



# The Bible Banner

Celebrating 10 years  
November 2023

## Who hath despised the Day of Small Things?

**Zechariah 4:10a**



George Washington Carver, a Christian and “one of the most prominent black scientists of the early 20th century” tells the simple means God used for his conversion.



*“I was just a mere boy when converted, hardly ten years old. There isn't much of a story to it. God just came into my heart one afternoon while I was alone in the 'loft' of our big barn while I was shelling corn to carry to the mill to be ground into meal.*

*“A dear little white boy, one of our neighbors, about my age came by one Saturday morning, and in talking and playing he told me he was going to Sunday school tomorrow morning. I was eager to know what a Sunday school was. He said they sang hymns and prayed. I asked him what prayer was and what they said. I do not remember what he said; only remember that as soon as he left I climbed up into the 'loft,' knelt down by the barrel of corn and prayed as best I could. I do not remember what I said.*

***I only recall that I felt so good that I prayed several times before I quit...***

*“That was my simple conversion, and I have tried to keep the faith.”* —G. W. Carver; Letter to Isabelle Coleman; July 24, 1931

### French Toast

1 pkg. silken tofu, extra firm      2-3 Tbsp sweetener  
3 Tbsp olive oil      Soy, Oat or Flaxseed Bread  
Soy milk (preferably organic)

Place tofu, sweetener and oil in the blender. Fill with soy milk to 3 cups. Blend. Dip bread in mixture, fry on PREHEATED nonstick pan or iron skillet. Flip over and fry on the other side.

Yield: Approximately 20 pieces. (Note: We often make this ahead and then just warm it for a simple Sabbath Breakfast)



### QUOTABLE QUOTES

**“We may easily  
be too big for  
God to use, but  
never too small.”**

--Dwight L. Moody

### PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

**CULTIVATE THANKFULNESS** - A Thanksgiving Eve vespers is a great way to begin, by singing hymns of thanksgiving and reading thankful verses from the Bible.



On Thanksgiving Day, our tradition is to go around the table and everyone gets to name something for which they are thankful for every year of their life. For example, if you are 30 you would have to name 30 things. For small children you may also create a Basketful of Blessings with paper fruit and write the things you are thankful for on the fruit.



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Or visit us at: [www.biblepicturepathways.com](http://www.biblepicturepathways.com) or [www.swiftrunnerministries.com](http://www.swiftrunnerministries.com)



## Little Differences

Editor's Note and Study to Show Thyself Approved

Oh, the difference little things can make. A little nail can make a tire go flat, a missing spark plug can keep an engine from starting, a little bird can crash a plane, and a single typo can make a Bible "Wicked."

For instance, in May of 2022, The Guardian reported, *"An extremely rare bible famous for an unfortunate error that encourages adultery has been discovered in New Zealand. The 1631 'Wicked' Bible, as it has become known, omits the word 'not' from its seventh commandment, informing readers 'thou shalt commit adultery'. One thousand copies of the text, which also came to be known as the Adulterous or Sinners' Bible, were printed, with the error only discovered a year later.*

*"Upon discovery of the mistake, the printers Robert Barker and Martin Lucas were summoned by King Charles I and hauled before the court, where they were admonished for the scandalous typo and sloppy workmanship. They were stripped of their printing licence, had a £300 fine held over their heads for years (though it was eventually quashed) and most of the texts were destroyed. Only about 20 remain in circulation."*<sup>1</sup>

Just as a small typo in the Bible can cause a distinct change in meaning, in the Christian sloppy workmanship in little things like erroneous words and thoughts "will eat as doth a canker" (2 Timothy 2:17) eventually, causing a shipwreck of faith (1 Tim. 1:19). The Bible makes clear that before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ there will be an antichrist power and great apostasy. We are told, *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils,"* 1 Timothy 4:1 In addition, 2 Thessalonians 2:3 warns, *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away [Greek—apostasias] first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"*

God has permitted apostasies to take place in order to show how little dependence can be placed in man. As, through the years, I have observed so many apostatize from truth, even those who once seemed strong in the Lord, I have wondered why. What causes people to give up the truth? And how can I avoid those pitfalls?

In the Bible we find examples of those who apostatized: Israel at the border of the promised land, Nadab and Abihu, Saul, Ananias and Sapphira, Demas (2 Tim. 4:10), followers of Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim. 2:17,18), etc. The reasons seem quite numerous: fear, intemperance, jealousy and stubbornness, love of money, living for the present world, and looking to and following man, etc. However, often we find, it is really just little things that seem to grow bigger and bigger that cause people to apostatize. For example, one study found that the top reason people leave and go back to the world is *"Perceived hypocrisy in other members."*<sup>2</sup> Many allow people who are so small compared to the Almighty, Omnipresent God to draw them away from God. Sadly, hypocrisy and nominal Christians often also keep people from ever becoming Christians. For example, the story is told of a young lady who went to a rescue mission to help out with the inquirers who would respond to the gospel. As she approached one derelict in order to help him make a decision for Christ, he said to her, *"Do you play cards, or dance, or go to the theater, or drink socially?"*

"No, not anymore," she replied.

"Well, then you may talk to me; but I will not listen to one word from you 'fine Christian folks' who are doing on a small scale the very things that brought me a poor wretch to where I am."

Indeed, supposedly "small" things can eventually cause apostasy. If we study Jesus' parable of the sower, He gives a strikingly accurate overview of the whole picture of why people apostatize. Luke 8:11 reveals, *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."* As the sower sows the seeds of truth, the seed falls on many different kinds of soil, representing many different kinds of hearts.

Some of the seed *"fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it."* Luke 8:5 Jesus interpreted, *"Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."* Luke 8:12 Here we find those whose heart is *"hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."* Hebrews 3:13 The hearers do not discern that the gospel message applies to them. Before the gospel message can sink in, its ability to sprout is trodden down or devoured by the devil and his hypocritical, fanatical, or unkind human agents. Sometimes this is caused by conflict with supposed "Christians" or even doubts coming from higher criticism in a pastor as described in Jeremiah 12:10, *"Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness."* In order to avoid this pitfall, remember man is small, and God is big. Don't let a little person or their finite opinions obscure your view of Jesus. Consider, if you let a hypocrite come between you and God, he is closer to God than you are.



Rare 'Wicked' bible that encourages adultery discovered in New Zealand

First copy of the 1631 bible, which mistakenly reads 'thou shalt commit adultery', to be found in the southern hemisphere



A copy of the extremely rare 1631 Wicked Bible, which tells readers 'thou shalt commit adultery' has been found in New Zealand. Photograph: Sarah Askey © University of Canterbury



Then there are those who fall away because of stony ground. The Bible records, *"And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away."* Mark 4:5,6 Luke 8:6 adds, *"it withered away, because it lacked moisture."* Jesus interpreted, *"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation [affliction-Mark 4:17] or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."* Matthew 13:20,21 So the stony ground hearers look like they are flourishing for a while until they begin to feel the heat, in other words, something bad happens to them. Not just persecution, but affliction or tribulation. The "apostasy" study we have referenced actually lists *"marital difficulties"* and *"lack of friends"* as the second and third most common causes that people leave the truth. *"Divorce"* and *"death of a parent"* or *"other family member"* also were listed.<sup>2</sup> Sadly, we have met some of these people in the past. One man said he still had a mental assent to truth, he just didn't like God anymore because he felt God had allowed all these bad things to happen to him. A certain woman whose child died had similar sentiments, saying that she had done so much for God, how could he allow this to happen to her child. The stony ground exposes those who allow little problems or even larger, but really temporary problems (as opposed to the eternal- Rom. 8:18) to become so all-consuming and insurmountable that they "stumble" and fall away from God. This happens because there is no root. Sadly, they do not understand God's love. Ephesians 3:17b-19 says, *"that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*



In contrast to understanding that whatever our loving God allows/wills has a purpose to save someone somewhere, *"A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel. By such a one service is looked upon as drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully, and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance. If he dared, such a one would disobey. His rebellion is smothered, ready to break out at any time in bitter murmurings and complaints. Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul."*<sup>3</sup> Therefore, to avoid stumbling stones, it would be well to heed the counsel to the Colossians for *"stedfastness of... faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."* Colossians 2:5b-7

And then there are the thorny ground hearers. Jesus said, *"And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."* Luke 8:14 Balaam, Demas, Judas, Ananias, and Sapphira all were among this group. Sin was not completely uprooted in their life. *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* 1Timothy 6:10

Recently, I heard a lady tell about how when she was a little girl and her mother told her to go weed in the garden, she would take a pair of scissors and cut the weeds instead of pulling them. Of course, this only looks like it works for a short period of time. The job is not done thoroughly. Little bits of weed (sin) are left to spring back to life. Likewise, *"It is one of Satan's most successful devices, to lead men to the commission of little sins, to blind the mind to the danger of little indulgences, little digressions from the plainly stated requirements of God. Many who would shrink with horror from some great transgression, are led to look upon sin in little matters as of trifling consequence. But these little sins eat out the life of godliness in the soul. The feet which enter upon a path diverging from the right way are tending toward the broad road that ends in death. When once a retrograde movement begins, no one can tell where it may end..."*<sup>4</sup> In addition, God's directive in Numbers 33:52,55 gives us some insight into the thorny ground. *"Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places.. But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell."* Wickedness not uprooted in our lives will grow back and choke us like the thorns in the parable. Indeed, *"Pride, ambition, deceit, hatred, selfishness, must be cleansed from the heart. With many, these evil traits are partially subdued, but not thoroughly uprooted from the heart. Under favorable circumstances they spring up anew, and ripen into rebellion against God. Here lies a terrible danger. To spare any sin is to cherish a foe that only awaits an unguarded moment to cause our ruin."*<sup>5</sup>

If we would be the good ground, non-apostatizing hearers let us heed Missionary Hudson Taylor's excellent advice: *"Let us give up our work, our plans, ourselves, our lives, our loved ones, our influence, our all, right into [God's] hand; and then, when we have given all [even the little things] over to Him, there will be nothing left for us to be troubled about."* Indeed, Martin Luther records, *"I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."*

1—Screenshot <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/02/rare-wicked-bible-that-encourages-adultery-discovered-in-new-zealand> 2— <https://www.adventistarchives.org/why-did-they-leave.pdf>  
3- ST, July 22, 1897 par. 11 4- Signs of the Times, Sept. 7, 1882 <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/ST/ST18820907-V08-34.pdf#search=1882> 5— ST, February 8, 1883 par. 5



## Prophetic News Notes – Little Confirmations of the Sure Word

With all the signs of the times fulfilling, *“wars and rumours of wars,”* et cetera, sometimes we forget to notice the little things that add up and confirm that indeed, *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed ...”* 2 Peter 1:19

Today, we *“Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:”* Job 12:7

Recently, some scientist wanted to know, where do humans rank on the scale of scariness among mammals? To test, they set up *“motion-triggered automated behavioral response systems”* in order to *“record video of passing mammals as they respond to a mix of sounds on a spectrum from potentially scary to harmless. The researchers attached recorders and audio speakers to trees near 21 water holes, habitats that thirsty animals are reluctant to leave during the dry season, when the research took place. The devices ran 24 hours a day for six weeks, playing clips of sound types in random order when triggered by movement. The benign sounds — the control in the experiment — were the songs of local birds. The more threatening sounds were dogs barking, gunshots, lions snarling and growling, and humans talking calmly”*<sup>1</sup> in a variety of different languages.

*“Researchers analyzed thousands of video recordings to reveal a hierarchy of fear in a suite of mammals living in and around Kruger National Park in South Africa. **While lions have been nicknamed the king of beasts, the videos show that for wild mammals on the savanna — from tiny antelopes to massive elephants — the scariest, most lethal predator of all is us.**”*<sup>1</sup> One leopard was even recorded dropping and deserting its recent catch at the sound of a human voice.

*“Analysing about 15,000 videos, scientists found that animals were twice as likely to run and abandon waterholes in response to hearing humans compared to hearing lions or hunting sounds.*

*“About 95 per cent of species – including giraffes, leopards, hyenas, zebras, kudu, warthog, impala, elephants and rhinoceroses – ran more often or abandoned waterholes faster in response to humans than in response to lions, the study noted.”*<sup>2</sup>

*“The sound of human voices, the researchers found, evokes more fear than the sounds of snarling and growling lions. This underlines that our species is recognized as uniquely dangerous, ‘because we are super lethal,’ said Michael Clinchy, a conservation biologist at Western University in London, Ontario.”*<sup>1</sup>

The researchers stated, *“The fear of humans is ingrained and pervasive...”*<sup>2</sup> This establishes the validity of God's word in Genesis 9:2, *“And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.”*

There was one exception to the study, however. An article in the *Independent* states, *“As for the lions of Kruger, they appeared unmoved by the human interlopers using their snarls for science.*

*“Once, departing by truck after two hours assembling and elephant-proofing a recorder, Clinchy and Zanette realized that lions had secretly been making their own field observations of them. ‘This female lion from across the water hole stood up from the grass and walked away,’ Zanette said. ‘She was there the whole time!’”*<sup>2</sup>

This again confirms the biblical record, because Proverbs 30:30 records, *“A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;”* This reminds us of our high calling as Christians, for it is written, *“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:1”*



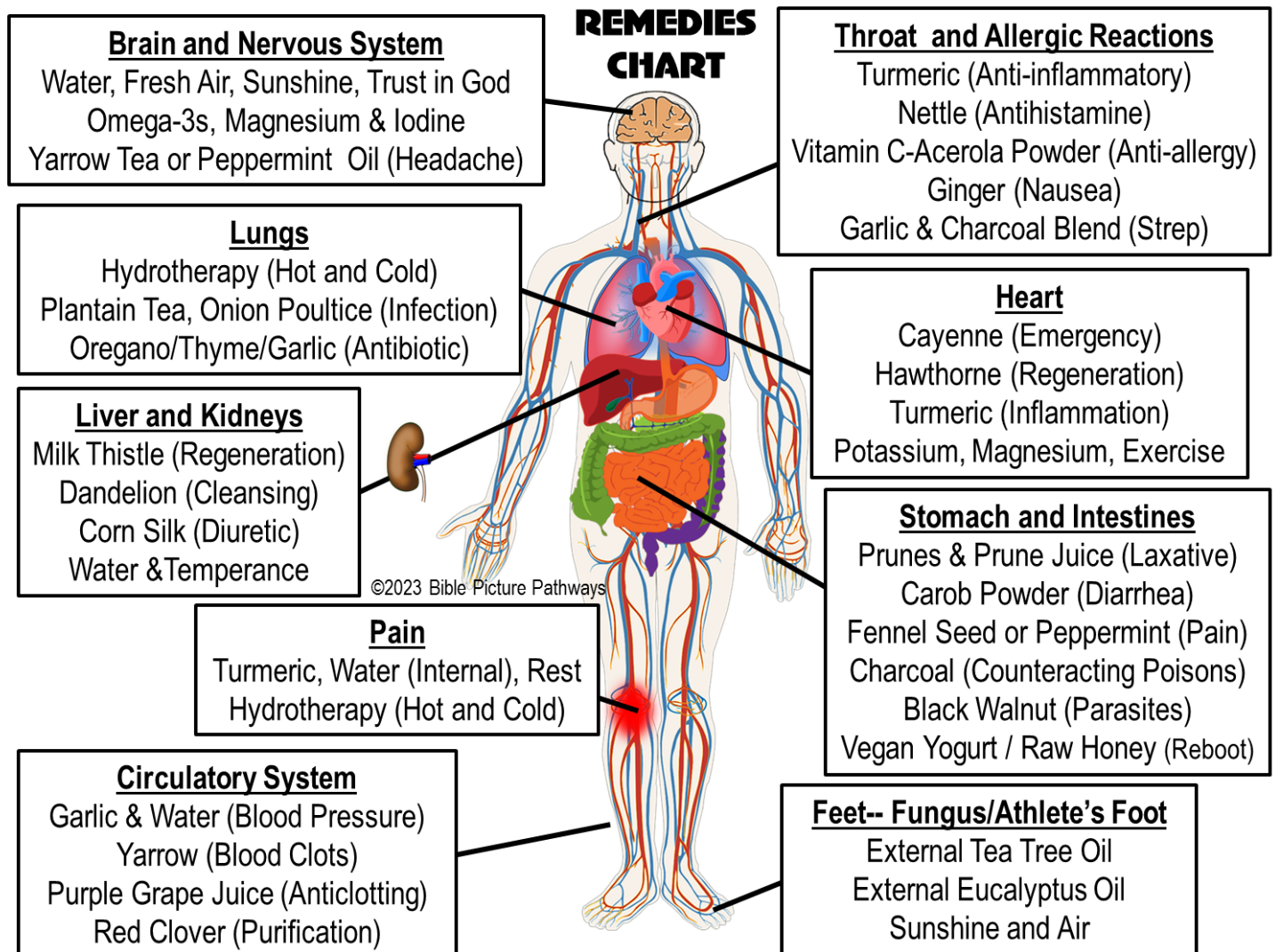
1- <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/watch-how-animals-react-to-the-scariest-sound-on-the-savanna/#:~:text=The%20contrast%20in%20flight%20response,of%20there%2C%E2%80%9D%20Clinchy%20said.>

2—screenshot <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/human-voices-scarier-lions-african-savannah-b2425246.html>





## Little Remedies for Big Problems



*"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habbakuk 2:2*



## The Houseboy's Idea

A Christian baroness, living in the highlands of Nairobi, Kenya, told of a young national who was employed as her houseboy. After three months he asked the baroness to give him a letter of reference to a friendly sheik some miles away.

The baroness, not wishing the houseboy to leave just when he had learned the routine of the household, offered to increase his pay. The lad replied that he was not leaving for higher pay. Rather, he had decided he would become either a Christian or a Moslem. This was why he had come to work for the baroness for three months. He had wished to see how Christians acted. Now he wanted to work for three months for the sheik to observe the ways of the Moslems. Then he would decide which way of life he would follow.

The baroness was stunned as she recalled her many blemishes in her dealings with the houseboy.

She could only exclaim, "Why didn't you tell me at the beginning?!"



Are there "little things" you would do differently if you knew someone was making a decision for or against following Christ by observing your actions? Indeed, our actions ARE observed and the coming King is at the door. He says, *"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12*

It is wise for us then to take heed to not only what we do, but also what we leave undone in our dealings with "the least." *"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." Matthew 25:40, 45*

## Kids' Corner

### God's Amazing Creatures



Bee Hummingbirds are the smallest bird species, and they live on the island of Cuba. The females are 2 3/8 inches (6.1 cm) long and the males are 2 1/8 inches (5.5 cm) long. That's close to the size of two US quarters laid side-by-side. They feed on nectar from flowers and sometimes eat insects and spiders. While females are mostly bluish-green and pale gray, male Bee Hummingbirds have a bluish back, grayish-white front, and an iridescent gorget. The gorget is the brightly colored throat patch that changes color depending on the lighting. Don't you think God made this small creature with so many beautiful details?

**O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 118:29**

Match the correct Bible verse to the things people were thankful for in the story.



John 11:41b

1 Corinthians 15:57

Luke 17:15,16

Acts 27:35

Daniel 2:23

1 Thessalonians 1:2,3

Matthew 26:27

1 Thessalonians 2:13



**God hears our prayers**



**People who Help**



**Wisdom from God**

