

Bible workbook

Year 10

Term 3

Attribute of God: God is...	Page	Number of weeks	Number of pages
God is Creator (Part 2)	2	2	19
God is Wise	21	4	10
God is a Servant	31	3	7

Total: 36

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<https://www.aop.com/curriculum/shop-lifepac?filter=GL12> (free download samples)
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God is Creator (continued)

How old is the earth?



Know what you believe and why

Most Christians would say that they do not believe in evolution, but many are not sure what they really believe. It is important to know what we believe and why, so that we can be an effective witness and have an answer to those who question.

Do we believe that God has the power to create our universe in six 24-hour days?

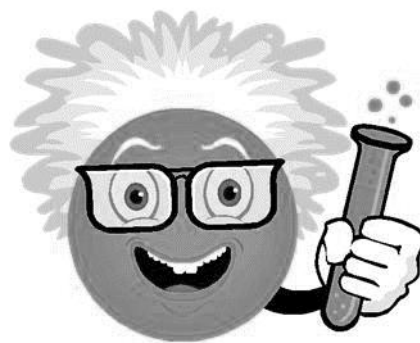
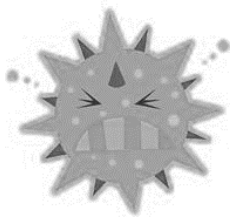
Many can believe that God can do miracles, that Jesus was raised from the dead, but do not have the faith to believe the first book of the Bible.

Evidence for long ages

Many Christians cannot believe that all the so-called 'evidence' for long ages could be wrong. After all so many scientists believe it! But we must remember that those who do are atheistic scientists. We are surrounded by indoctrination, through the media and the education system. In order to make the world's view compatible with Christian belief, some Christians invent complicated theories that combine the long ages of evolution with the Creation event.

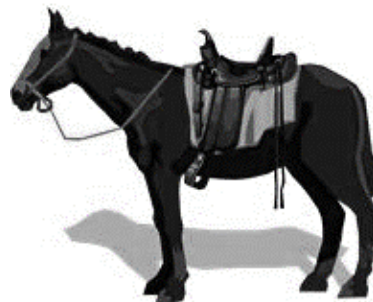
Why does evolution need long ages?

Evolution says that the universe about 14 billion years old. This gives plenty of time for the very slow and gradual nature of the evolutionary process. Animals are modified by environmental pressure, the weeding-out of the unfit through death and disease, leaving the better-adapted alive to breed. However, no transitional animal fossils have ever been found. We might ask the evolutionist, "How is the DNA, necessary for the development of a new species, obtained?" or "How does the inferior animal find the necessary information to transform into the more-highly developed animal?" Think about computer operating system updating itself to one that is faster and more complex...clearly absurd! Surely the intervention of an external designer is necessary? But evolution insists that indeed, given enough time, a bacterium will change into a bacteriologist!



After their own kind

In contrast, God created animals after their own kind. There can be variation within species, but no such thing as one kind of animal developing into another. For example, horses, donkeys and zebras are variations within the horse kind/species. Lions, tigers, panthers are variations within the cat kind/species. One kind will not develop into another (i.e. cats don't evolve into horses). Mutations or variations, involve the loss (not gain) of information in the genetic DNA.



Do mutations improve a species?

The theory of evolution is based on the false idea that a mutation can improve a species, and add genetic information. However, this is not the case. Mutations only cause loss of genetic information. There are 36 mutations (mistakes) in DNA with every generation. A hatching of featherless rooster is the product of a mutation. The mutation mistake has not improved the rooster, which will either fry in the summer sun or freeze in the winter. According to the evolutionist these mutations lead to the development of simple organisms into complex organisms, but this could never happen with mutations, which according to true science, cause a net loss of information rather than a gain.

The convenience of believing in long ages

Because no one has ever seen a new species develop from another, the theory of long ages is convenient, because no one has to 'see' the evolution happening. It is an invention that conveniently describes the universe, the world and life itself coming into being by itself, without God. This is an atheistic strategy to explain a world with no God.

Fortunately, there are Christian scientists who do reconcile the foundations of the universe with a Creator God. We must remember that evolution is not science, and neither is Creation. Evolution is a theory, unobservable and not able to be tested. You can't do experiments in the past but only in the present. Creation is the word of God. Who would you rather believe... an atheist or our powerful God?

Carbon dating

As for dating fossils, the carbon dating method is flawed. Carbon-14, (which carbon-dating uses), depletes to zero within 50,000 years. This would be an embarrassment to atheists, so atheist scientists have recalibrated their measurements, (adding some zeros) to try and justify the long-ages.

Transitional species

What about fossils showing transitional species? This is another embarrassment to evolutionists. None can be found. The evidence for so-called 'ape man' fossils is highly imaginative, the most famous one based on a single toe bone.



Do we believe that death was part of God's plan in His perfect creation?

Evolution depends on death as a mechanism for the progressive evolving of all species from the simple to the complex, from the single-celled creature to humans.

If we try to merge the Biblical account with evolution, and say that each day of the Biblical creation account spanned millions of years, then the fossil record would show Adam and Eve sitting on top of a mountain of bones, bones of dead things accumulated over millennia. You cannot have millions of years preceding Adam and Eve without having death and suffering. The Bible makes it clear that God's creation was good, and that animals lived peacefully together, eating plants, with no death and suffering. We see the restoration of God's perfect creation in Revelation, where we are told of the lion laying down with the lamb. The world was perfect until sin entered, bringing with it, death. But Jesus is coming back again to restore the creation and destroy death.

Romans 8:19: For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.



What is the purpose of Jesus' return? ...to restore a fallen world of death and suffering to a perfect world with no death, just as it was in the original creation.

Evolution needs death to bring about change. Death is intrinsic to evolution. Evolution says death is essential. Creation says that there was no death before the Fall. Christ came to defeat death and re-establish perfection as it was before the Fall.

If you don't believe in six 24-hour days, can you still call yourself a Creationist?

Some Christians cannot throw out the worldly theories, and propose that God actually created the world through evolution. Trying to hold on to the 'long-ages' of the evolutionists, they attempt to reconcile long-ages with the Bible, thereby compromising biblical truth

The following queries are often presented by people who want to hold on to Creation and evolution at the same time:

1. The Bible says that a day with the Lord is as a thousand years. Then why couldn't a day be millions or billions of years?

The meaning of this verse is that God lives outside of time. He is eternal. If God wanted us to apply this verse to the Biblical account He would have told us directly. Isn't God a communicator? Isn't He able to communicate logically and clearly? He has done just this. The Hebrew word for a 24-hour day is 'yom'. And the Bible makes it clear – God says six times in Genesis 1 "there was evening and there was morning and the (next) day."

2. Why can't there have been long ages during which all the plants and animals stayed alive for millions of years?

If the sea was millions of years old it would be so salty that nothing could live in it, (based on the measurable progressive rising salt level of the sea.)

If the moon were millions of years old the moon dust would be so thick that the astronauts could never have landed there, (based on the measurable progressive increase in the depth of moon dust.)

The planet would not be able to support the cumulative number of living things.

3. Genesis was meant to be taken as a parable...a heavenly story with an earthly meaning...the earthly meaning being evolution.

The Bible tells us the age of the earth through the genealogies. We can add up the life-spans of the people in the Bible up until the birth of Jesus and we will get the number of years as being about 6,000. If the genealogies in Genesis are just a parable, then what would we say about the genealogies bringing us to the birth of Jesus? Do we treat them as fantasy also?

Trying to appease scientists who are atheists is compromise. Do we trust the world more than the word of God? God says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:12)

Reasons to take Genesis as history

1. Jesus understood the Old Testament as history

An honest reading of the Bible is to find out what God is saying, not trying to make it say what we find acceptable.

In many places Jesus said, "It is written" to settle an argument, and "have you not read?" If we cannot trust the Bible in matters of history, how can we trust it in matters of faith?

Luke 16:31 "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead?"

Jesus to Nicodemus: "I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?" (John 3:12)

Earthly things...the timeframe of creation and the order of events)

2. Jesus regarded Adam, Eve and Noah as historical people

Adam and Eve (Matt 19:3-6; Mark 10:2-9)

Noah and the Flood (Matt 24:37-39); Luke 17:26-27)

Abraham (John 8:56-58)

Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt 10:15; 11:23-24)

Jesus spoke with the full authority of God the Father (John 5:30; 8:28)

3. Genesis was written as history

Hebrew scholars concur that Genesis was written as history. Professors of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university believe:

- a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience
- b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies, when added up, confirm Biblical history
- c) Noah's flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguished all human and animal life except for those on the ark

4. The rest of the Old Testament takes Genesis as history

Exodus 20:10-11 summarizes the creation week, (the day of rest and the basis for our 7-day week)

Exodus 20:1 "And God spoke these words..." These are the very words of God Himself and not the ideas of Moses.

1 Chron 1 summarizes the genealogical data from Adam onwards.

5. The New Testament takes Genesis 1-11 as history

Jesus Genealogy (Luke 3) goes back to Adam

Hebrews 11 lists heroes of the faith

2 Peter 3 refers to creation and the Flood

6. Genesis history is consistent with God's nature

Psalm 33:9 "He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast."

Genesis 1 God said "Let there be..."...And it was so."

When God commands something, it happens.

7. Genesis as history explains the origin of death and suffering

After God had finished creating everything, He pronounced it 'very good'. But it is not very good today. Death and suffering are now prevalent in God's creation.

The Bible clearly teaches that human death came because of the Fall (Rom 5:12-19) and 1 Cor 15:21-22).

If we believe that the earth is millions of years old, we cannot believe in the Fall. According to the fossil record, human life came along millions of years after the first living thing; that is, millions of years of death and suffering. The fossil record supposedly represents 600 million years during which creatures were dying and preserved as fossils. There are fossil bones with cancerous tumours preserved in them; it is a record of suffering and death. And then man appears, effectively standing on a pile of bones kilometers deep. But what did God say? AFTER creating man he said that his creation was 'very good', (Gen1:31). How can millions of years of death and suffering be 'very good'? What is the real explanation of the fossils? They came about as a result of the Great Flood, when animals were buried quickly in the swirling mud.

God's perfect world before the Fall was indeed very good. Genesis 1 indicates that the animals and people were originally vegetarian, meaning that there was no killing, (Gen 1:29-30). We cannot imagine such a world, but it is the same as the new world of the future described in Isaiah 11:6-9 and Isaiah 65:25. The world as we know it will pass away and the original creation will be restored. There will be no pain or death and animals will live in harmony with one another.

We live in a corrupt creation because of man's sin; God did not create it that way. Note that 'progressive creation' scenarios, while denying evolution, still have hundreds of millions of years of suffering and death as part of God's drawn-out process of arriving at today's world.

8. The Gospel is based on the historical events of Genesis

Jesus' death and resurrection are part of real history and connected to the real history of Genesis.

A real man, Jesus, came to earth to undo the work of the first man, Adam, (Romans 5:12-17; 1 Cor. 15:20-22 and 1 Cor. 15:45-49). As one man brought death to all who descended from him, one perfect man brings like to all who accept Him.

The historical Adam was a direct ancestor of Jesus. Adam and Jesus were related by blood. The book of Hebrews explains how Jesus took upon Himself the nature of man to save mankind, (Heb 2:11-18).

9. Understanding Genesis as history is a foundation for an understanding of the whole Bible

The Bible tells us of a future where this universe will come to an end because God will purify it with fire. Then there will be a new heaven and earth, (2 Peter 3:10-13 and Revelation 21:1). If God created the universe basically as we see it today, then why would He want to purify it with fire? It does not make sense.

However it does make sense if Genesis 3 is real history. We see this again in Romans 8.)

When we deny the Great Flood as being an actual historical account we cannot then understand the Bible's reference to future events. Jesus referred to this in Luke 17:26-27. If the account of God's judgment in the Flood is not to be believed, why should we believe the Bible about the judgment to come?"

Belief in evolution cancels out belief in a global flood, because it attributes fossils buried in rock layers to have developed over millions of years rather than the product of one catastrophic event: the Great Flood, when animals were buried quickly in a short space of time.

10. Denying the history of Genesis disconnects Christianity from the 'real world'.

The Bible is a book of history. Do we believe that Jesus actually died and rose again? A Christian would say 'yes' to this aspect of history. Then why not believe Genesis as history?

Is the Bible true or is it a book of made-up stories that teach us about life?

Many people believe that the theory of evolution is 'science'. That is, the belief that the universe made itself when nothing exploded in the big bang and that every form of life made itself by purely natural processes from elements created in the big bang. They believe that God is not involved or necessary. This is taught as 'fact' in most schools.

In a survey, children were asked whom they believed: their Sunday school teacher or their school teacher. Eighty percent chose to believe their school teacher above their Sunday school teacher. Why? They said that the school teacher taught them facts, whereas the Sunday school teacher taught stories. Children think this way because they have been taught the Bible in the wrong way: as a collection of nice stories, and not actually describing things that really happened in space and time.

But the Christian faith is based upon the faithful testimony of those who have seen and heard things that really happened. This includes Creation, the Fall, the Great Flood, Exodus, the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus.)

Reference:

15 Reasons to take Genesis as history, 2006, Don Batten and Jonathan Sarfati, Australia
www.creation.com

Are aliens real?

by Dr. Jason Lisle, Creation.com 2020

Are aliens real? The question of life on other planets is a hot topic in our culture today. Science fiction movies and television shows often depict strange creatures from far-away planets. But these ideas are not limited merely to science fiction programming. Many secular scientists believe that one day we will actually discover life on other planets. There are even projects like the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) that scan the heavens with powerful radio telescopes listening for signals from intelligent aliens. Many Christians have bought into the idea of extraterrestrial alien life. But is this idea really biblical? The Christian should constantly examine ideas in light of Scripture and take “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

The idea of "extraterrestrial life" stems largely from a belief in evolution. In the evolutionary view, the earth is “just another planet”—one where the conditions just happened to be right for life to form and evolve. Evolutionists think that if there are countless billions of other planets in our galaxy, then surely at least a handful of these worlds have also had the right conditions.

However, the idea of alien life is not compatible with Scripture. The earth is unique. God designed the earth for life (Isaiah 45:18). The other planets have an entirely different purpose than does the earth, and thus, they are designed differently. In Genesis 1 we read that God created plants on the earth on Day 3, birds to fly in the atmosphere and marine life to swim in the ocean on Day 5, and animals to inhabit the land on Day 6. Human beings were also made on Day 6 and were given dominion over the animals. The lights that God created on Day 4 were not designed to accommodate life. God gave care of the earth to man, but the heavens are the Lord’s (Psalm 115:16). From a biblical perspective, extraterrestrial life does not seem reasonable.

Problems are multiplied when we consider the possibility of intelligent alien life. Science fiction programming abounds with races of people who evolved on other worlds.

The Redemption of Mankind

Intelligent alien beings cannot be redeemed. God’s plan of redemption is for human beings: those descended from Adam. Let us examine the conflict between the salvation message and the notion of alien life.

The Bible teaches that the first man, Adam, rebelled against God (Genesis 3). As a result, sin and death entered the world (Romans 5:12). We are all descended from Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20) and have inherited from them a sin nature (Romans 6:6, 20). This is a problem: sin is a barrier that prevents man from being right with God (Isaiah 59:2). But God loves us despite our sin and provided a plan of redemption—a way to be reconciled with God.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God made coats of skins to cover them (Genesis 3:21). He therefore had to kill at least one animal. This literal action is symbolic of our salvation; an

innocent Lamb (Christ—the Lamb of God) would be sacrificed to provide a covering for sin (John 1:29). In the Old Testament, people would sacrifice animals to the Lord as a reminder of their sin (Hebrews 10:3) and as a symbol of the One to come, the Lord Jesus, who would actually pay the penalty for sin.

The animal sacrifices did not actually pay the penalty for sin (Hebrews 10:4, 11). Animals are not related to us; their shed blood cannot count for ours. But the blood of Christ can. Christ is a blood relative of ours since He is descended from Adam as we are; all human beings are of “one blood”

(Acts 17:26). Furthermore, since Christ is also God, His life is of infinite value, and thus, His death can pay for all the sins of all people. That is why only the Lord Himself could be our Savior (Isaiah 45:21). Therefore, Christ died once for all (Hebrews 10:10).

The Redemption of Aliens?

When we consider how the salvation plan might apply to any hypothetical extraterrestrial (but otherwise human-like) beings, we are presented with a problem. If there were extraterrestrials out there, how would they be saved? They are not blood relatives of Jesus, and so Christ’s shed blood cannot pay for their sin. One might at first suppose that Christ also visited their world, lived there, and died there as well, but this is antibiblical. Christ died once for all (1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:27–28, Hebrews 10:10). Jesus is now and forever both God and man; but He is not an alien.

Where Is Everybody?

So far, no one has discovered life on other planets or detected any radio signals from intelligent aliens. This is certainly what a biblical creationist would expect. Secular astronomers continue to search for life on other worlds, but they have found only rocks and inanimate matter. Their radio searches are met with silence. The real world is the biblical world—a universe designed by God with the earth at the spiritual focal point, not an evolutionary universe teeming with life.

What about UFOs?

A UFO (unidentified flying object) is just that—an object seen in the sky that is unidentified to the person seeing it.

There is no doubt that some people sincerely have seen things in the sky that they do not understand. This is hardly surprising since there are lots of things “up there,” which can be misunderstood by people not familiar with them. These include Venus, satellites, the international space station, the space shuttle, rockets, Iridium flares, manmade aircraft, internal reflections, meteors, balloons, fireflies, aurorae, birds, ball lightning, lenticular clouds, etc. However, a person unfamiliar with these would see a UFO, since the object is “unidentified” to him or her. It is how people interpret what they see that can be questionable. UFOs are not alien spacecraft, and of course, there is no tangible evidence to support such a notion.

In a way, a belief in extraterrestrial life has become a secular replacement for God. God is the one who can heal every disease. God is the one in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are deposited (Colossians 2:3). God is the one who can answer the fundamental questions of our existence. God alone possesses the gift of eternal life (John 17:3)

Exchanging the truth of God, such as creation, for a lie, such as evolution, and turning to a mere creature such as hypothetical aliens for answers is strikingly similar to what is recorded in Romans 1:25.

But when we start from the Bible, the evidence makes sense. The universe is consistent with the biblical teaching that the earth is a special creation. The magnificent beauty and size of a universe, which is apparently devoid of life except for one little world where life abounds, is exactly what we would expect from a biblical worldview. The truth is not “out there;” the truth is in there—in the Bible! The Lord Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). So, when we base our thinking on what God has said in His Word, we find that the universe makes sense.

Alien Abductions: Freaky or Fiction?

by Dr. Danny R. Faulkner, Creation.com, 2020

If there are no extraterrestrial aliens, then there can be no flying saucers piloted by them. So how do we explain all of those sightings of UFOs? Most can be explained by misidentification of other objects, such as bright stars and planets, aircraft, and weather balloons, to name just a few. A few sightings remain unexplained, but that does not mean that they necessarily are flying saucers—they just haven't been identified.

However, some people have reported more than just sightings of flying saucers, but have gone further to say that they have had direct interaction with aliens. Some of these reports merely are communication with aliens, while others involve being taken aboard spaceships. Some of these stories include traveling great distances aboard spacecraft. Much more disturbing, some people claim that while aboard spacecraft, aliens carried out bizarre investigations of their bodies. We cannot attribute these sorts of claims to misidentifications, so what are we to make of many of these claims of alien abductions?

It is probable that at least some people who claim to have been abducted by aliens simply have concocted their stories. Possible motives for such fabrications vary, but could include profit or desire to be important. Other stories of alien abduction may have been the result of vivid dreams. Some people may truly believe that they have been abducted by aliens, but they may have merely suffered some sort of delusion. Let us briefly consider a few cases.

There are reports from people who almost certainly lied, but also from individuals who appeared to be sincere in their beliefs about what happened to them., Would that mean that at least a few alien abduction stories are genuine, thus proving that ETs exist? No, for there remains at least one other possibility.

Spiritual Connection to Claims About Alien Abductions

Many people report meeting a god-like creature or creatures during their abductions. Often these beings communicate universal-sounding messages or warn of impending nuclear or ecological disaster if mankind does not change his way. This amounts to a very hip, human-centered religious message.

Another common element is that most people who have claimed these close encounters with aliens profess spirituality, with a belief in God. Many people reporting alien abductions also report indulging in the occult and new age practices. Conspicuously absent from those reporting alien abductions are those who are truly born-again followers of Christ.

If those who report alien abductions are sincere and truthful in relaying experiences that they firmly believe occurred, then we are left with the conclusion that there is a spiritual component, and that this spirituality is contrary to the Bible.

This is just one front in a spiritual war to divert people away from the truth of Scripture. The Bible tells us that Adam's race is the only race in the Universe that is of importance to God. There are no ETs to fly spaceships to earth. But if one believes in evolution, one must accept the likelihood that life, even intelligent life, has evolved many times on other worlds. Thus, if life exists elsewhere, then that would argue against the Bible and hence the God of the Bible. So a very effective tool in undermining the authority of the Bible and the gospel would be to convince as many people as possible that life exists elsewhere. What better way is there to do that than with flying saucers and "alien" visitations?

Questions

1. How does the Creation account in Genesis 1 show us that human beings are God's special creation?
2. How does the idea of aliens conflict with the biblical message of Salvation?
3. What evidence is there so far for life on other planets?
4. Do you think that the money spent on researching life on other planets is justified? Give reason for your answer.
5. How would a belief in evolution make it easy for people to also believe in aliens?
6. Read Romans 1:25 and explain this in the light of a belief in extraterrestrial life.
7. What two reasons does the first author give for sightings of UFOs?
8. What third reason does the second author give as a reason for UFO sightings?
9. What two forms of spiritual beings mentioned in the Bible, according to 2 Cor. 11:14 and Rev 12:7 – 9?
10. Why would Satan want to deceive people into believing in extra terrestrial life?

The mystery of the Loch Ness Monster

Loch Ness is a large freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands extending for approximately 37 kilometres (23 miles) southwest of Inverness. It takes its name from the River Ness, which flows from the northern end. Loch Ness is best known for claimed sightings of the Loch Ness Monster, also known affectionately as "Nessie". It is one of a series of interconnected, murky bodies of water in Scotland; its water visibility is exceptionally low due to a high peat content in the surrounding soil.

- A loch (pronounced 'lock') is a long, deep lake, often land locked.



There have been numerous sightings of the monster. The first recorded account is of a confrontation with the Irish saint, St. Columba in the 6th century. St. Columba, who ordered one of his monks to swim across the loch and fetch a boat. Halfway across the monster appeared and rushed at the swimmer! Columba cried out to the monster, "Go no further, nor touch the man! Go back!". The monster is said to have fled!

Since then, Nessie has been seen many times but has never harmed anyone. Sightings have been sporadic over the centuries, but in the 20th and 21st centuries Nessie has been more active!

1933 was the year when the first photograph of the monster, or what is said to be the monster, was published in the newspaper. It showed something with a long neck arched over a thick body. This photograph, taken by a London surgeon caused a sensation when first published in the Daily Mail. However, the photo was later proven to be fake. For the

photo, the surgeon had set up an inflatable ring and attached a head that looked like a dinosaur's head.



<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Loch-Ness-Monster/>

Nevertheless, there have been thousands of sightings over the years. Here are a few reports:

1941

In December, Calum MacFarlane Barrow and his brother Patrick both saw a large creature in the loch near Fort Augustus. They saw the same creature twice in the same day by Calum explained in 2018 that such sightings were much more common amongst the local population at that time.

1961

In May, George Coutts and three others were driving to south side of the loch at 8pm in the evening. They pulled over and observed something in the water - it was like an elephant's back. They decided not to tell anyone but Mr Coutts, of Inverness, finally told the story in September 2019.

1965

23rd July - Mr and Mrs Brand, in company with Mrs Brand's father, Mr Andrew Walker, whilst driving along the Dores side of Loch Ness, had a good view of the Loch Ness Monster, directly opposite Urquhart Castle. The object, they say of considerable size, surfaced quite close to the shore and immediately made for the centre of the loch at speed. The loch itself was as calm as a mill-pond at the time and the surprised party were fascinated for several minutes until "Nessie" submerged. All three had previously been skeptical about the existence of "Nessie" but since last Thursday have changed their views - source, Ross-shire Journal 30 July 1965.



1969

May 1969 - Fred Millwood of Inverness was travelling towards Inverness in late May when he saw a 10-12-foot-long creature travelling across the loch at about 4mph. He said that it was like an upturned boat, (hump shapes), and there was no head visible. When it was about 200-300 m from the other side, it disappeared - he waited for about half an hour but nothing re-surfaced.

October 1969 -a local boy Peter Mackenzie and his uncle Ian MacRae were fishing in a small boat at the north end of the loch. Their fishing log states they were "Going down past Aldourie Castle, 5.15pm about 100 yards out". They then saw what they first took to be the wake of a speedboat coming towards them from the direction of the Clansman Hotel. It then appeared that there was a shape that was not a boat at the head of the wake - which then disappeared. The object then resurfaced and headed for the middle of the loch where they could see it in profile. Peter said it had the colour and shape of an elephant. It then disappeared under the water and their boat rocked in the waves caused by it - the whole episode took about 2 minutes.

1971

During the August of 1971, on a Sunday afternoon Richard Haworth was standing alone on the front lawn of Temple Pier house, looking across a flat calm Urquhart Bay in glorious sunshine. As he looked across to the river-mouth and scanned left towards the castle, he noticed a wake of water. At the front of the wake was what looked like a black hockey stick standing vertically out the water, with the 'hook' at the top. Initially he thought it might have been a swan but as it moved (at considerable speed in the direction of Urquhart Castle), it passed by a moored yacht close to the shore, and the 'hook' or head was clearly higher than the deck, making it at least 5 feet (1½ metres) in height. The sighting lasted a couple of minutes.

1974

In 1974, Mr J Gray and his friend, both of Inverness, saw what was looked like an upturned boat about in the water near Foyers one evening. Although deciding not to tell anyone, they had the sighting confirmed shortly afterwards when they met another person. He relayed these details to this website in 2019.

1976

RD and his family were on holiday in the summer of 1976. Along with his mother, father and brother, he saw an unknown creature about 10-15 feet long 'snaking' through the water about 50 yards from the shore. The sighting took place just south of Dores and lasted about 10 minutes.

1999

February 2nd - Nessie was spotted out of the water on the shores of Loch Ness by an American visitor to the area. This unique sighting took place at 8.30 in the evening on the beach between Dores and Foyers where the creature, said to be between 10-15 metres in length with a long neck, scurried off into the water as the man approached.

March 30th - A group of 6-7 people saw a head and neck rise from the water 200 yards from the south shore of the loch. They watched as a black shape rose and then disappeared only to reappear a few minutes later. The sighting was witnessed from a lay by opposite Urquhart castle. One witness described the head as being about 18 inches (46 cm) in height.

July 5th - A couple on holiday from Huntly witnessed a creature in the middle of the loch at 9am. They watched as it moved up the loch for a period of around 20 minutes close to the Loch Ness Caravan and Camping Park. An experienced whale watcher, the man said that he had never before seen anything like it.

September 14th - It was around 11.30 a.m. when a couple touring the area spotted in Urquhart Bay what they first thought to be a car tyre on the surface of the loch. It appeared to be about three feet long and one foot tall at its highest point. The object then moved against the waves formation in the area creating a wake as it did so. The couple saw some kind of water disturbance about three feet behind the black object, which appeared to rise slightly out of the water before submerging.



1998

October 20th - A local van driver spotted something in the flat calm waters of the loch at 1100 hours near Cherry Island.

October 24th - An English couple from Hertfordshire, on holiday in the area saw a large creature moving under the waters of the loch at 11 am, about half way up the loch.

December 31st - A local couple saw a hump shape like an upturned boat for about 10-15 seconds during the afternoon of New Year's Eve.

2018 - Total for the year - 15

December 13th - at 1440 hours Ricky D Phillips, a well-known military historian, heard a curious noise while taking pictures where the River Oich flows into Loch Ness at Fort Augustus. He looked up from his phone and saw a long, straight neck, a head maybe the size of a rugby ball, all completely grey, and a narrow face, which was only about 20 feet (7 metres) away - it then turned and disappeared.

December 19th - Caroline Barnett from the south west of England was watching the Loch Ness Webcam at 10.20 when she saw something move slowly up the loch. Initially she thought it was a boat or similar but the object appeared animate and then disappeared into the water before reappearing. It was dark in colour and nearer the east shore of the loch.

2020 - Total for the year - 13

August 29 - Mr Van-Schuerbeck, on holiday in the area with his family, spotted an unexplained phenomenon when he looked back at his pictures.

September 15 - Monika, on holiday from London at the Bunloit Farmhouse which is on the hill to the west of the loch, reported at 10.59am that she and her friend were "sitting out in front of the farmhouse looking out into the pastures of sheep and the lake beyond and chatting when something caught the corner of our eye on the lake near the opposite shore. At first, we thought it was a boat passing by (a common occurrence around mid-day at the lake), but noted a dark shadow behind and off to the side from where the boat went by after the wake created by the boat subsided. The water around the shadow appeared to be disturbed before the shadow broke through the surface just slightly. It was too distant to make out the exact shape of the shadow, how large it was or what colour (appeared black from a distance), but it was large enough to catch our eye from the other shore of the lake. We both raced to get our phones out and take pictures, but the shadow had receded into the waters by the time either of us were able to snap".

September 26 - reported in the Inverness Courier and with a video to support it in the Ross-shire Journal, Trevor Ross of Inverness saw something unexplained in the loch near Dores at 4.15pm. He described it as a shape in the water but had no explanation as to what it was. It was close to where another local man, Corey Sturrock, saw what he called an eel 'the size of a bus' a week before - more in the Inverness Courier.

September 30 - one of the best sonar contacts ever of a large unknown moving object deep in the loch was captured around 4.30pm near Invermoriston by the captain of the Loch Ness cruise boat 'The Spirit of Loch Ness'. The object was 32 feet (10 metres) long and 500 feet (152 metres) down in the water. The whole story was reported in the Inverness Courier.

October 11 - again from Cruise Loch Ness, another large sonar contact was picked up 185m down in the loch. Long time Nessie hunter Steve Feltham said "these latest images help put together the most compelling case for a big creature swimming around in Loch Ness". You can see all the details as reported by the Strathspey and Badenoch Herald.

November 15 - Local resident Louise Power, and her mum Jennifer Macrae, said they saw "something strange" in the water less than half-a-mile away from where they had gone for a walk. She said "There was a wake after it and during that time it did not disappear - it just kept moving slowly. Then it turned towards Dores with a big wave and just went under the water and disappeared." She added: "I just couldn't believe it. It was quite big. I couldn't put an exact size on it - other than it was big. We have both lived here all our lives and we have never seen anything like that before."

November 24 - Karen Scott and her partner were visiting from Aberdeen when they reported a creature in the water near Urquhart Castle at 14.30hrs. The creature surfaced, disappeared and then reappeared over a period of five minutes.

Could the Loch Ness Monster be a species from the past, believed to be extinct?

The following article is by David Catchpoole, www.creation.com

A 55-year-old laboratory technician visiting Loch Ness has reportedly captured on video 'the finest footage ever taken of the elusive mythical creature reputed to swim beneath the waters of Scotland's most mysterious lake.'

Gordon Holmes, from Yorkshire, UK, recalls the moment he sighted and videoed the creature:

'I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw this jet-black thing, about 45 feet (15 metres) long, moving fairly fast in the water,' he said. 'My initial thought is it could be a very big eel, they have serpent-like features and they may explain all the sightings in Loch Ness over the years.'

Marine biologist Adrian Shine of the Loch Ness 2000 Centre said of the video: 'I see myself as a skeptical interpreter of what happens in the loch, but I do keep an open mind about these things and there is no doubt this is some of the best footage I have seen.'

There have been more than 4,000 purported 'Loch Ness Monster' sightings since the 1930s. Shine said that this video is particularly useful because Holmes panned back in order to include the background shore in some of the footage. Not only does that mean that the video was less likely to be a fake, it also provided a scale and geographical reference point, thus allowing an assessment of the creature's size and speed.

However, the cloudiness of the lake's water is such that it's not clear whether the creature caught on video has the plesiosaur-like features so often mentioned in reported sightings of large unexplained animals in various lakes in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

It's happened before.

Most evolutionists are quick to dismiss any such references to plesiosaurs, as they insist such creatures vanished 65 million years ago, along with the dinosaurs.

However, contrast this with the Bible's thousands-of-years' timeframe for the true history of Earth. There's really no basis for dismissing the possibility that plesiosaurs are not yet extinct.

After all, evolutionists had said the coelacanth, too, had been extinct for 65 million years, on the basis of their long-age interpretation of the 'fossil record'. Yet the coelacanth is now known to be alive and well, with fishermen in African and Asian waters periodically hauling live specimens to the surface.

Just as it would have been wrong to say that the coelacanth was extinct because none had been found, similarly how can anyone claim that the plesiosaur is extinct just because none have been found? The world's oceans are vast. Even today, after decades of oceanic surveys and research using the latest technology, previously unknown creatures of the deep are periodically brought to the surface in fishermen's nets, or swim past the camera lenses of deep-water research probes, much to the surprise and delight of marine biologists.

Coelacanth – type of fish, thought to be extinct but now known to still exist

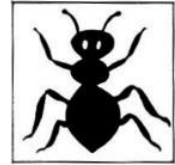


If, with the collection of more conclusive evidence over time, it turns out that a large aquatic reptile previously thought to have been extinct for millions of years is in fact still alive and well in the waters of Loch Ness, it will doubtless surprise many evolutionists. But it ought to be no surprise for creationists. It will simply have become one more in a long list of (so-called) 'living fossils'.

Activities

1. Find Loch Ness on the map of Scotland. What is the closest city to the loch?
2. What is a loch?
3. Loch Ness is land-locked. What does this mean?
4. The water in Loch Ness is murky. What does this mean? What makes the water in the loch murky?
5. When was the first recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster, and by whom?
6. When was the first photograph taken of Nessie? Describe the photo.
7. Name two castles on the banks of the loch.
8. Many of the observers reported a 'wake' of water during their sighting. What is this?
9. Taking into account the various descriptions of Nessie, as seen by people in the reports above, give a description based on the common features.
10. While there were some scientists who were believers in the Loch Ness monster, the British Scientific Society would not believe in the monster's existence, despite numerous reports and photographs. Neither would they provide any money for research. Why do you think this was so? (*clue... they were evolutionists*)
11. In what way was the expedition in August 1972, (privately funded), a breakthrough?
12. In the report by David Catchpoole, he describes the sighting and video footage taken by Gordon Holmes. Why was this video unlikely to be fake?
13. In the theory of evolution, dinosaurs, which supposedly lived 65 million years ago, developed into other species, finally developing into the human form. Why would a living dinosaur found today be a blow to this theory?
14. What other living thing was thought to have died out 65 million years ago?
15. How old is the earth according to the Bible – thousands or millions of years?

God is Wise



How to find God's will for your life

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

1. State three areas of guidance in knowing God's will.
2. Describe briefly the three aspects of the heart as related to God's will.
3. Indicate how God's Word guides us.
4. Describe three ways that God uses providence to help us know His will.

Jesus loved to teach the truths of God's Word by using objects from nature and incorporating them into a story or parable. Similarly, God has incorporated into nature and life principles that parallel spiritual truths. One such principle is the means that God uses to guide us in determining His will for our lives. The principle is observed in the way that ships navigate from open water, through a narrow channel, and into the safety of an inland harbor. A vessel coming from the open ocean may first encounter a lighted outer marker buoy that shows the beginning of a deep water channel. As the ship proceeds, one or more lighted channel markers may be observed. These channel markers keep the ship on course so that it will not become grounded on a shoal. Finally, a distinctly marked harbor light assures the vessel that it has safely reached the port.

A ship must align itself so that each of its lights can be seen in a straight line with one just below the other. The harbor light would blink above the channel marker light, and the outer buoy marker would blink below the channel marker. If the ship were allowed to drift to one side or the other, the three blinking lights would be out of alignment—a visible warning to the ship's navigator. After passing the outer marker, the ship must still keep the two remaining marker lights in line, one under the other.

To demonstrate this principle to yourself, set three pencils on end about a foot apart, with the tallest in the rear, followed by a shorter one, and the smallest one in front. Stand two feet in front of the shortest pencil and watch with one eye closed as you move to the left and then to the right in front of the three pencils. Note how they become misaligned as you move out of the channel!

God has given us three markers to guide and keep us in the center channel of His will. The first outer marker is our own heart's desire.

The second channel marker is God's Word.

The third harbor marker is His providence, or circumstances arranged by Him on our behalf.

All three of God's navigational lights must be perfectly aligned for us to be in the center of His will. If any light is out of alignment, you will know that you are getting off course.

Bible reading

Read Romans 7:15–25; James 4:1–10; Philippians 4:8; 2:5, 13, and 15; and Romans 6:18–22.

The desire of the heart

The physical organ of the heart is often referred to figuratively when speaking of the real you which lives in your body. The desire to do God's will must originate within the desires of your own heart. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

When you are concerned about doing God's will, you must examine your heart's desires and motives to see if they are good or evil. The task of examining your heart can be compared to aligning your ship with the outer navigational marker.

Evil desires

God's Word tells us (Jeremiah 17:9) that, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" The Psalmist said (Psalm 139:23-24), "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Even after a person is saved from the penalty and power of sin, he is not yet removed from the presence of sin. The apostle Paul stated that he battled continually against sin in his members which caused him many times to fall short of perfect obedience to the law of God. James rebuked those believers who allowed sin to gain such ground in their lives that they were asking God for things that were against His will.

He exhorted them to cleanse their hands of sinful deeds, to purify their hearts from wrong desires, and to humble themselves so that they could return to the channel of God's perfect will. We must then examine our motives and heart's desires in seeking to know God's will for our lives.

Natural desires

Paul related to the Philippians that some things in this life are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and worthy of praise. A person's desire to pursue such vocations as sports, music, medicine, electronics, science, business, homemaking, or other truly honorable life styles, is good and worthy of praise. The natural desires to pursue such areas may not be in conflict with God's will. God may have given gifts and talents in these fields to bring glory to Him through their development and use. James tells us (James 1:17) that "every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..." God is the giver of all gifts and talents. Unbelievers, as well as Christians, have been blessed by God with natural talents and abilities. Paul reminds us in Romans 6, that although a Christian formerly may have used his bodily members as instruments for serving sinful purposes, he now is to dedicate them to God for holy purposes. When trying to discern God's will, one must distinguish between what may be our own good and natural desires and those given by God to direct us concerning life's decisions.

Do you want to do a particular thing because of your natural desires and preferences or because God has directed your desires? A course of action may not in itself be bad, but this fact does not necessarily make it the will of God for you. Likewise, something that is good in itself does not necessarily indicate that you should pursue it as God's will for your life. You must seek to know if the good you desire is God's specific will for you.

Godly desires

God promises to help you in both knowing and performing His will. You can be sure (Philippians 2:13) that "...it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The Lord has said to the Christian who desires to know His will (Psalm 32:8), "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go: I will guide you with my eye."

Before God can guide you into the center of His will, you must completely trust in, and rely upon, His guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths."

God wants you to take great pleasure and joy in allowing Him to guide you in your decisions so that your choices will coincide with His desires. The Psalmist understood this principle of God when he wrote (Psalm 37:4-5), "Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Godly desires come only from God Himself. Paul wrote to the Philippians to remind them to let the mind of Christ dwell in them. When you are willing to give up your own desires and ambitions for the desires which God has for you, then you will begin to experience God working in you to desire and do what He wills.

A believer who follows this course of action can claim the promise of 1 John 5:14-15, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

As you are completely willing to give your own personal desires into the Lord's hands, He is willing to give to you those desires that are pleasing to Him and suited to you. Then He can bless you and guide you in fulfilling His desires, which have now become your desires too! Your own personal and natural desires might possibly be those God has also chosen for you. However, only as you are able to yield your own desires to His perfect will for your life, can you be assured that your desires are also godly desires.

Activities

Answer true or false.

- 1.1 _____ A young person cannot fully know God's will.
- 1.2 _____ God has a specific plan for the lives of all those who know Him personally.
- 1.3 _____ We must determine to be obedient in doing God's will.
- 1.4 _____ The desire to do God's will must begin in your head.
- 1.5 _____ Natural and godly desires are always the same thing.

Complete these statements.

- 1.6 The will of the Father is that everyone who a. _____
on the Son has b. _____ life.
- 1.7 Paul stated that we should be able to comprehend with all saints what is the
a. _____, b. _____, c.
_____, and d. _____ of God's love in Christ to
us.
- 1.8 Out of the _____ proceed the issues of life.
- 1.9 A Christian is saved from the penalty and power of sin, but is not yet removed from the
_____ of sin.
- 1.10 Philippians tells us that it is God that worketh in us both to a. _____
and to b. _____ of His good pleasure.

Write the correct letter and answer on each line.

- 1.11 If we _____ ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of
our heart.
- a. discipline b. discover c. delight d. distinguish
- 1.12 God has a _____ will which embraces all mankind, and a specific
will for all who know Him personally.
- a. vindictive b. judgmental c. pleasant d. general
- 1.13 The Lord desires that we might be filled with all the _____ of
God.
- a. knowledge b. fullness c. wisdom d. righteousness

1.14 Every good and perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the _____ of lights.

- a. Father b. Lord c. Benefactor d. Love

Complete these activities.

1.15 Name the three types of desires that you can have in your heart.

- a. _____ b. _____
c. _____

1.16 List from Philippians 4:8 the six virtuous and praiseworthy “whatsoever’s” upon which believers are urged to think.

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____
f. _____

1.16 Write out either Proverbs 3:5 and 6 or Psalm 37:4 and 5

The Word of God

Read Psalm 119:9, 11, 15, 16, and 105; Ephesians 4:11–16; Proverbs 11:14 and 15; and Proverbs 15:22.

God honors His Word and has given it as a perfect revelation of His divine will. The writer of Hebrews says (Hebrews 4:12), “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Since your own heart may deceive you, the desires of your heart should be checked against the Word of God to see if they both agree. The Word also says (Deuteronomy 19:15) that at the mouth of two or three witnesses shall a matter be established. These witnesses would be comparable to the three navigational markers previously described. The Word of God is the second witness, or channel marker in discovering God’s will for your life. The Bible will help to keep you on course and in the center of His will.

Written guidance

Almost every item of any complexity purchased today comes with an owner’s operation manual which often includes repair instructions. God’s Word is His operation and repair

manual for man's own well-being on the earth. Since God created mankind, He knows how men should live and operate for maximum enjoyment of life and for His glory.

Before leading the entire nation of Israel into the Promised Land, Joshua was commanded by God (Joshua 1:8) to meditate day and night in the law of the Lord. Joshua's guidance of Israel was to be based upon divine wisdom imparted by God's Word. Job stated (Job 23:12) that he regarded God's Word as a greater necessity than his daily food. The Kings of Israel were also commanded to study and meditate in God's Word to guide their own lives, as well as those over whom they ruled.

The Psalmist likened God's Word to a lamp, or a modern flashlight, which shown in the darkness and revealed the pathway ahead. (Psalm 119:9) He also stated that the Word could cleanse or correct the direction of a person and bring him back into the center of God's will. God has revealed the greatest part of His will for you in His Word.

We would be foolish to ask God's permission to act in a way contrary to His will when He has already given us clear instructions in His own operation manual, the Bible. Since God has revealed a definite yes to some things and a definite no to others, we must check all things with His written Word.

As you seek to know God's will concerning problems and decisions, go immediately to God's Word for guidance.

Use a concordance—one that is located in the back of many Bibles— will help to locate those Scriptures that are related to the matter under consideration. (Or type in key words in the search on the internet, e.g. "Bible references to 'light'.

Read the entire context in which you find the verse so that you are sure that it applies in principle to your problem. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Remember, the Word of God is like a compass that can guide you into the security of God's will.

Oral guidance

God has provided ministries within the church to guide, teach, and build up Christians in the faith. When you are faced with a serious decision about which you have searched God's Word, the Lord will often give you further guidance or confirmation through the instrumentality of others. The Holy Spirit may take any part of a message preached, a Bible lesson taught, a conference or camp meeting, or a simple conversation and suit it to your particular situation or need. God will often direct such forms of guidance to you that you might further know that He loves, hears, and knows your needs.

The guidance obtained in this manner must be checked against the written Word of God, because the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God always agrees. As a means of confirming the written message, the Holy Spirit will often use men and women to speak the Word of God to you and bring it to bear on your particular problem. When the apostle Paul came to Berea and preached in the Jewish synagogue, the Bereans went immediately to the Scriptures to check what Paul preached concerning Jesus.

He commended them for their wisdom and use of the Word of God (see Acts 17:10-12).

Thus, the word which Paul preached orally was supported by the written Word. The guidance you receive should also be supported by the written Word. The written Word can confirm the spoken word, and the spoken word can confirm the written Word. However, the written revelation of God always takes precedence in every situation. Anything that is contrary to God's Word is sin.

Personal guidance

God has stated in His Word that there is much safety in seeking guidance through counselors. Often the advice of more than one person is necessary to be assured of unbiased counsel. Safe counsel can be gained by choosing several Christians who are spiritually mature and whose opinions are respected. God knows that some decisions in life are of such magnitude that clarification can be obtained through other Christians. The Holy Spirit can minister to you through others when necessary.

Life's major decisions often include a vocational possibility, the choice of a marriage partner, or an educational decision. In choosing a marriage partner, your strong feelings and emotional involvement may make an objective decision difficult. The Word of God might not appear to be giving you a green light or red light on the matter. At this point, the objective advice of other mature Christians concerning your choice is invaluable. God may choose to give you direction through them, since they can view the situation with your best interests in mind apart from emotional attachment.

To benefit from such guidance, through godly counselors, you must be honestly willing to listen to their advice. Remember that opinions, advice, or counsel are not direct commands, but merely provide added insight. You must decide what to do with it. Thus, the second main navigational beacon for guidance is God's Word, whether by the written revelation, the spoken word, or personal counsel based on the Word. You may well benefit from all three, but in the final analysis the decision remains between you and the Lord. If you will stay in the proper channel, you will arrive at God's will more quickly.

Activities

Write the correct letter and answer on each line.

1.19 The written revelation of God must always take _____ in every situation.

- a. a back seat b. a minor role c. a small part d. precedence

1.20 God has provided _____ within the church to guide, teach, and build up Christians in their faith.

- a. ministries b. programs c. classrooms d. advisors

1.21 The Lord will often give you further guidance or _____ through the instrumentality of others.

- a. discipline b. confrontation c. confirmation d. deception

Complete these statements.

1.22 Three possibilities of guidance discussed in this section are a. _____
guidance, b. _____ guidance, and c. _____
guidance.

1.23 God has revealed the greatest part of His will in His _____ .

1.24 You can locate Scriptures that are related to a problem you may have with the help of
a _____ or the internet.

1.25 Safe counsel is usually assured if you seek guidance from several _____
Christians.

Match these items.

- 1.26 _____ Hebrews
1.27 _____ second channel marker
1.28 _____ Joshua
1.29 _____ the psalmist
1.30 _____ context and intents of the heart
1.31 _____ Bereans
1.32 _____ first channel marker
1.33 _____ Job

- a. checked Paul's message with the Scriptures
- b. the desire of your heart
- c. was told to meditate on God's Law
- d. says the Word of God discerns the thoughts
- e. God's Word is more important than food
- f. the sections before and after a verse which determine its exact meaning
- g. the providence of God
- h. described the Word of God as a lamp
- i. the Word of God
- i. oral guidance

Test

Write the correct letter and answer in the blank.

1.01 The Scriptures state that out of the _____ proceed the issues of life.

- a. tongue b. mind c. heart d. thoughts

1.02 God has a general will which embraces all mankind and a _____ will for all who know Him personally.

- a. vague b. specific c. different d. pleasant

1.03 In every situation the _____ revelation of God must always take precedence.

- a. spoken b. oral c. written d. general

1.04 You may find it difficult trusting the desire of your heart for guidance because of your _____ involvement.

- a. intellectual b. willful c. emotional d. parents

1.05 Further guidance or _____ often comes from the Lord through other people.

- a. confirmation b. deception c. confrontation d. discipline

1.06 You can find help in locating Scriptures that are related to your particular problem in a _____ .

- a. commentary b. concordance or internet c. Bible dictionary d. Bible atlas

1.07 The meaning of a verse is determined by the _____ .

- a. content b. length c. context d. consideration

1.08 God has revealed the greatest part of His will through _____ .

- a. His Word b. nature c. preachers d. Christian related books

1.09 The guidance of the Word of God and _____ always agrees.

- a. mature Christians b. ministers c. the Holy Spirit d. counselors

1.010 That God works in us both to will and to do His good pleasure is stated in _____ .

- a. Philippians b. Ephesians c. Romans d. 1 Corinthians

Complete these statements.

1.011 If we _____ ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart.

1.012 Every good and perfect _____ is from above and comes down from the Father of lights.

1.013 We should be able to comprehend with all saints what is the length, breadth, depth, and height of God's _____ in Christ to us.

God is a Servant



What Does it Mean to Be a Servant of God

What is a faithful servant?

In the New Testament, the word for “servant” that is most commonly used is the Greek word “doulos,” which means “to bind.” It also came to mean “one who gives himself up to the will of another,” and became the most common word for “servant” in general without any idea of bondage attached to it; basically, a “willing slave.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary)

The Apostle Paul calls himself a “bondslave of Jesus Christ” (Rom. 1:1), indicating that having been bought by Christ, he had now become a willing slave, binding himself to his new Master, Jesus.

What are The Qualities of a Faithful Servant of God?

While each of these faithful servants is different in their own ways, they all share certain qualities or characteristics that set them apart from everyone else.

Characteristics of a faithful servant

A faithful servant is obedient

A servant of the Lord is someone who obeys the Lord. This means serving where he directs. It also means not serving as he directs. There are many times when we feel we should take on a certain ministry because others expect it of us, (or we expect it of ourselves!), but just because an opportunity is good, doesn’t mean it’s ours.

A faithful servant is humble

A servant of God has a humble attitude. True humility is not thinking less of ourselves than others, it’s simply not considering ourselves at all. It means not chasing after accolades, approval or even appreciation. Our focus is on what we can give to others, not what we’re trying to get for ourselves.

A faithful servant is sacrificial

A servant of God is willing to submit their own plans, desires and rights to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Going where He leads often comes at a cost, but a servant of God pays it willingly.

A faithful servant keeps their focus on God

A servant of God keeps their eyes fixed on the character of God, trusting in His goodness no matter the circumstances. Many times in life, the authenticity of our servant heart will be evidenced simply by our heart’s posture as we walk through trials.

A faithful servant is motivated by love

1 Corinthians 13 is clear that no matter what our giftings or areas of service, if not motivated by genuine love, we are but a clanging noise.

“If I speak in tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

Serving God in whatever form must be motivated by love. It’s interesting that the first two descriptors of love in this chapter is that love “is patient” and love “is kind.” The rest of the chapter describes what love looks like in action, but only these two words are used to define what love is. However, we are serving God, may our heart’s true intention always be patient and kind.

A faithful servant serves where needed

Are we willing to serve where help is needed, and just only where we prefer or feel comfortable? Are we willing to serve in the quiet, unnoticeable, and often unappreciated or unacknowledged ways?

Maybe it looks like making sure the garbage gets taken out, or doing the cleaning up. Or maybe it looks like praying for someone, offering a listening ear and compassionate shoulder to someone who needs encouragement.

Whatever it is, when the Holy Spirit prompts you to offer yourself in a way that’s inconvenient, a servant of God will do it anyway, with patience and kindness.

A faithful servant is willing to suffer for Christ

When Jesus said to take up our cross and follow him, he was asking us to count the cost because he knew there would be one. Loving without condition is risky. Following Jesus leads to rejection and persecution from the world. Grace will be taken for granted. It doesn’t just cost us our own agendas, it costs our comfort, our pride, and in some cases, our very lives.

Paul said it first in Romans 8:17

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

If we truly want to be servants of God, then we must understand and expect that it will come at a cost.

Examples of Servants in the Bible

Hebrews chapter 11 is often referred to as the 'Faithful Servant Hall of Fame' because it lists men throughout history who God commended for their faithfulness. But there are many poignant examples of faithful servants throughout scripture who beautifully illustrate these qualities.

Here is a wonderful list of faithful servants in the Bible.

Abraham

Abraham obeyed God, even when it didn't make sense. Even when it came at great cost. Abraham was willing to sacrifice what was most precious to him, his home, even his beloved son, to follow God and trust in His plans. (Genesis 12-22)

Job

Job kept his eyes fixed on God, trusting in His goodness and sovereignty despite the depth of his suffering. When everyone around him let him down, (even his own wife!), he never wavered in his faithfulness to God, and his hope in Him. (Job 1-42)

Samuel

Samuel was quick to answer God's call, presenting himself as a willing servant at the mention of his name. He was willing to serve God in whatever way he was asked, and did it with a humble and grateful heart. (1 Samuel 3)

Mary

When Mary was visited by an angel, telling her that she would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to God's son, her response was "Behold the slave of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38). When Mary said this, she knew she would pay a great price. At best, her reputation would be destroyed, at worst, she was risking her very life since the law would sanction her stoning. But she trusted God's purposes for her, no matter the cost. (Luke 1:26-38)

Paul

Paul served God faithfully by preaching the gospel wherever and whenever the Lord directed him. He kept his eyes fixed on Christ and his mission of truth in love even through great trial and persecution, ultimately giving his life for the gospel. It was Paul who most clearly defined for us in scripture what it means to be a servant of Christ, and demonstrated it relentlessly in his own life. (Romans 1:1)

Jesus

Jesus was undeniable, the clearest and most beautiful example of true servanthood we have to emulate.

"Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son also does." (John 5:19)

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death- even death on a cross!” (Phillipians 2:6-8)

Jesus, though he was God himself incarnate, submitted himself completely to the will of his Father, becoming a servant, a willing slave, the very incarnation of love itself. Patient, kind, long-suffering, forgiving, he gave himself for us. Even unto death. Even death on a cross. And he did it by choice.

How can we be faithful servants of God

Being a servant of God is not defined by what we do, but by who we are. It is not about the productivity of hands, but a posture of heart. Many times, serving God will involve actual work, but if the work is not prompted by the Holy Spirit and carried out in true love and humility, it is merely an empty task of vainglory.

Being a faithful servant of God is less about what we are doing, and more about why we are doing it, how are we doing it, and who we are doing it for? If our honest answers to these questions reflect the definition of love we find in 1 Corinthians 13, then we are truly servants of God.

<https://bloggersforthe kingdom.com/examples-of-faithful-servants-in-the-bible/>

Activities

Make a study of the Biblical servants listed above. (We have already covered Abraham in Term 1, so no need to do further study on Abraham.)

Begin with Samuel as follows, then choose at least one more Biblical servant from the list and make your own study using the Bible.

Samuel

During the period of the judges, Israel’s sanctuary worship and service had ceased, their priesthood was corrupted, and idolatry was widely practiced. The continuing corruption of the priesthood was portrayed in the beginning of the first book of Samuel by the godlessness and wicked deeds of the sons of Eli. During this period of deep spiritual decline and disintegration of the theocracy, God raised up Samuel and used him to restore the theocracy and to establish the monarchy—the kingdom of Israel.

Read 1 Samuel 1 and 19

His birth. Samuel was born in Ramah (short for Ramathaim-zophim, 1 Samuel 1:1 and 19) to Hannah and Elkanah. In response to the prayer of barren Hannah at Shiloh and her promise to give the child to the Lord “all the days of his life” as a Nazarite (1:11), God gave to Hannah

a son. She called her son Samuel, which means asked of God. Faithful to her promise (and God), Hannah brought Samuel to Shiloh as soon as he was weaned—old enough to be separated from his mother.

His call. God appeared to the young man Samuel at Shiloh and issued to him a special call. First, He spoke to Samuel in a voice so clearly calling him by name that Samuel thought he heard the voice of Eli calling. After the third repetition of God's voice calling Samuel by name and Samuel's response to Eli (thinking each time that Eli was the one who called), Eli realized the source of Samuel's call. He instructed Samuel to respond to the divine voice (3:9): "Speak, LORD; for thy servant is listening."

God then announced judgment upon Israel and upon the house of Eli (3:11-14). God had confirmed Samuel's priestly ministry and called him to a prophetic ministry.

Samuel's ministry

The early years of Samuel's life and ministry were devoted to priestly duties in the Tabernacle as an assistant to Eli. By His call to Samuel, God both confirmed his priestly ministry and called him to a prophetic ministry.

Read 1 Samuel 2

Eli recognized the divine origin of Samuel's call and resigned himself to the judgment upon his house that God had first pronounced by the man of God (2:27-36). Note also the prophetic references in 2:32 and 3:11, which probably refer to the approaching invasion of the Philistines, who carried away the Ark of the Covenant. Samuel's first prophetic responsibility, then, was to convey to Eli God's message of judgment upon his house and upon Israel; "and all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD."

Read 1 Samuel 3

The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in a special way. As a judge, Samuel represented Israel's past history; as a prophet, he represented a new state of affairs in Israel. Samuel was appointed to oversee implementation of the kingdom and to regulate the changes that would result. One confirmation of a prophet was the fulfillment of his predictions. First, Samuel's ministry as a prophet was confirmed to Eli by the source and content of his call (3:8 and 16-18).

Read 1 Samuel 4

Second, his ministry as a prophet was confirmed to Eli and to all Israel by the Philistine victory over Israel at the battle of Aphek (4:1-22). The sons of Eli were killed because of their wickedness; the Ark of the Covenant was taken by the Philistines; and Eli, the high priest and judge of Israel for forty years, died (1 Samuel 4:11, 17-18).

Read 1 Samuel 6

Because of the presence of His Ark in Ashdod, Jehovah brought judgment upon the Philistines and their god, Dagon, causing the Philistines to return the Ark to Israel (you should be familiar with the details of this event recorded in 6:1-12).

Read 1 Samuel 7

Samuel's ministry as judge is recorded in chapter 7. He called Israel back to the Lord from idolatry (7:3-6). The Lord then delivered Israel from the Philistines by the ministry of Samuel (7:7-12). Notice also the promise of the Lord by the man of God (2:35): "And I will raise up a faithful priest, who shall do according to that which is in my heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before my anointed forever."

The immediate reference here is probably to Samuel, whose call came immediately after the warning to Eli. Surely Samuel did fit the description God gave (2:35) "...a faithful priest, that who do according to that which is in my heart and in my mind..."

The history of Samuel's ministry reveals that he filled the gap as priestly mediator between God and His people. His anointing of Saul, the first king, and David, the king of the everlasting covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16), were in fulfillment of these words (2:35): "...and he shall walk before my anointed forever..." The last expression,

"forever," suggests a line of faithful priests including Samuel and culminating in Christ.

Samuel's ministry also included being a judge. (1 Samuel 7:6). He was the last of the judges and the first of the prophets, and he had a continuing priestly ministry (7:5 and 8-9).

Complete the following statements.

1.1 The books of 1 and 2 Samuel were originally written as _____ .

1.2 The books of Samuel were first a. _____ in the Septuagint, the oldest b. _____ translation of the c. _____ Scriptures.

1.3 The content of the books of Samuel includes (in correct order)

a. _____,

b. _____,

and

c. _____ .

1.4 Three marks of Israel's deep spiritual decline during the years of the judges were

a. _____

b. _____,

and c. _____ .

1.5 In the beginning of the first book of Samuel, the continuing corruption of the priesthood was demonstrated by _____

1.6 God raised up Samuel and used him to restore the a. _____
and to establish the b. _____.

1.7 Samuel was born in Ramah to a. _____ and b. _____.

1.8 The name Samuel means “ _____.”

1.9 Faithful to her promise when she prayed for a son, Hannah returned Samuel to the Lord at _____ as soon as he was old enough to be separated from her.

1.10 When he realized the source of Samuel’s call, Eli instructed Samuel to answer:

“ _____.”

1.11 By His call to Samuel, God both a. _____
and b. _____.

1.12 Samuel was the last a. _____ and the first b. _____.

1.13 To be sure that the God of Israel was judging them, the Philistines placed the Ark of the Covenant on a a. _____ drawn by two b. _____
with their c. _____ shut up at home.

1.14 The Lord delivered Israel from the Philistines by the ministry of _____.

Answer true or false.

1.15 _____ The Ark was taken straight to the border of the land of Israel.