel (Ephesians 3:9)! Lucifer was a "covering" cherub, and once was one of the two great angels that



### Amazing Fact!

The Bible never portrays Satan as wearing red, sporting bat wings, trailing a pointed tail, complete with horns and a pitchfork. This notion actually comes from Greek mythology, and this monstrous distortion pleases the devil. Satan was a beautiful angel of light who can still appear that way (2 Corinthians 11:14; Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14–19).

stand on the right and left side of God's throne (Psalm 99:1).

He was a highly exalted, respected, and cherished angel. His beauty was flawless and his brightness was awe-inspiring, a breathtaking being. Scripture also indicates his wisdom and ability were unmatched, and he may have been especially gifted with musical skill (Ezekiel 28:13). Some scholars believe he led the angelic choir.

## 3 What led Lucifer to sin?

The Bible says:

- "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness" (Ezekiel 28:17).
- "For thou hast said in thine heart ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: ... I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13, 14).

Pride, discontent, and self-exaltation arose in his heart. Lucifer became jealous of God's supreme power. He actually hoped to somehow unseat God and then demand that all worship him. It was treason of the worst kind.

Centuries later, he even tempted Jesus, with rulership over all the earth, to fall down and worship him (Matthew 4:8–11). In the last days, God calls all people to worship Him (Revelation 14:6,7), but this so infuriates Satan that he will try to force people to worship him or else be killed (Revelation 13:15).

God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Satan wants you to break this rule, because he knows if you don't worship God, it's like you're following him!

## 4 Who originated sin?

The Bible says:

- "The devil sinneth from the beginning" (1 John 3:8).
- "That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan" (Revelation 12:9).

Satan is the originator of all sin; he was the first created being ever to go against God's kingdom. Only the Bible explains the true origin of evil!



Because of the earth's rotation, an object can be thrown farther west.

### Amazing Fact!



## 5 What happened in heaven as a consequence of Lucifer's rebellion?

The Bible says:

- *"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels. ... And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him"* (Revelation 12:7–9).

Amazingly, Lucifer won the support of one-third of the angels and caused an insurrection in heaven (Revelation 12:3, 4). It was one of the greatest cosmic battles ever fought.

God had no choice but to evict Lucifer and his followers to ensure peace in His kingdom. After his expulsion from heaven, Lucifer was called Satan (adversary) and devil (slanderer), and his angels were called demons.

## 6 Where is Satan's present headquarters? How does he feel about people?

The Bible says:

- *"The LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it"* (Job 2:2).
- *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time"* (Revelation 12:12).
- *"Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Peter 5:8).

### Amazing Fact!



From the year 1496 B.C. to A.D. 1861—3,358 years—there were 227 years of peace and 3,130 years of war, or 13 years of war for every year of peace.



Contrary to popular opinion, Satan's headquarters is on the earth, not in hell. God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26). When they sinned, they lost it to Satan (Romans 6:16; John 12:31).

Satan bitterly hates humans, who were created in God's image. He can't touch God, so he directs his venom against God's children. He's a hateful, vicious liar whose aim is to destroy you and thus hurt God.



A mole can dig a tunnel 300-feet long in just one night!

### Amazing Fact!

## 7 After God created Adam and Eve, what one thing did He forbid them to do? What was to be the penalty for disobedience?

The Bible says:

- *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:17).

They were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the penalty for eating of that tree was to be death.

### Amazing Fact!

Before 1820, people in North America believed that tomatoes were deadly poisonous. But Colonel Robert Gibbon Johnson ate several before a large horrified crowd at a county fair. Today, the United States grows about 9 million metric tons of tomatoes yearly, and there are more varieties of tomatoes sold than of any other fruit.








## 8 What medium did Satan use to deceive Eve? What lies did Satan tell her?

The Bible says:

- *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”* (Genesis 3:1, 4, 5).

### Amazing Fact!



Maine has no poisonous snakes. Hawaii has only two snakes: One is a sea snake rarely seen in Hawaii waters, and the other is a blind snake that lives like an earthworm. The only continent without reptiles or snakes: Antarctica.

The first humans were told by God not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and that the penalty for eating from that tree would be death.

But Satan then used a serpent—at the time, one of the most clever and dazzling of God’s

creatures—to deceive Eve. Some

think the serpent originally had wings and flew (Isaiah 14:29; 30:6) and that it did not crawl until God cursed it (Genesis 3:14).

Lies that include some truth are the most effective of all, and this is how the devil deceived Eve. Satan made the knowledge of evil appear attractive, as he still does today. He told lies to misrepresent God’s character, because he knows no one would turn away God’s love unless he or she misunderstood His character.

## 9 Why did God evict Adam and Eve from the garden simply because they ate a piece of fruit?


The Bible says:

- *“Sin is the transgression of the law”* (1 John 3:4).
- *“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever? So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life”* (Genesis 3:22, 24).

Eating the fruit was a sin because it was a direct rejection of one of God’s few requirements. It was open rebellion against God’s law and authority.

By rejecting one of God’s commands, Adam and Eve allied themselves with God’s enemy, and thus brought separation between themselves and God (Isaiah 59:2). Satan hoped the couple would sin and then eat of the tree of life, and thus become immortal sinners. But God removed them from the garden to prevent such a tragedy.

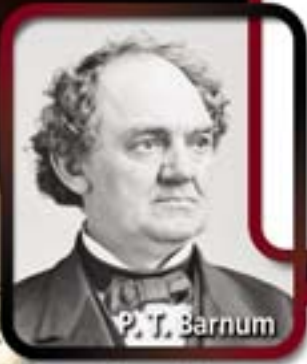
### Amazing Fact!



The Bible never says the forbidden fruit was an apple. It is only called the fruit of the “knowledge of good and evil.” It might not have looked like anything we have today, but this is where we get the name “Adam’s apple”—the forbidden fruit supposedly got stuck in Adam’s throat.

## Amazing Fact!

In the mid-nineteenth century, P.T. Barnum's American Museum in Manhattan was famous for displaying such oddities as the Fiji Mermaid (the upper half of a stuffed monkey fused to a fish tail) and the famous dwarf "General Tom Thumb," who, of course, was not a general at all. Barnum even exhibited a former slave named Joice Heth, whom he claimed to be the 161-year-old childhood nurse of George Washington! In spite of the obvious fraudulent nature of his fantastical features, more than 20 million people paid to visit Barnum's dubious museum.



## 10 What amazing facts does the Bible reveal regarding Satan's methods to deceive, discourage, and destroy people?

The Bible says:

- *"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9 NKJV).*

Here are some other qualities of Satan and his demons that the Bible tells us:

- Deceives/persecutes (Revelation 12:9, 13).
- Quotes/misquotes the Bible (Matthew 4:5, 6).
- Falsely accuses/murders (Revelation 12:10; John 8:44).
- Traps/ensnares (2 Timothy 2:26; 1 Peter 5:8).
- Wars against God's people (Revelation 12:17).
- Binds/prompts betrayal (Luke 13:16; John 13:2, 21).
- Imprisons (Revelation 2:10).
- Possesses/hinders (Luke 22:3–5; 1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- Works miracles/lies (Revelation 16:13, 14; John 8:44).
- Brings disease/afflicts (Job 2:7).
- Inspires false pastors (Matthew 24:5).
- Calls fire from heaven (Revelation 13:13).

Satan uses every conceivable approach to deceive and destroy people. His demons can operate even through clergymen. And Satan will appear as a glorious angel of light with power to work miracles, and worse, attempt to impersonate Jesus. (2 Corinthians 11:14).

But now you have been warned, so don't fall for it! When Jesus comes, every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7). He will remain in the clouds and not even touch the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:17).



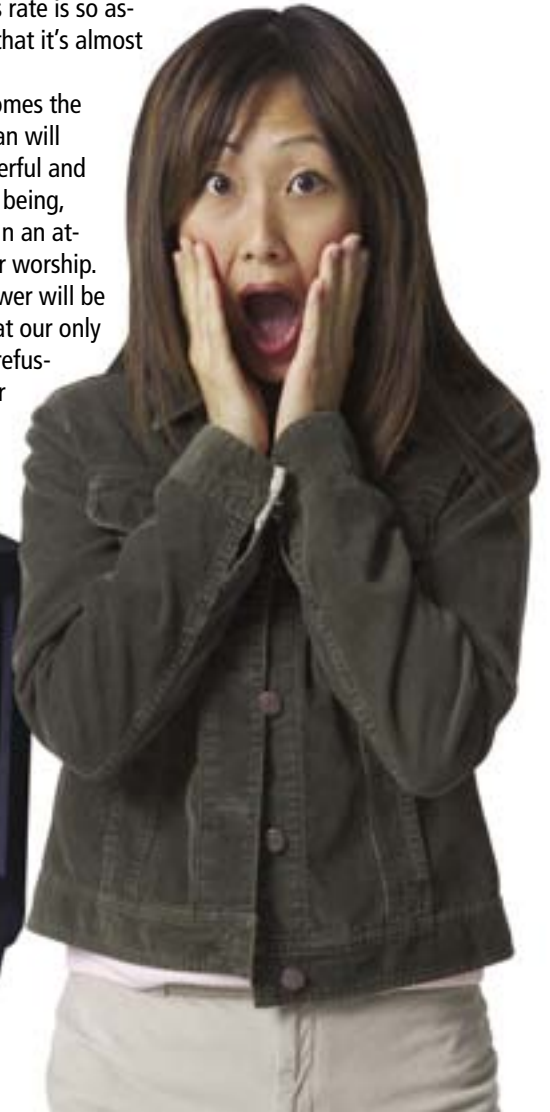
## 11 How powerful and effective are Satan's temptations and strategies?

The Bible says:

- He convinced: one-third of the angels (Revelation 12:3–9); Adam and Eve (Genesis 3); and all but eight people in Noah's day (1 Peter 3:20).
- He can make the lost feel as though they are saved (Matthew 7:21–23).
- Almost the entire world will follow him (Revelation 13:3; Matthew 7:14).

Satan's success rate is so astoundingly high that it's almost unbelievable.

Before Jesus comes the second time, Satan will appear as a powerful and beautiful angelic being, posing as Christ in an attempt to gain our worship. His deceptive power will be so convincing that our only safety will be in refusing to see or hear him (Matthew 24:23–26).





## Amazing Fact!

The first significant discovery of gold by settlers in North America occurred in North Carolina in 1799. A 12-year-old boy, Conrad Reed, was playing hooky from church and went fishing in a creek.

He spotted a heavy black rock in the creek and lugged it home.

The 17 pound lump was actually a gold nugget! Because of its unusual weight, the family used it as a doorstop for three years. Then in 1802, the Reeds sold it to a corrupt jeweler for a mere \$3.50.

## 12 What will be the devil's punishment?

The Bible says:

- *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" (Revelation 20:10).*
- *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).*
- *"Therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ... And never shalt thou be any more" (Ezekiel 28:18,19).*

The devil will be cast into the lake of fire on this earth at the end of the world. The fire will devour Satan, turn him into ashes, and end his existence for eternity. (See chapter 5.)

## 13 Why didn't God destroy the devil when he sinned, and thus end the sin problem?

The Bible says:

- *"We are made a spectacle ["theatre"] unto the world, and to angels, and to men" (1 Corinthians 4:9).*

Sin was something completely new in God's universe, and its inhabitants might not have understood it. For every being under heaven, Lucifer was a brilliant, highly respected angelic leader. Most likely, his deceptive approach showed great concern for heaven and the angels. Perhaps he said, "Heaven is a wonderful place, but it would be improved if God listened to the wisdom of His wisest angels. I believe too much authority blinds leaders to the realities of life. God knows my suggestions are correct and sincere, but unfortunately, He is feeling threatened. Yet we must not permit our noble leaders, out of touch with their subjects, to jeopardize the very existence of heaven. They will listen, but only if we move in unison. Let us act; let us not be weak. Do you want our home to be ruined by a government that doesn't even trust us?"

According to the book of Revelation, Lucifer's arguments convinced many angels—one-third joined him in his rebellion. Lucifer's seeds of doubt may have caused confusion in the minds of angels, even those who stayed loyal to God, but if God had

destroyed Lucifer immediately, some angelic beings who did not fully understand might have begun worshiping God in fear. They might have believed, "Lucifer may have been correct. Be careful. If you differ with God, He may kill you." So nothing would have been settled; Satan's questions would remain and the problem would have been heightened.

So God is giving Satan time to demonstrate his methods. Satan claimed to have had a better plan for God's universe, and God is allowing the universe to behold this claim. The Lord will abolish sin only after every soul in the universe is convinced that Satan's government is unfair, hateful, ruthless, lying, and destructive.

The entire universe is watching as we each play a part in the controversy between Christ and Satan. As the controversy ends, every soul will fully understand the principles of both kingdoms and will have chosen to follow either Christ or Satan. Those who have chosen to ally with sin and Satan will be destroyed with him, and God's people will be taken to the eternal safety of their heavenly home. (See chapter 5.)



## Amazing Fact!

Scorpions, like spiders, have eight legs and are in the arachnid family. They feed on insects they catch with two lobster-like claws and kill them with a venomous stinger. In most species, the sting is painful but not fatal.

But scorpions have been known to kill and devour their own species, as well as demonstrate vengeful, even suicidal behavior. One experimenter placed a hundred of these arachnids in a large glass vessel, and after a few days only 14 remained. The rest had been killed and eaten by the others. If cornered with no possible escape, a scorpion will sting itself to death with its flexible stinger.



HOW  
DOES

# Jesus

## SAVE?

The Bible says that in the last days "lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12 NKJV). But God's love for you remains warm even in a cold world!

### Amazing Fact!

There are more collect calls on Father's Day than any other day.



## 1 Does your heavenly Father really love you?

The Bible says:

- "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- "For the Father himself loveth you" (John 16:27).

God's never-ending love for you is far beyond human understanding. He loves you as though you were the only lost soul in the universe. He would have given His life for you even if there had been no other sinner to redeem. Try never to forget this fact. You are extremely precious in His sight.

## 2 How has God demonstrated His love for you?

The Bible says:

- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
- "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:9, 10).

### Amazing Fact!

The male emperor penguin displays some of the most sacrificial love and patient devotion in the animal kingdom. During the deep dark winter, the female lays one egg onto the male's feet. He quickly covers it with a fold of his fat and feathery fur and keeps it warm. At the beginning, the female helps briefly, but soon she leaves him to care for the egg, while she spends the next few months feeding in the ocean. This is done in the middle of winter near the South Pole, with its perpetual darkness, terrible cold, and fierce windstorms!

For 64 days, the penguin stands there, gathered in a cluster with other penguins for more warmth, living on his body blubber and eating nothing, to incubate the egg. Soon after the baby hatches, the female returns, and the male has lost 20 pounds.







Because He loves you so deeply, He was willing to see His only Son suffer and die rather than be separated from you for eternity. We will not be able to understand it, but He did it—just for you!

### Amazing Fact!

A colossal statue of a great lion perched atop a prominent hill commemorates the battle of Waterloo. The menacing, open-mouthed figure was forged from the cannons left strewn across the battlefield. Once, a tiny bird tended her young within the gaping jaws of the lion—a strange picture: the little birds snugly living between the teeth of a huge lion.



Photo by *The Manta* - Daniel Suy

## 4 What does Jesus' death do for you?

The Bible says:

- *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"* (1 John 3:1).
- *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"* (John 1:12).

Christ died to satisfy the death penalty against you. He was born as a man so He could suffer the kind of death we deserve. Then He offered to give us the credit for what He did.

In other words, His sinless life is credited to our account so we can be counted as righteous. His death is accepted by God as full payment for all our past wrongs, and by accepting what He did, as a gift, we are taken into God's own family as His children. This love staggers the mind!

Ponder these simple but amazing facts again:

- Because of my sins, I am sentenced to death.
- If I pay that penalty and die for my sins, I lose eternal life.
- I owe something I cannot pay! But a friend comes along, in the person of Jesus, and says, "I will pay and give you credit for it. You will not have to die for your sins."
- I must accept and believe the offer! Simple, isn't it? The moment I accept His death for my sins, I have become a son or daughter of God!

### Amazing Fact!

On May 24, 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse dispatched the first telegraphic message over an experimental line

from Washington, D.C. to Baltimore. The electronic message was taken from the Bible: "What hath God wrought!" (Numbers 23:23).



## 3 How could God love someone like us?

The Bible says:

- *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

Certainly not because we earned it or deserve it! Not one of us has earned anything except the wages of sin: death (Romans 6:23). But God's love is unconditional. He loves the thieves, adulterers, and murderers. He also loves the selfish, the hypocritical, and the profane blasphemer. But greatest of all, He loves you! And because He knows that our sins can lead only to misery and death, He wants to save us from those sins. That's why He died.

A village called Pu'uhonua, "city of refuge," was once an ancient city on the island of Hawaii. If an islander broke a sacred law, he was sentenced to death, but he could also try to flee to the "city of refuge." Once inside, he was safe from judgment. Later, the "big priest" performed a rite of purification—upon which he was considered forgiven and could start a new life.



### Amazing Fact!

## 5 How does one receive Him and gain eternal life?

The Bible says:

Just admit three things:

1. I am a sinner. *"All have sinned"* (Romans 3:23).
2. I am doomed to die. *"The wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23).
3. I cannot save myself. *"Without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5).



### Amazing Fact!

In 1837, President Andrew Jackson erased all but \$37,513 of Washington's red ink. In his inaugural address, he said, "Under every aspect ... it would appear that advantage must result from the observance of a strict and faithful economy. This I shall aim ... [to] facilitate the extinguishment of the national debt, the unnecessary duration of which is incompatible with real independence."

Then, believe three things:

1. He died for me. *"That he ... should taste death for every man"* (Hebrews 2:9).
2. He forgives me. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins"* (1 John 1:9).
3. He saves me. *"He that believeth on me hath everlasting life"* (John 6:47).

By asking for, believing in, and accepting the great gift of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 6 What must a person do to obtain this gift of salvation?

The Bible says:

- *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 3:24).
- *"A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law"* (Romans 3:28).

The only thing we can do is to believe and accept it as a pure gift. Our works of obedience will not help us one bit in the justification experience. All who ask for salvation in faith will receive it—the worst sinner will be accepted on the same basis as the most moral person. The past does not count.

Remember that God loves everyone alike, and forgiveness is for the asking. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

When a caterpillar is ready to change into a butterfly, its skin starts to harden around it and it attaches to a firm object, like a tree branch. Inside things change quickly: In just four weeks the insect breaks open its chrysalis, and converted from worm to wings, it takes flight!

### Amazing Fact!





## 7 If you join His family through faith, what change does Jesus make in your life?

The Bible says:

- *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

As Christ is received into your heart, He destroys the old sinful self and actually changes you into a new spiritual creation. The old life of sin now becomes repulsive and undesirable. Joyfully, you begin to experience a glorious freedom from guilt and condemnation.

You also begin to see how empty life has been without Christ. One minute with God provides more happiness than does a lifetime of serving the devil. What an exchange! Why do we wait so long to accept it?

### Amazing Fact!

Alfred Nobel invented dynamite, which he sold for use in mining, railroading, and other construction—creating safer, more efficient labor. But the military soon discovered its destructive power in wartime. Not wanting to be remembered for a weapon that caused so much destruction, Alfred made sure that the bulk of his estate would go to fund humanitarian advances in science, peace, and medicine—we know these awards as a "Nobel Prize."



## 8 Will this changed life really be happier than the pleasures of the old life?

The Bible says:

- *"These things I have spoken unto you ... that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).*
- *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).*
- *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).*

Many believe that the Christian life will not be a happy one because of restrictions and self-denial, yet the exact opposite is true. When you accept the love of Jesus, a fantastic exuberance

springs up from within. Unbelievable peace and joy permeate your life. Talk about excitement! There is no comparison to the old life of selfishness and failure. Like a bad dream, the painful past fades away, and you experience life "more abundantly," the way God intended it should be.

### Amazing Fact!

A shrew is never satisfied. It is the smallest animal with the biggest appetite! If a shrew doesn't eat for six hours, it can die from starvation! Its ravenous metabolism is so fast, it must eat three times its body own weight every day!



## 9 But can you make yourself do all the things a Christian should do?

The Bible says:

- *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20).*
- *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).*

Here is where the greatest miracle of the Christian life is revealed: There is no forcing yourself to be good! What you do as a Christian is the spontaneous out-flowing of another Person's life within you. Obedience is the natural desire of love in your life.

Being born of God, as a new creature, you want to obey Him because His life has become a part of your life. To please someone you love is not a burden, but a delight. *"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).*

### Amazing Fact!

There are about two million laws in the United States. If a person could review them at the rate of two a day, he or she could be qualified to act as a law-abiding citizen in about 6,000 years. But God's eternal law of love is summarized in only 10 commandments!



# 10 What sacred act seals the love relationship with Christ?

The Bible says:

☛ *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ... That the body of sin might be destroyed"* (Romans 6:4, 6).

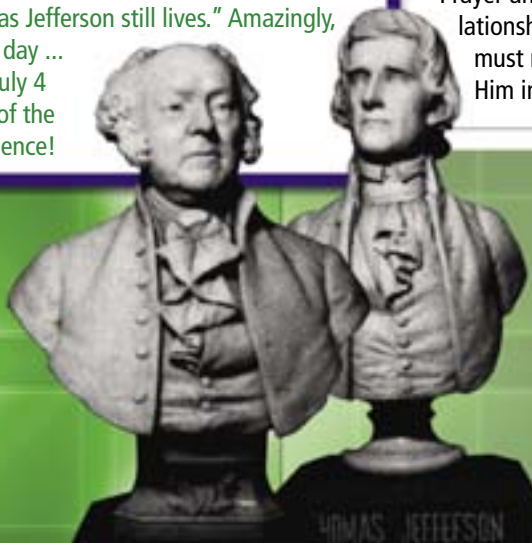
Baptism symbolizes three significant events in the life of the true believer: (1) death to sin, (2) birth to a new life in Christ, and (3) marriage to Christ for eternity. This spiritual union will grow stronger and sweeter with time, as long as love continues to grow.

As in any marriage, the loss of love can turn a paradise into hell. When love is neglected, the home is held together only by the dry duty of the marriage laws. Likewise, when the Christian ceases to love

Christ supremely, his religion exists only as restrictive compliance to a set of rules.

## Amazing Fact!

The second and third U.S. Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, were good friends in their youth, but political disagreements separated them. They were eventually reconciled in the last 14 years of their lives and exchanged many affectionate letters. When John Adams died at 91, his last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still lives." Amazingly, Jefferson died the same day ... which happened to be July 4 ... the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!



## Amazing Fact!



One cold winter in South Wales, a mother was traveling cross-country with her young babe and was caught in a blinding blizzard. The following day, upon learning she never reached her destination, a group of men went out searching for her. They soon spotted a large mound of snow in the road. They quickly swept away the white powder and found the frozen body of the barely dressed woman. In her arms was a bundle of clothing, which they unwrapped to reveal her baby—alive.

In the struggle of the snowstorm, the woman had taken off most of her clothing and wrapped it around the little boy to keep him alive. She knew that she would perish, but that the baby might survive. The baby grew up to become David Lloyd George, the celebrated Prime Minister of Britain during the World War I. One of the reasons he achieved such greatness is that he never forgot about his mother's love and sacrifice.

# 11 How can you be certain that your faith in and love for Christ will continue to increase?

The Bible says:

- ☛ *"Search the scriptures"* (John 5:39).
- ☛ *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- ☛ *"Tell what great things God has done for you"* (Luke 8:39 NKJV).

No good relationship can prosper without communication. Prayer and Bible study are absolutely essential to keep this relationship growing. His Word constitutes a love letter that you must read daily to nourish the spiritual life. Conversing with Him in prayer deepens the devotion and opens your mind to a more thrilling knowledge.

To seal our spiritual marriage for eternity, He has promised never to forsake you (Psalm 55:22; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5) and to provide for every need that could possibly develop in your life (Matthew 6:25–34). Just as you receive Him by faith and found His promises all-sufficient, keep on trusting Him for every future need, and He will never let you down.



# How Will the World End?

## Amazing Fact!

In the 14th century, the Aztec empire, 2 million strong, was one of the most powerful civilizations in the western hemisphere, but it was conquered within a year by a Spanish force of about 600 lightly armed soldiers. How did it happen?

Aztec prophecy predicted Quetzalcoatl (kèt-säl'ko-ä-tal), a legendary feathered god-king who was light skinned and bearded, was to return from across the sea, which happened to coincide perfectly with the arrival of the conquistadors on their Spanish galleons. The Spanish captain, Hernando Cortez, shrewdly assumed the role of their deity to befuddle the superstitious king Montezuma. Because he was believed to be a god and was received with honor, he was able to infiltrate the Aztec's palace. He then commenced to plunder, enslave, and kill the Aztecs.



Hernando Cortez

## Could it happen again?

The Aztec nation was quickly overcome because their prophecies about their coming king had been so vague that almost anyone could serve as a counterfeit. When Jesus came the first time, His own nation rejected Him because most had misunderstood the prophecies regarding how the Messiah would come. Could this happen again for the second coming?

Jesus foretold there would be many false Christs and prophets who would deceive the majority of the world in the last days. And once again, the devil has misled the church regarding the prophecies of "how" Jesus will return in preparation for his masterpiece of deception. But if we let the Bible speak for itself, we can understand the nature of Jesus' return and avoid believing in popular fables.

## Can we be positive Jesus will return to earth?

The Bible says:

• *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again"* (John 14:3).

Yes! Also in Matthew 26:64, Jesus testifies under oath that He will come back to this earth again. Since the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35) and He came on time the first time just as He promised, you have every reason to believe He will come again!



## Amazing Fact!

The first atomic bomb used against an enemy was on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945. It fell from the Enola Gay, named after the unit commander's mother. The sound of the blast could be heard 200 miles away.

## 2 In what manner will Jesus return the second time?

The Bible says:

- “While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9–11).

The Scriptures clearly promise that Jesus will return to this earth in the same manner that He left—visibly, literally, bodily, and personally. Matthew 24:30 says, “They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”



### Amazing Fact!

There are several kinds of lightning. With the so-called “Positive Giant” type, the temperature of the lightning bolt reaches 30,000 degrees Celsius—over five times hotter than the surface of the sun!

## 3 Will the second coming of Christ be visible to all?

The Bible says:

- “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7).
- “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).
- “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:27).

Every man, woman, and child living when Jesus returns will see Him. The staggering brightness of His coming will stretch from horizon to horizon (Luke 17:24). The atmosphere will be charged with brilliant glory like lightning.

The teaching of a “secret” rapture, commonly believed today and promoted by the *Left Behind* movies and novels is just not in the Bible. The second coming will be a literal, worldwide, visible, and personal appearance of Christ.

## 4 The Bible says that Jesus will come as a thief; does this mean it will be a secret?

The Bible says:

- “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10 NKJV).



When Jesus comes “as a thief,” the heavens disintegrate with a roar and the entire earth will virtually melt. The word “thief” is used because the timing of His return is a shocking surprise for most of the world. “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. ... But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4). Notice that the day of the Lord comes as a thief only to the unprepared.

## 5 What is the purpose of Jesus’ second coming?

The Bible says:

- “I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).
- “And he shall send Jesus Christ ... Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things” (Acts 3:20, 21).
- “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12).

Jesus is coming back to this earth to reward His people as He promised and to take them to the beautiful home He has prepared for them. He will restore to His people all of the joys and glories of Eden that Adam and Eve lost by sinning.



The vanilla bean requires approximately nine months to reach maturity, and then harvested beans are processed and aged for several weeks. This transformation from seed to expensive extract takes a year, but the righteous will be changed in the blink of an eye.

Amazing Fact!





## 6 What will happen to the righteous when Jesus comes the second time?

The Bible says:

- *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air"* (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).
- *"We shall all be changed, ... and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. ... For ... this mortal must put on immortality"* (1 Corinthians 15:51–53).
- *"We look for ... the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body"* (Philippians 3:20, 21).

The righteous dead will be raised, be given perfect, immortal bodies, and be caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord. The righteous living will also be given new bodies and be caught up with Jesus at this time too.

Note that Jesus does not touch the earth at His second coming. The saints meet Him "in the air." False Christs will appear and do miracles on the earth (Matthew 24:23–27), but Jesus will remain in the clouds above the earth at His second coming.

### Amazing Fact!

For more than 20 years, Dennis Hope has been selling plots on the moon, Mars, and other heavenly bodies—all for a pretty reasonable price: about \$20 an acre! Hope says he has earned about \$6.5 million since he began his "heavenly" real estate business.



## 7 What will happen to the wicked people when Jesus comes again?

The Bible says:

- *"With the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked"* (Isaiah 11:4).
- *"Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"* (2 Thessalonians 1:9).
- *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming"* (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

The unrepentant will die as a result of the presence of Jesus.

### Amazing Fact!

Pompeii was completely demolished by the infamous Vesuvius volcanic blast that flattened the city in A.D. 79. Amazingly, the shower of ash formed a hermetic seal around the town, preserving many public structures and the remains of 2,000 victims. But no such preservation will take place when Jesus comes again.



## 8 How will Christ's second coming affect the earth itself?

The Bible says:

- *"And there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found"* (Revelation 16:18, 20).
- *"I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord"* (Jeremiah 4:26).
- *"The Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste. ... The land shall be utterly emptied"* (Isaiah 24:1, 3).

The earth will be seized by a great earthquake at the coming of the Lord. This unprecedented, massive earthquake will leave the world in a state of total destruction.

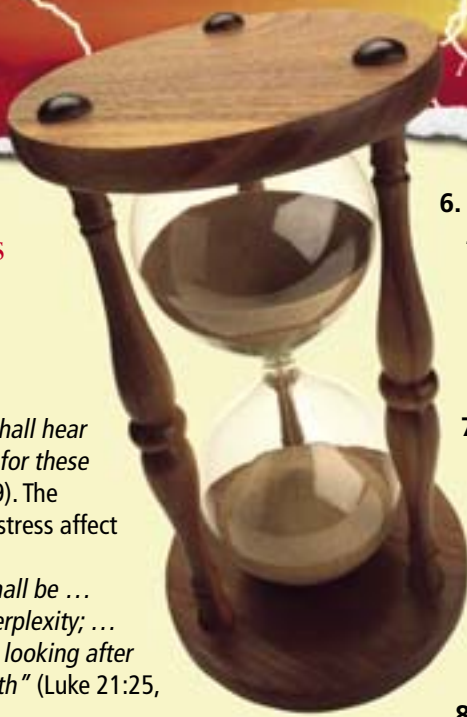
## 9 Does the Bible give specific signs regarding the nearness of Christ's second coming? Are they coming to pass?

Yes! Indeed it does. The Bible says:

1. **Wars and rumors of war:** "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass" (Luke 21:9). The increase of war and the ravages of civil distress affect billions worldwide.
2. **Unrest, fear, and upheaval:** "And there shall be ... upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; ... Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:25, 26). A perfect picture of the world today!
3. **Increase of knowledge:** "Even to the time of the end ... knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). Knowledge is exploding in all directions: It is said that 80 percent of the world's total knowledge has been brought forth in the last century.
4. **Scoffers and religious skeptics who turn away from Bible truth:** "There shall come in the last days scoffers" (2 Peter 3:3). "They will not endure sound doctrine; ... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3, 4). It is not difficult to find scoffers today in fulfillment of prophecy. Many in the media laugh at those who take the Bible literally. Even religious leaders deny the Creation, the Flood, the divinity of Christ, His second coming, and many other Bible truths.
5. **Moral degeneracy—decline of spirituality:** "In the last days ... men shall be lovers of their own selves, ... Without natural affection, ... despisers of those that are good, ... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:1–5). America is in the midst of a tremendous moral crisis. Divorce rates are climbing and obsession with sex is growing, with increasing church membership but decreasing true spirituality.

### Amazing Fact!

During the Manhattan Project to create the atom bomb, the time it took for the imploding shell of plutonium to reach the center of the sphere was measured in "shakes of a lamb's tail." One shake equals  $1 \times 10^{-8}$  seconds. It took about three shakes of a lamb's tail to get the uranium to a critical mass and initiate spontaneous fission.



6. **Craze for pleasure:** "In the last days ... men shall be ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1–4). The world has gone pleasure-mad. People jam pleasure resorts by the thousands and spend billions each year for pleasure.
7. **Increasing lawlessness, bloody crimes, and violence:** "Iniquity shall abound" (Matthew 24:12). "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" (2 Timothy 3:13). "The land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezekiel 7:23). Crime and lawlessness are increasing rapidly today.
8. **Destructive earthquakes, storms, and famines:** "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences" (Luke 21:11). Earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, etc., are increasing at an unprecedented rate. One-third of the world's people are hungry; daily, thousands die of starvation.
9. **A turning to spiritism:** "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits" (1 Timothy 4:1). "They are the spirits of devils" (Revelation 16:14). People, including heads of nations, seek counsel from psychics, channelers, and spiritualists.

Can there be any doubt we are in the last days with these signs being fulfilled at an alarming rate? Jesus said, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:33).

## 10 Just how near is the Lord's second coming?

The Bible says:

☛ "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled" (Matthew 24:32–34).

We cannot know the exact day and hour of Christ's return (Matthew 24:36), but God has promised to finish very quickly now and cut the work short (Romans 9:28). Christ is coming back to this earth for His people very soon. Are you ready?



## Amazing Fact!



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Bioluminescence is a phenomenon in which a chemical reaction in living organisms produces light. Some deep-sea predators are equipped with fleshy organs that produce this chemical light to which prey is attracted and are then gobbled up.

# 12 How can I be certain to be ready when Jesus comes back?

The Bible says:

- “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37).
- “As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God” (John 1:12).
- “I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts” (Hebrews 8:10).

Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in” (Revelation 3:20). If you unreservedly turn your life over to Him, He will erase all your sins of the past (Romans 3:25) and give you the power to live a godly life (John 1:12).

# 11 How can I not be deceived by the devil’s lies about the end-times?

The Bible says:

- “And shall shew great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).
- “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

Christ warned, “Take heed that no man deceive you” (Matthew 24:4). He then exposed Satan’s plans and falsehoods so you would be forewarned. There is no reason to be deceived if you learn what God’s Book teaches about Christ’s second coming.



## Amazing Fact!

The European cuckoo bird is known as a “brood parasite.” The female lays her eggs in the nests of other smaller birds, which unwittingly incubate, feed, and raise the young imposters, usually at the expense of their own young. One of the tragedies of nature is when you see a little reed warbler working itself to death to satisfy the voracious hunger of a fat cuckoo chick, while her own starving young are crowded out of the nest!

## Amazing Fact!

Most of the U.S. gold reserves are stored at Fort Knox. During World War II, the depository also held the reserves of many European countries, as well as the British crown jewels, the Magna Carta, and key documents from American history. Current holdings are around 147 million ounces of gold in around 368,000 standard 400-ounce bars—nearly \$60 billion. Fort Knox is one of the most secure places in the world, but treasure in heaven is much safer. There we will walk on gold!



# 13 Of what great danger does Christ solemnly warn?

The Bible says:

- “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares” (Luke 21:34).
- “But as the days of [Noah] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:37).
- “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:44).

He warned us not to become so busy with the cares of this life or so entranced by the pleasures of sin. If we do, the coming of the Lord may come upon us unawares, just as the Flood did on the world in Noah’s day. We will be surprised, unprepared, and lost. This will be the experience of millions. Jesus is coming back very soon—in our present day. Are you ready?

# DEADLY DISTORTIONS & BLAZING BLUNDERS!

Death and hell are probably two of the most misunderstood subjects in the Bible today—enshrouded with mystery and corrupted with medieval myths, they often evoke feelings of fear and hopelessness. Yet the Bible's real message about life after death and the existence of hell are surprisingly full of good news, and knowing the real truth about them will help you avoid the confusing distortions leading many astray.

Don't be fooled, because what you believe about hell and the state of the dead greatly impacts what you think about God's real character—it's true, God's reputation is affected by the answers to these fascinating questions. You owe it to yourself to know what the Bible really says about death and hell.

## Amazing Fact!

Years ago, the English discovered when moving coffins that some of them had scratch marks on the inside, meaning some people were being buried alive! So they began tying a string onto the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and through the ground to a bell. Someone would sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."



## 1 How did people get here in the first place?

The Bible says:

- "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

To rightly understand what happens when a person dies, we need to start with how God gave life to man in the beginning.

The Bible says plainly that God made man from dust, from the elements of the earth, at the beginning of earth's history. Notice it does not say God gave man a soul, but that man "became" a soul after God combined the body with the breath of life.

## 2 What happens when a person dies?

The Bible says:

- "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

At death the reverse of creation occurs: the body returns to dust, and the spirit goes back to God, the one who gave it. The spirit of every person who dies—whether righteous or wicked—returns to God at death.

There is nothing mysterious about this spirit—nowhere in the Bible does it say this spirit has life, wisdom, or feeling when a person dies. "The spirit of God [the breath that God gave him] is in my nostrils" (Job 27:3), which means it is the "breath of life," and nothing more.



### 3 Then what is a “soul,” and doesn’t it live on after we die?

The Bible says:

- “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20).
- “Every living soul died in the sea” (Revelation 16:3).

A soul is a living being—a combination of two things: body plus breath. A soul cannot exist unless body and breath are combined. God’s Word teaches that we are souls, as well as the animals!

And according to God’s Word, souls do die—they are not immortal! Man is mortal (Job 4:17). Only God is immortal (1 Timothy 1:17). Immortality is a gift God gives to the saved (1 Corinthians 15:53, 54). The concept that everyone has an undying, immortal soul goes against the Bible. When we die, the soul ceases to exist—there is no such thing as a disembodied soul, i.e., ghosts, poltergeists, etc.! This also means that the growing belief in reincarnation is in direct opposition to the Bible.

#### Amazing Fact!

In late March 1997, the nation was shocked when 39 members of the Heaven’s Gate cult took their own lives by downing fatal doses of Phenobarbital and vodka. Heaven’s Gate members sincerely believed that they would be raptured up to a spacecraft traveling behind the bright Hale-Bopp comet. The cult leader Marshall Applewhite quoted selectively from the Bible to support his teachings.



### 4 You mean people are not conscious after they die?

The Bible says:

- “The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. ... There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10).
- “So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. ... His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them” (Job 14:12, 21).
- “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish (Psalms 146:4).

Yes, God’s Word says that the dead know absolutely nothing! Nor can the dead communicate with the living! The dead person’s thoughts have perished (Psalm 146:4). Though millions think it is possible, the dead cannot communicate with the living. The Bible not only shows that it is impossible, it says we should not even attempt it.

### 5 How did the devil first lie about death?

The Bible says:

- “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die” (Genesis 3:4).

Satan, speaking through the serpent, told Eve that sin would not bring death. “Ye shall not surely die,” he said, even though God told Adam and Eve that they would surely die. The devil is the first one who said man is immortal despite God’s clear teaching.

Throughout history Satan has worked powerful miracles through people who claim to receive their power from the spirits of the dead. (Examples: Magicians of Egypt, Exodus 7:11; Woman of Endor, 1 Samuel 28:3–25; Sorcerers, Daniel 2:2.) And in the end-times, Satan will again use sorcery to deceive the world (Revelation 18:23). Sorcery is a supernatural agency that claims to receive its power and wisdom from the spirits of the dead. So posing as godly loved ones who have died, Bible prophets, or even the apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13), Satan and his angels will deceive billions. Those who believe the dead are alive, in any form, will most assuredly be deceived.

#### Amazing Fact!

One of the most appealing fragrances in the world is frankincense, but it is normally found in the harshest of places—and the spindly trees are also disappointing to behold. They are lowly, twisted, thorny plants with fat prickly branches that trail off into small crinkly leaves.

But its brilliantly white inner resin, called laban, is truly valuable and was once worth its weight in gold. Throughout history, it has been used for religious and cosmetic purposes, supposedly delivering prayers to gods and sweetening a person’s scent. But its potential healing powers are even more coveted, as frankincense is known to treat such ailments as depression and eczema.





## 6 Don't all good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell as soon as they die?

The Bible says:

- "All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth" (John 5:28, 29).
- "David ... is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. ... For David is not ascended into the heavens" (Acts 2:29, 34).
- "If I wait, the grave is mine house" (Job 17:13).
- "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (2 Peter 2:9).
- "So shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall ... cast them into a furnace of fire" (Matthew 13:40–42).



Amazing Fact!

Solid rocket boosters of the space shuttle provide a combined thrust of about 5.8 million pounds for the first two minutes of flight. The rocket engines take the shuttle 28 miles above the earth reaching an astounding 3,094 miles per hour. Once the boosters have spent their fuel, they separate from the shuttle and begin a fiery plunge through the earth's atmosphere where they finally smash into the oceans to be retrieved, and refurbished for another flight.

No, good people do not go immediately to heaven at death, and there is not one single soul burning in hellfire today. The Bible is very specific about this issue: All go to their graves to wait for the resurrection and judgment day (Job 21:30, 32).

The Bible says that God reserves, or holds back, the wicked until the Judgment Day to be punished. They will enter hellfire at the end of the world, and not one day sooner (John 12:48). Until then, they sleep in their graves (John 11:11–14).

Think about it: Would God punish a person before their judgment—their day in court? Or would He burn a petty thief who died 5,000 years ago 5,000 years longer than a cruel murderer who died today?

### Amazing Fact!

For a short time in 1967, the American Typers Association made a new punctuation mark that was a combination of a question mark and an exclamation point. They called it the interrobang, but it was rarely used and faded as a footnote into grammar history.



## 7 What about the thief on the cross in Luke 23:43?

The Bible says:

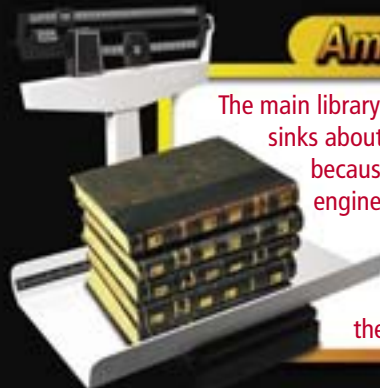
- "I am not yet ascended to my Father" (John 20:17).

Jesus said these words to Mary on Sunday morning, the day of His resurrection. Many say that Jesus promised the thief on the cross that they would be together in paradise on the evening of their deaths—but John 20:17 shows Jesus had yet to ascend to heaven.

In the original inspired language, there is no punctuation, so it appears that when all the other Bible evidence about the state of the dead is considered, the only plausible explanation is that the comma in Luke 23:43 simply seems to have been put in the wrong place. Instead, it should read, "Verily I say unto thee Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise," or, "I'm telling you today—when it seems that I can save no one, I give you the assurance that you will be with me in paradise."

### Amazing Fact!

The main library at Indiana University sinks about an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.





## Amazing Fact!

NASA is still receiving data from Voyager, even though the signal it is emitting has less energy than that emitted by a blow dryer.



## Amazing Fact!

"Armageddon" appears only once in the Bible—Revelation 16:16—and is found nowhere else in Greek writings. It comes from the Hebrew "amar gid'own," which means the "Hill of Megiddo" or "The Challenge of Jehovah to Gideon." Translator and scholar Robert Moffat argues that the word refers to the battle of Gideon, which took place in the valley of Megiddo.

## 9 What happens to those in hellfire?

The Bible says:

- *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).*

The Bible is clear: the wicked are obliterated in hellfire. If they lived forever, they would be immortal. But this is impossible, because the Bible says God "only hath immortality" (1 Timothy 6:16). Immortality is a gift given only to righteous humans at the judgment.

The Bible says the penalty for sin is "death" (Romans 6:23), and "destruction" (Job 21:30). The wicked "shall perish" (Psalm 37:20), "burn" up (Malachi 4:1), "be destroyed together" (Psalm 37:38), "shall be cut off" (Psalm 37:9), and "shall be slain" (Psalm 62:3). These references and many more make it clear that the wicked die and are destroyed.

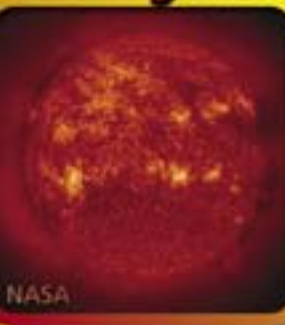
The Bible does say that the wicked will receive their just rewards—some greater than others—based on their works (Revelation 22:12; Matthew 16:27; Luke 12:47, 48). But they do not live forever in misery.

## 8 After the resurrection, will the wicked enter hell in bodily form?

The Bible says:

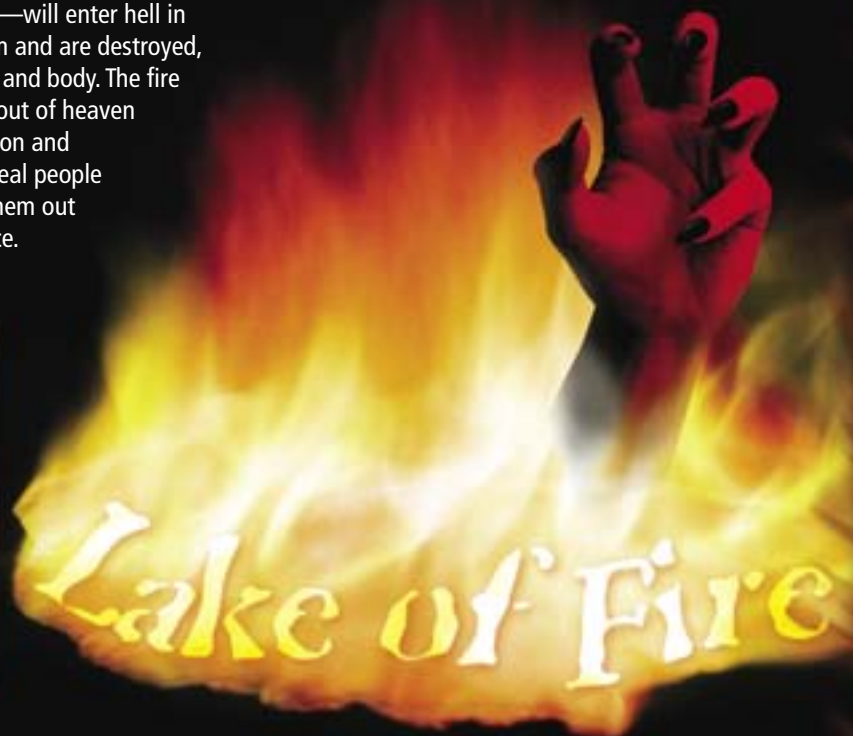
- *"It is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:30).*
- *"Rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).*

## Amazing Fact!



Real, live people—and not just spirits—will enter hell in bodily form and are destroyed, both spirit and body. The fire from God out of heaven will fall upon and consume real people and blot them out of existence.

The sun is a fantastically hot powerhouse, with a surface temperature of about 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Beneath the surface, where the temp jumps up to 18 million degrees, the pressure is about 700 million tons per square inch—enough to smash atoms and expose nuclei, which allows them to react together to create the sun's immense heat.



# 10 How long does hellfire last, and what will be left?

The Bible says:

- *"Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it" (Isaiah 47:14).*
- *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. ... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:1, 4).*
- *"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. ... And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 4:1, 3).*

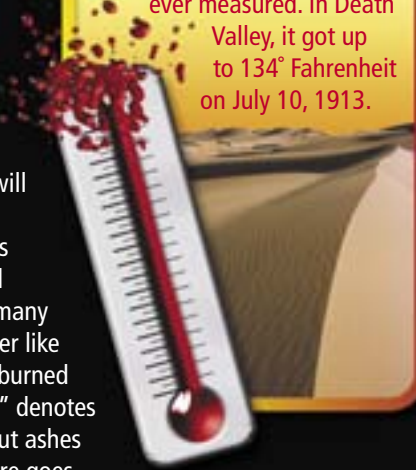
The Bible specifically teaches that hellfire will go out and that there will not be left "a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it." The Bible also teaches that in God's new kingdom all "former things" will be passed away. Hellfire, being one of the former things, is included, so we have God's promise that it will be abolished.

Notice the verse does not say the wicked will burn like asbestos, as many today believe, but rather like stubble, which will be burned up. The little word "up" denotes completion. Nothing but ashes will be left when the fire goes out—the wicked are completely destroyed (Psalm 37:10, 20).

Think about it: If God tortured sinners in a fiery horror chamber for eternity, for about 70 years of sin, He would be more vicious and heartless than any war criminal has ever been. And God loves everyone, even the worst sinner, so eternal suffering would be hell for God.

## Amazing Fact!

El Azizia in Libya has recorded a temperature of 136 degrees Fahrenheit (57.8° Celsius) on Sept. 13, 1922—the hottest ever measured. In Death Valley, it got up to 134° Fahrenheit on July 10, 1913.



# 11 But doesn't the Bible speak of the wicked being tormented "forever" in Revelation 14:11?

The Greek word translated "for ever" in this verse "aion," where we get the word eon, means "an indefinitely long period of time; an age." It is used many times in the Bible in connection with things that have already ended. (To check in a concordance, look up the word "ever.") It is like the word "tall," which means something different in describing men, trees, or mountains. In Jonah 2:6, "for ever" means "three days and nights." (See also Jonah 1:17.) In the case of man's punishment, this means "as long as he lives" or "until death." (See 1 Samuel 1:22, 28; Exodus 21:6; Psalm 48:14.)

So the wicked will burn in the fire as long as they deserve, until death.

The teaching of eternal torment has done more to drive people to atheism and insanity than any other invention of the devil. It is slander upon the loving character of a tender, heavenly Father and has done untold harm to the Christian cause. The devil delights to see our loving Creator portrayed as such a monstrous tyrant.

## Amazing Fact!

In 1826, as John Walker, an apothecary, stirred a new mixture of chemicals, a drop dried at the end of his stirring stick. While cleaning off a crust lamp with the stick, it suddenly ignited—the first match. But it was Samuel Jones who saw its practical value, and he called his first commercial matches "Lucifers."





## Amazing Fact!

To simulate one-hundredth of a second of the complete processing of even a single nerve cell from the human eye requires several minutes of processing time on a supercomputer. The human eye has 10 million or more such cells constantly interacting with each other in complex ways. This means it would take a minimum of 100 years of supercomputing to simulate what takes place in your eye many times every second!



## 12 Well, what happens to the devil in hellfire—isn't he in control of hell?

Absolutely not! The Bible says:

- *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10).*
- *"I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ... And never shall thou be any more" (Ezekiel 28:18, 19).*
- *"They went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Revelation 20:9).*

The devil will be cast into the lake of fire, and it will turn him into ashes along with every person and angel that followed him. At the end of time, God Himself will kindle hellfire (Revelation 20:9), raining it down from heaven upon the earth, and it will devour the wicked. This is Bible hellfire (Matthew 13:40–42).

Hellfire will be as big as the earth, because it is the earth on fire. *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up"* (2 Peter 3:10).

## Amazing Fact!

The Eisenhower interstate system required that one mile in every five be straight ... which are useable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.



## 13 Then what is God's purpose for hellfire?

The Bible says:

- *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).*
- *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).*
- *"For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be. ... The enemies of the Lord ... shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away" (Psalm 37:10, 20).*

God's purpose is that hell will destroy the devil and all sin and sinners and make the world safe for eternity. One sinner, if left on this planet, would be a deadly virus forever threatening the universe. It is God's plan to isolate sin and blot it out of existence for all time.

An eternal hell of torment would perpetuate and immortalize sin and sinners. The "eternal hell of torment" theory originated not from the Bible, but from misguided people who were (perhaps inadvertently) led of the devil. And, incidentally, no one will be in heaven because he feared hell. People are saved because they love and obey Christ.



# The Forgotten Law



## Amazing Fact!

The U.S. flag is a deeply respected symbol of this nation's freedom, which is why there is a code of etiquette for handling it: It should not be dipped to another person or be used in decoration, advertising, or on a non-military uniform. It should remain clean, no part should touch the ground, and it should be received with open arms. (Usflag.org).



## 1 What are the 10 Commandments, and what is their purpose?

The Bible says:

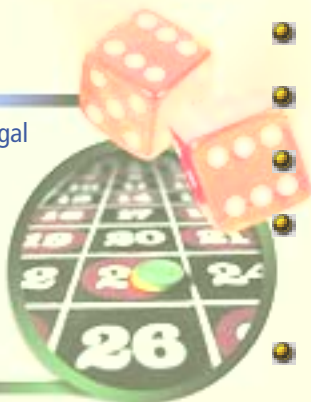
- 🔍 "So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone" (Deuteronomy 4:13).
- 🔍 "Keep my commandments; For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee" (Proverbs 3:1, 2).
- 🔍 "He that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).
- 🔍 "By the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

God wrote the 10 Commandments, which you can read in Exodus 20:1–18, on tables of stone with His own finger (Exodus 31:18). They are meant to be a guide for happy, abundant living and to help humans determine right from wrong. They protect humans from impurity, falsehoods, murder, idolatry, theft, and many other evils that destroy peace and joy.

God's law is like a mirror (James 1:25), pointing out wrongdoing as a mirror points out a dirty face. Hope for this mixed-up world can be found in respecting God's 10-commandment law. When we ignore them, the result is always pain, unrest, and tragedy.

## Amazing Fact!

In 1998, Americans lost \$60 billion in legal gambling, and it's getting worse. Almost every state has some form of legalized gambling, and now Internet and phone gambling have made it even easier! Gambling income and taxes now account for most states' revenue, so it's unlikely it will ever be outlawed!



## 2 What is sin?

The Bible says:

- 🔍 "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

Sin is breaking God's law. And since the law of God is perfect (Psalm 19:7), it covers every conceivable sin. It is impossible to commit a sin that is not somehow condemned by at least one of God's 10 Commandments.



## Amazing Fact!

According to insurance estimates, 30 percent of all business failures are attributable to internal theft. Nearly 10 percent of employees steal on a regular basis, taking three times as much as shoplifters, making consumer prices skyrocket.

## 3 Didn't Jesus' grace do away with the law?

No indeed! The Bible says:

- 🔍 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law" (Matthew 5:17 NKJV).
- 🔍 "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:17).
- 🔍 "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
- 🔍 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin [break the law], because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid" (Romans 6:14, 15).
- 🔍 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31).



Jesus specifically asserted that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill or keep it. Jesus came to magnify the law (Isaiah 42:21). For example, Jesus pointed out that "thou shalt not kill" condemns anger "without a cause" (Matthew 5:21, 22) and hatred (1 John 3:15), and that lust is adultery (Matthew 5:27, 28). He says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Of course, no one can be saved by keeping the law. Salvation comes only through grace, as a free gift from Jesus Christ, and we receive this gift by faith, not by works (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Cleansing and forgiveness from sin come only through Christ.

That's why the Scriptures teach that a person under grace has a double obligation to keep the law! Grace is like the governor's pardon to a prisoner. It forgives him, but it does not give him new freedom to break the law. Thinking that living under grace gives us the okay to break God's law is a deadly mistake!

### Amazing Fact!

It is against the law to bathe less than once a year in Kentucky; to doze off under a hair dryer in Florida; to detonate a nuclear weapon within Chico, California, city limits (which carries a punishment of \$500); to pawn dentures in Las Vegas; to whistle underwater in Vermont; or to put a skunk in your boss' desk in Michigan.



## 4 Why is keeping God's law important?

The Bible says:

- "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:12).
- "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).
- "He shall destroy the sinners" (Isaiah 13:9).

The 10 Commandments are the standard by which God examines people in the heavenly judgment. We must not neglect them, because the Bible says that anyone who knowingly breaks any of God's commands is sinning (James 4:17). Since the law of God is the will of God (Psalm 40:8), God will allow only those who do His will into heaven (Matthew 7:21).

### Amazing Fact!

Two-headedness can occur in all animals, but the lifespan is typically short. The reason is that each head tends to work independently of the other, controlling its own side of the body and thus creating disunity and confusion.

Unless one head takes primary control, two-headed creatures will die from starvation and indecision!



Photo © Steve Gooch & Bob Clark

## 5 Is it really possible to keep the 10 Commandments?

The Bible says:

- "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).
- "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3 NKJV).
- "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Hebrews 8:10).
- "I can do all things through Christ" (Philippians 4:13).
- "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God" (Revelation 14:12).

The Bible always ties obedience to love. Born-again Christians do not find it a burden to keep the 10 Commandments.

Christ not only pardons repentant sinners, but He restores in them the image of God. He brings them into harmony with His law through the power of His indwelling presence. "Thou shalt not" then becomes a promise that the Christian will not steal, lie, murder, etc., because Jesus lives inside and is in control. God could not change His perfect law, but He made a blessed provision through Jesus to change the sinner's heart so he or she can measure up to that law (Ezekiel 36:27).

## 6 How does the devil feel about God's law?

The Bible says:

- "And the dragon [the devil] was wrath with the woman [true church], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God" (Revelation 12:17).
- "He shall ... think to change the times and the law" (Daniel 7:25 RSV).

The devil hates people who uphold God's law, because the law is based on God's government. If you choose to follow God's law, you will soon feel the devil's anger. Christians must wake up and restore God's law to its rightful, exalted position.

But shockingly, the devil's hatred of the law has influenced even some religious leaders to deny the binding claims of the 10 Commandments while at the same time upholding the traditions of men. In fact, years ago misguided men announced that God's holy day, His Sabbath, was changed from the seventh day to the first day. God predicted this attempted change would happen, and the error has been passed to an unsuspecting generation as gospel fact.



# 7 What day is the Bible Sabbath, and who made it?

The Bible says:

- *"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it" (Genesis 2:2, 3).*
- *"The seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God" (Exodus 20:10).*
- *"And when the sabbath was past, ... very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre" (Mark 16:1, 2).*

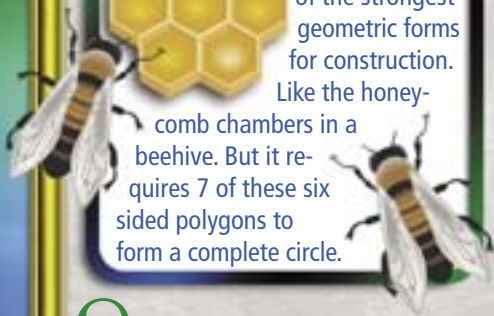
The Sabbath is not the first day of the week (Sunday), as many believe, but the seventh day (Saturday). Notice from the Scriptures above that the Sabbath is the day that comes just before the first day of the week.

It was God who made the Sabbath at the time of Creation. After He made the world, God rested on the Sabbath (the seventh day) and blessed and sanctified it for man to keep.

## Amazing Fact!

Engineers agree, a hexagon is one of the strongest geometric forms for construction.

Like the honeycomb chambers in a beehive. But it requires 7 of these six sided polygons to form a complete circle.



Sunday keeping is a man-made tradition commanded nowhere in the Scripture. Only God can make a day holy, and the Lord has never revoked His blessing on the seventh day. God blessed the Sabbath, and when God blesses something, it is blessed forever (1 Chronicles 17:27) and no man can "reverse it" (Numbers 23:20).

# 8 Is Saturday or Sunday the Lord's Day?

The Bible says:

- *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day" (Isaiah 58:13 NKJV).*
- *"For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day" (Matthew 12:8).*
- *"But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God" (Exodus 20:10).*

The Bible uses the phrase "the Lord's Day" one time (Revelation 1:10), so the Lord does have a special day. But no passage in Scripture refers to Sunday as the Lord's Day. Rather, the Bible plainly identifies the Sabbath as the Lord's Day. The only day ever blessed and sanctified by the Lord, or claimed by Him as His holy day, is the seventh-day Sabbath.



Some keep Sunday in honor of the resurrection, as Jesus did rise on the first day of the week. But nowhere are Christians commanded to substitute Sunday as a new Sabbath because of this important event. Nor should Christians keep Friday in honor of the crucifixion or Thursday for the Lord's Supper. We honor Christ by obeying Him (John 14:15)—not by substituting man-made requirements, no matter how popular they might be, in place of His laws. No wonder Jesus said, *"Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? ... In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men"* (Matthew 15:3, 9).

# 9 What does God say about Sabbath-keeping in the 10 Commandments?

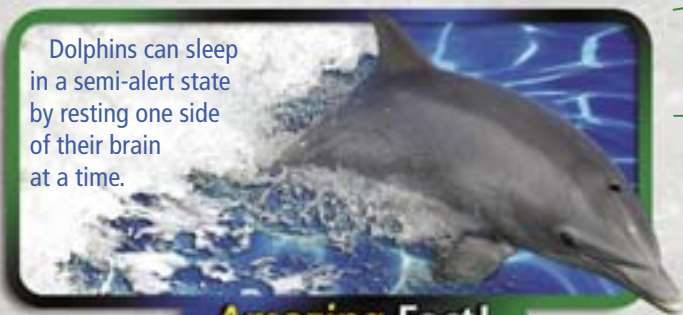
The Bible says:

- *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8–11).*
- *"And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God" (Deuteronomy 9:10).*

God begins the fourth commandment with the word "remember," because He knew people would forget His Holy Sabbath.



Dolphins can sleep in a semi-alert state by resting one side of their brain at a time.



**Amazing Fact!**

# 10 Why did God make the Sabbath; why should we keep it?

The Bible says:

- *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ... For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it"* (Exodus 20:8, 11).
- *"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them"* (Ezekiel 20:12).
- *"Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"* (James 2:10).
- *"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"* (1 Peter 2:21).

God gave the Sabbath as a twofold sign: (1) It is a sign that He created the world in six literal 24-hour days, and (2) it is a sign of His mighty power to redeem and sanctify men. Surely every Christian will love the Sabbath as God's precious sign of Creation and redemption. In Isaiah 58:13, 14, God says all who would be blessed must first get their feet off His Sabbath.

In fact, it is a matter of life and death. The deliberate breaking of any one of the 10 Commandments is a sin. Christians will gladly follow Christ's example of Sabbath keeping. Jesus' custom was to worship on Sabbath, as was His apostles' custom. *"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read"* (Luke 4:16).

The first time a number is mentioned three times in Scripture is in Genesis 2:1–3, when God blessed the seventh day as a sign of those who worship Him. In Revelation 13:18, the number 666 is an identifying sign of the beast.

**Amazing Fact!**



In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian ordered that all the laws of ancient Rome be compiled. With 16 assistants, Tribonian came up with 2,000 volumes after three years!

# 11 But haven't the 10 Commandments been changed?

The Bible says:

- *"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips"* (Psalm 89:34).
- *"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God"* (Deuteronomy 4:2).
- *"Every word of God is pure. ... Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar"* (Proverbs 30:5, 6).

No, indeed! It is utterly impossible for any of God's moral law ever to change. All 10 Commandments are still binding today, and they came from His lips. Exodus 20:1 says, *"And God spake all these words, saying ... [the 10 Commandments follow]."*

God has specifically forbidden men to change His law by deletions or additions. To tamper with God's holy law in any way is one of the most fearful and dangerous things a person can do.

# 12 Does Sabbath keeping really affect me personally?

The Bible says:

- *"If ye love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15).
- *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God"* (Romans 14:12).
- *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17).
- *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city"* (Revelation 22:14).

Yes, by all means, the Sabbath is your Sabbath. God made it for you, and if you love Him you will keep it, because it is one of His commandments. Love without commandment-keeping is not love at all (1 John 2:4). Jesus died Friday afternoon and rose Sunday morning, meaning He even kept the Sabbath in His death! In addition, the Sabbath was so important to Jesus' apostles that they would not even finish preparing His body for burial until after the Sabbath was past.

The Scriptures teach we will continue to keep God's Sabbath in the new earth (Isaiah 66:23)! So you must make a decision. You will have to answer on this most important matter. God wants you to receive the blessings of the Sabbath, so choose to obey Him now!



# Heavenly Health



All the sickness, disease, pain, and death we see in the world today were never part of God's original plan. God wanted us to live forever in paradise, but the entrance of sin brought all these evils with it. Yet the Lord so loves the human race, He created a plan to avoid sickness in this life and restore eternal life and perfection in the world to come. So it's true that you can enjoy more vitality and happiness in this life by following the neglected laws of health found in the Word of God.

## Amazing Fact!

Even though the United States enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world, Americans need more doctors, take more drugs, and experience more heart disease and cancer than virtually any undeveloped country.



## 1 Are the Bible's health laws still relevant today?

The Bible says:

- ✦ "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2).
- ✦ "And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes ... for our good always, that he might preserve us alive" (Deuteronomy 6:24).
- ✦ "And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee" (Exodus 23:25).

The Bible rates health near the top of the list in importance. Jesus appears to have spent as much time healing as He did teaching. Man's mind, spiritual nature, and body are all inter-related. What affects one affects the other. If our bodies are misused, our minds and spiritual natures also suffer.

God gave health rules because He knows what is best for the human body. And the Bible acts something like a new car's "operations manual"—if you ignore maintaining your car, bad things will happen to it. Who knows better how to maintain a car than the company that made it? In the same way, disregarding God's "operations manual" results in disease, twisted thinking, and burned-out lives.

Following God's rules results in "saving health" (Psalm 67:2) and longer, more abundant life (John 10:10)—and they are a wall or fence to keep out the diseases of evil.





Tests show that after drinking three bottles of beer, a person suffers 13 percent net memory loss. And even small amounts of alcohol will increase trained typist's errors by 40 percent! It will also increase time to make a decision by 10 percent and hinders muscular coordination by 17 percent.

### Amazing Fact!

## 2 Does God's health rules have anything to do with eating and drinking?

The Bible says:

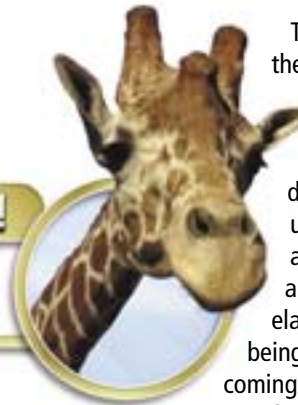
- "Eat ye that which is good" (Isaiah 55:2).
- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed ... and every tree ... yielding seed. ... Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat" (Genesis 1:29; 2:16).

Yes, in fact sin entered our world because Adam and Eve ate something God commanded them not to eat! The original diet for man was simple fruits, grains, and nuts! Likewise, a Christian will even eat and drink differently—all to the glory of God—using only "that which is good." If God says a thing is not fit to eat, He must have a good reason. He is not a harsh dictator, but a loving Father. All His counsel is always for our good. The Bible promises: "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11). So if God withholds a thing from us, it is because it is not good.

Of course, no person can eat his way into heaven. Only acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior can do that. Ignoring God's health laws, however, may cause a person to be lost, because it will ruin his judgment and cause him to sin.

### Amazing Fact!

A giraffe can go longer without water than a camel!



There is some biblical evidence that there were clean and unclean animals from the very dawn of Creation.

Noah lived long before any Jews existed, but he knew the difference between the clean and unclean, because he took the clean animals into the ark by "sevens" and the unclean by "twos." Revelation 18:2 refers to some birds as being unclean just before the second coming of Christ.

Years after the death of Jesus, the apostle Peter declared, "I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean" (Acts 10:14). The death of Christ had no altering effect on these health laws, since the Bible says that all who knowingly break them will be destroyed when Jesus returns (Isaiah 66:15–17). The Jew's stomach and digestive system in no way differ from that of a Gentile. These health laws are for all people for all time and are well supported by modern medical research.

## 3 Are some foods still unclean, or did Jesus cleanse all foods?

The Bible says:

- "And the LORD said unto Noah, ... Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens ... and of beasts that are not clean by two" (Genesis 7:1, 2).

According to the Bible, these meats are still unclean:

- All animals that do not have a split hoof and chew the cud (Deuteronomy 14:6). Meaning pigs and horses would be unclean food.
- All fish and water creatures that do not have both fins and scales. Shrimp, lobster, and shellfish are unclean. (Deuteronomy 14:9).
- All birds of prey, carrion eaters, and fish eaters are unclean (Leviticus 11:13–20). Foraging birds would be clean, like the grouse, turkey, and chicken.
- Most "creeping things" (or invertebrates) are also unclean (Leviticus 11:21–47).



## Amazing Fact!

Even though it is called a "pigskin," it really takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.



## 5 What are some other biblical health principles?

The Bible says:

- Eat your meals at regular intervals, and do not use animal fat or blood (Ecclesiastes 10:17; Leviticus 3:17).
- Be temperate and don't overeat (1 Corinthians 9:25; Proverbs 23:2; Luke 21:34).
- Don't harbor envy or hold grudges (Proverbs 14:30; Matthew 5:23, 24).
- Trust the Lord and maintain a cheerful disposition (Proverbs 19:23; Proverbs 17:22).
- Balance work and exercise with sleep and rest (Exodus 20:9, 10; Ecclesiastes 5:12).
- Keep your body clean (Isaiah 52:11).
- Help others who are in need (Isaiah 58:6–8).

## 4 What about alcohol and tobacco—does God forbid them?

The Bible says:

- *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise"* (Proverbs 20:1).
- *"Neither fornicators ... nor drunkards ... shall inherit the kingdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10).

The Bible clearly forbids drug abuse. In addition, the Bible gives four reasons to avoid alcohol and tobacco:

- The use of tobacco or alcohol injures health and defiles the body. *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God? ... If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy"* (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- Nicotine and alcohol are addictive and can enslave people. Romans 6:16 says that we become servants to whomever (or whatever) we yield ourselves. Tobacco users are servants of nicotine.
- The tobacco habit is unclean. *"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you"* (2 Corinthians 6:17). Would Jesus use tobacco in any form?
- The use of tobacco and alcohol shortens life. This breaks God's command against killing (Exodus 20:13). Even though it is slow murder, it is still murder.



## Amazing Fact!

A bumblebee dropped into an open glass tumbler will stay there until it dies!

It never sees the means of its escape from above, but persists in trying to find some other way out through the sides.



## 6 What does the Bible say to those who ignore God's rules?

The Bible says:

- *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"* (Galatians 6:7).
- *"Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee"* (Deuteronomy 12:25).
- *"I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me"* (Exodus 20:5).

The answer is too plain to miss. Those who break God's rules regarding the care of the body machine will reap broken bodies and burned-out lives—even the children pay for the folly of parents who ignore His plan. And those who continue to break God's laws of health will ultimately be destroyed by the Lord (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17). God's health laws are not arbitrary. They are natural laws, like the law of gravity. Ignoring these laws always brings certain disastrous results. God, in mercy, tells us what these laws are so we may avoid the disease and sickness that results from breaking them.



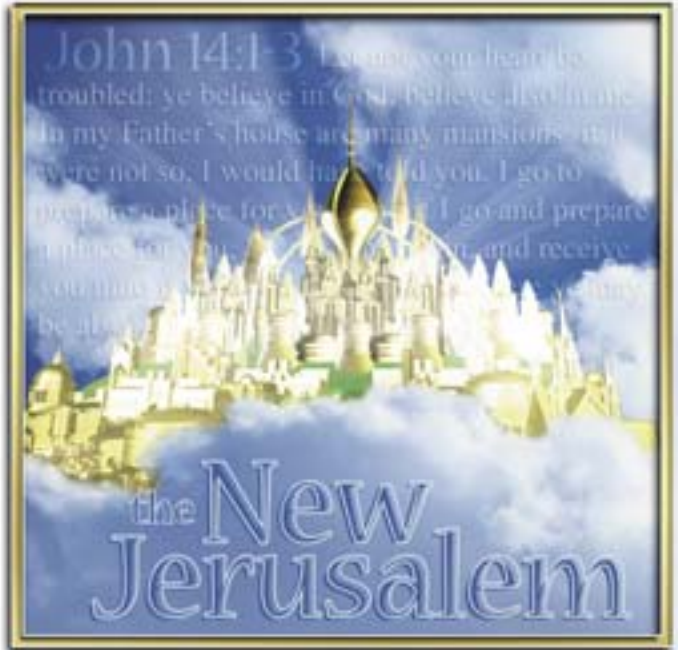




### Amazing Fact!

The monarch butterfly is known for its extraordinarily long migrations, which it makes twice in its two-year lifespan. During summer months, millions of monarchs can be found fluttering from Canada and the United States to Mexico—some traveling more than 2,000 miles!

Like the monarch butterfly, God's people will one day experience a wonderful metamorphosis from our mortal bodies and migrate to a wonderful place with their Creator. The Bible also describes an enormous city in space, a place so big that New York, London, and Paris combined pale in comparison. It is a place where people live in joy with bodies that never get sick or die.



## 7 What should every sincere Christian endeavor to do at once?

The Bible says:

- "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" (2 Corinthians 7:1).
- "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he [Christ] is pure" (1 John 3:3).
- "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

The devil argues that freedom is found in disobedience, but this is a falsehood (John 8:44). Instead, sincere Christians will bring their lives into harmony with God's rules at once, because they love Him. God's counsel and rules are always for our good, just as good parents' rules and counsel are best for their children. And once we know better, God holds us accountable. "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

## 8 Some of my bad health habits have bound me so tightly. What can I do?

The Bible says:

- "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12).
- "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Take all of these self-destructive habits and desires to Christ and lay them at His feet. He will joyfully give you a new heart

and the power you need to break any evil habit and become a son or daughter of God (Ezekiel 11:18, 19). How thrilling and heartwarming it is to know that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). And Jesus says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Jesus is ready to break the shackles that bind us. He longs to set us free, and will, if only we will permit him. "These things have I spoken unto you ... that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).

### Amazing Fact!



Alexander the Great was ruler of Macedonia at the age of 16, a victorious general at 18, and king at 20—but then he died before age 33. On a second night of carousing in Babylon, he drank to the health of every person at his table ... eventually he collapsed, was fever stricken, and a few days later he died from alcohol poisoning.

## 9 What is this city, who built it, and where is it?

The Bible says:

- "Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16).
- "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven" (Revelation 21:2).
- "O LORD my God ... hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place" (1 Kings 8:28–30).

The Bible declares that God is building a great city, called "new Jerusalem" in Revelation 21:2, for His people. And this city, now located somewhere in the vastness of space, is as real and literal as any you have ever known.

# 10 What does the city look like and where will it end up?

The Bible says:

- *"The city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs"* (Revelation 21:16).
- *"And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits. ... And the building of the wall of it was of jasper"* (Revelation 21:17, 18).
- *"And had twelve gates. ... And ... every several gate was of one pearl"* (Revelation 21:12, 21).
- *"The street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass"* (Revelation 21:21).
- *"And her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal"* (Revelation 21:11).
- *"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"* (Revelation 21:2).
- *"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"* (Matthew 5:5).
- *"The righteous shall be recompensed in the earth"* (Proverbs 11:31).

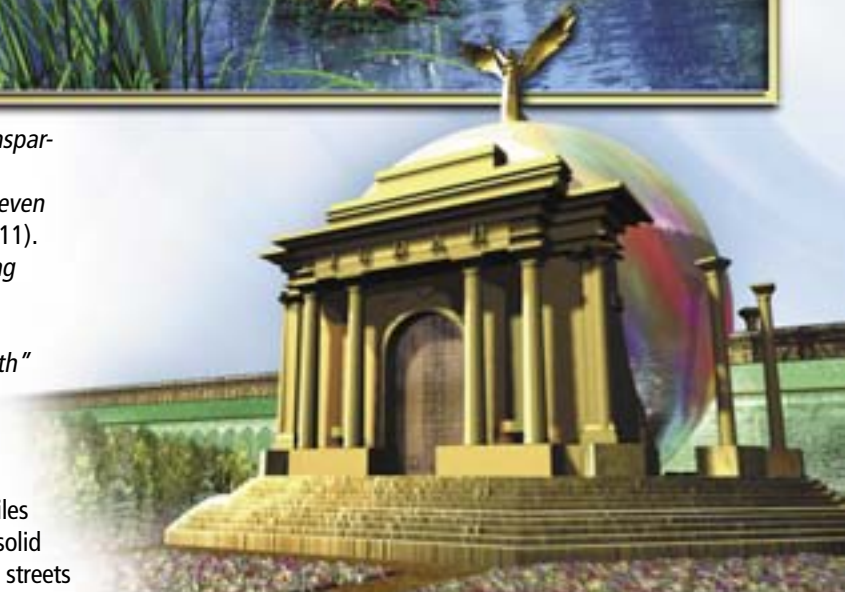
New Jerusalem is perfectly square, with each side 375 miles long. It has 12 gates, each made from a single pearl set in solid jasper walls that are nearly 20 stories high! Furthermore, its streets are made of gold and its 12 foundations are made from the most precious and beautiful gems in the world (Revelation 21:14–20)!

Most amazingly, the city will be lighted with the glory of God as it penetrates the translucent gems. In its breathtaking majesty and purity, it is compared to "a bride adorned for her husband."

Then, after the millennium reign in heaven, this majestic holy city will come down to this earth to become the capital of the new earth. All the righteous will have a home in this city.

## Amazing Fact!

Photosynthesis is the miraculous process by which green plants containing chlorophyll 'capture energy' in the form of light and convert it to chemical energy at the same time, transforming carbon dioxide into life-giving oxygen. Virtually all the energy available for life on earth is made available through photosynthesis. NASA scientists have studied this process for years knowing that it is also the secret to long-term space travel.



# 11 What will the new earth be like?

The Bible says:

- Vast seas as we know them today will be gone (Revelation 21:1). The oceans and seas cover three-fourths of the earth's surface today. This will not be the case in God's new kingdom. The whole world will be one huge garden of unsurpassed beauty, interspersed with lakes, rivers, and mountains (Revelation 22:1).
- The deserts will become gardens (Isaiah 35:1, 2).
- The animals will all be tame. None will prey upon others, and a little child will lead them (Isaiah 11:6–9; 65:25).
- There will be no more curse (Revelation 22:3). No cemeteries or hospitals.
- There will be no more violence of any kind (Isaiah 60:18). This includes crime, storms, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, injury, etc.
- Nothing defiling will be found in the new earth (Revelation 21:27). There will be no cigarette butts, bars, or brothels—or impurity of any kind.



## Amazing Fact!

The distance from our galaxy to the next one is one-and-a-half million light years. On a clear night, you can see about as much of the universe as a single-celled creature sees living in a drop of water. The moon, the planets, and a few thousand stars that are visible to us are merely a single drop of water in the boundless sea of the universe.



## 12 What will happen in the new earth?

The Bible says:

- *"They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: ... mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands"* (Isaiah 65:21, 22).

The saved will build their own homes in the new earth. Each will also have a city mansion built by Christ (John 14:1–3). They will plant vineyards and eat the fruit from them. The Bible is plain. Real people do real things in heaven, and they will thoroughly enjoy it all. Here are some other things we can look forward to in heaven:

- Sing and play heavenly music (Isaiah 35:10; 51:11; Psalm 87:7; Revelation 14:2, 3).
- Worship before God's throne every Sabbath (Isaiah 66:22, 23).
- Enjoy never-fading flowers and trees (Ezekiel 47:12; Isaiah 35:1, 2).
- Visit with loved ones, patriarchs, prophets, etc. (Matthew 8:11; Revelation 7:9–17).
- Study the animals of heaven (Isaiah 11:6–9; 65:25).



## 13 What phenomenal feature of this majestic city assures every citizen eternal vigor and youth?

The Bible says:

- *"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations"* (Revelation 22:2).
- *"Take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever"* (Genesis 3:22).

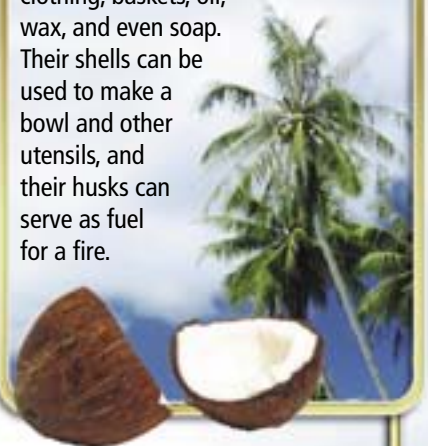
The tree of life, in the middle of the city, bears 12 kinds of fruit and brings unending life and youth to all who partake of it. Even its leaves will contain marvelous sustaining qualities.

God wants to give you a new body, and He has prepared a mansion for you in the new Jerusalem. Will you accept it? Give your life to Christ for cleansing from sin. When you do this, He also gives you power to do His will and keep His commandments. This means, of course, that you will begin to live as Christ lived. *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things"* (Revelation 21:7). In short, a person is prepared for heaven when he has heaven in his heart!

Jesus promises, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in"* (Revelation 3:20). When Jesus lives in our hearts and abides in our homes, we are assured of a place in His heavenly kingdom. You can ask Him in now. Please open the door and pray to him!

## Amazing Fact!

The coconut tree is sometimes called the tree of life because of its amazing versatility. When planes went down among the Pacific Islands during World War II, the stranded pilots sometimes survived for many months on little more than coconuts. From coconuts we get food, milk, butter, clothing, baskets, oil, wax, and even soap. Their shells can be used to make a bowl and other utensils, and their husks can serve as fuel for a fire.





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