

Some years ago a woman went to consult a famous New York physician about her health. She was a woman of nervous temperament. She gave the doctor a list of her symptoms and answered his questions, only to be astonished at his brief prescription at the end: "Go home, and read your Bible an hour every day; then come back to me a month from today." And with a motion from his hand he bowed her out before she could protest. At first she was inclined to be angry; then she reflected that the prescription was not an expensive one. She went home determined to read conscientiously her neglected Bible. In a month she went back to the doctor's office a different person, and asked him how he knew that was just what she needed. For answer, the physician turned to his desk. There, worn and marked, lay an open Bible. "Madam," he said, "If I were to omit my daily reading of this Book I would lose my greatest source of strength and skill."

#### Lemon Chia Seed Muffin Tops

½ cup quick oats 1½ cup flour (I use white winter wheat)

1/2 cup lemon juice 1/2 cup organic soymilk or nutmilk 1/3 tsp salt 1/3 cup olive oil (light)

1 cup dehydrated cane juice or organic sugar

1 Tbsp chia seeds A dash of turmeric for color

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Mix the ingredients together in a bowl. Pour mixture into the bottom of 18 prepared muffin cups. Bake for approximately 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cool for five minutes and then invert cake minis onto a cookie sheet. Eat in moderation (Philippians 4:5).



#### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

"All things desirable to men are contained in the Bible."-- Abraham Lincoln

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years."-- Charles Spurgeon

## PROFITABLE TRADITIONS CULTIVATE Heavenly Mindedness (Isaiah 26:3, 4)

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119:11 "The very <u>first step in the path to life is to keep the mind stayed on God</u>, to have his fear continually before the eyes." (Signs of the Times, Feb. 7, 1884)

As a fun family activity to practice keeping your thoughts on heavenly things, try to come up with a Bible text to go with everything you do. For example, say at breakfast, you eat a fruit parfait. This could be "who satisfieth thy mouth with good things" (Ps. 103:5) or "the fruit of the spirit is..." (Gal. 5:22) As an orange is passed to you, you might choose "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: " (Gen. 2:16) What about a food not directly mentioned in the Bible? You might paraphrase the words of Jesus, "I have meat... that ye know not of...' to do the will of God and to finish His work." (John 4:32, 34) (Note: You may have to settle for remembering the gist of the verse and not necessarily quoting wordfor-word.) But this is a good way to train your brain to sift things by the Bible, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:5b



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## The Power and Authenticity of the Bible

**Editor's Note and Study to Show Thyself Approved** 

A man from a certain Bible Society tried to give a New Testament to a very belligerent man. The man insisted he would roll the pages and use them to make cigarettes. The Bible Society man said, "I understand that, but at least promise to read the page of the New Testament before you smoke it." The man agreed, and the two went their separate ways.

Fifteen years later, the two men met at a convention in Zimbabwe. The Scripture-smoking pagan had been converted and was now a full-time evangelist. He told the audience, "I smoked Matthew, and I smoked Mark, and I smoked Luke. But when I got to John 3:16, I couldn't smoke anymore. My life was changed from that moment." Indeed, as the evangelist D. L. Moody stated,

"The Bible was not given [just] for our information, but for our transformation."

God's book is more than just words on paper! Many men and women have found their way both in this life and the life to come through the precepts of God's word. For example, George Washington Carver, a well-known agricultural scientist and inventor, stated, "The secret of my success? It is simple. It is found in the Bible, 'In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."" (Proverbs 3:6)"

Isaac Newton, another famous scientist, also commented on the Bible, "There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible that in any profane history."

For example, "The Bible has an amazing unity even though it was written...

- Over a span of roughly 1,500 years In three different languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic)
  - By over 40 different writers of many different occupations (shepherds, kings, priests, scholars, fishermen, and prophets)
- From 3 different continents (Europe, Asia, and Africa)... Yet, there is one central message consistently carried by all the writers of the Bible: SALVATION. God, who created us all, desires a relationship with us. He calls us to know Him and trust Him."

We also find that "Many historical figures are identified in the pages of God's Word. Conservative lists include more than 100 biblical characters that can be conclusively identified within secular history.

Here are three (of many) Old Testament figures who are easily identified by secular historical sources:

**Shishak, pharaoh of Egypt**, is mentioned in 1 Kings 11:40 and 14:25. There are numerous inscriptions and historical records for this pharaoh. The record of his campaign against Palestine (dated as **924** or **925 BC**) is inscribed on the exterior south wall of the temple of Amun at Karnak in Thebes, and it conforms to the biblical account. There is no doubt about authenticity.

**Hophra, another pharaoh of Egypt**, is mentioned in Jeremiah 44:30. History confirms that he was indeed the pharaoh of Egypt during the time of the prophet Jeremiah and King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Hophra's defeat by Nebuchadnezzar in **572 BC** and subsequent replacement by a general named Ahmes are confirmed in Babylonian records.

Cyrus, King of Persia, is mentioned in 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23; Multiple times in Ezra 1, 3, 4, 5, 6; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1, Daniel 1:21;6:28 and 10:1. History confirms the Cyrus' reign. There is even an artifact called the Cyrus Cylinder. History confirms that Cyrus conquered Babylon in just the way God said he would.

The second secon

The New Testament has its own list of historical characters, such as: Luke 3:1,2 mentions **Tiberius Caesar**, **Pontius Pilate**, **Herod**, his brother **Philip**, **Annas** and **Caiaphas** in connection with the beginning of John the Baptist's preaching, which introduced Jesus Christ.



Tiberius is found on numerous Roman coins and lived from 42 BC to AD 37.

Herod the tetrarch of Galilee and his brother Philip, the tetrarch of Iturea, are mentioned by Josephus, the famous Jewish historian of the 1st century. There is a stone inscription dedicated to Pontius Pilate that reads: 'Pontius Pilate, prefect of Judea.' In archaeology, it is called the Pilate Stone, and it is in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Annas and Caiphas are both mentioned by Josephus as being among the Jewish high priests of the 1st century."2

If you dig a little in the Bible, you will also find it contains some more than interesting "coincidences" of information. Some of my favorites are found in the sanctuary. Remembering that the Bible is God's "temple of truth," we might expect to learn some things about God's word in the sanctuary. For example, on the table of showbread we find two stacks of bread, six pieces in each stack. (Leviticus 24:5, 6) Jesus likened God's words to bread saying, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4 Interestingly, today, we have 66 books in the Bible, the word of God.

Opposite the table of showbread, we find the candlestick. "And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick." Numbers 8:4 The directions for the candlestick were very specific. They are listed both in Exodus 25 and Exodus 37. "And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three

branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; [See note<sup>4</sup>] and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it." Exodus 25:31-37 If you add up each bowl mentioned with its corresponding knop and flower,<sup>4</sup> in each side branch, there are nine decorations total. The middle stalk contains twelve. Adding the first 4 branches equals 39, and there are 39 books in the Old Testament. The remaining three branches add up to 27, and there are 27 books in the New Testament. Before deciding whether this is pure coincidence or a

And indeed, God's word is a lamp. To me, the most amazing part of the Bible is the way the Holy Spirit can "light up" a text or a promise that is exactly what you need at the time. (John 16:13) However, there are definitely conditions for this kind of thing, like Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine..." John 7:17a If we want God to speak to us, we must make sure we have listened and applied the things He has told us in the past. As the evangelist Billy Sunday said, "The Bible will always be full of things you cannot understand, as long as you will not live according to those you can understand." But if you are doing your best to follow God's way, He will speak to you, comforting and directing you from His word. For example, when we first moved to the Pacific Northwest, the youngest of our four children was only about 18 months old. We moved in August, and we moved to an empty piece of

divine design remember Psalm 119:105 states, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."



property, camping in a tent while we built our house. As we camped, it got colder and colder, especially at night. When it got below freezing at night, I was thankful for the country living promise God had "lit up" for me giving the okay that it was within His will to move that late in the year. It read, "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet." Proverbs 31:21 True to His word, God had us covered and nobody froze. In fact, even strangers in town commented on what a strange year it was and that it hadn't snowed yet. Miraculously, the snow did not fall until the exact day we brought home our refrigerator, the last load from the storage facility we had rented.

I hope you will take the time to read God's word and let Him speak to you, today. For those who do can say with the Psalmist, "Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but

my heart standeth in awe of thy word." Psalm 119:161 Indeed, there is power in God's word.

1- <u>Sword Unsheathed, A Battle of the Bibles and Bible History Manual, pg. 22, https://archive.org/details/sword-unsheathed</u>
2- <u>Sword Unsheathed, pg. 100, available on https://www.amazon.com/Sword-Unsheathed-Dallas-P-Roberts/dp/0998769517</u>
3— Emperor\_Tiberius\_Denarius\_Tribute\_Penny-- Wikipedia Author: DrusMAX--Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
4—The English Translation of the Italian Diotdati Bible states plainly, "In one branch were three bowls made like almonds, a knop and a flower to each bowl:"



# Jesus and John the Baptist Outlawed Prophetic News Notes

"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." John

16:2 Yet another fulfilment of this text is very near. The Association for Catholic Information in Africa states, "Rwanda has shut down 5,600 churches, including some 100 places of worship operating in caves for not complying with the country's safety and health regulations."

BBC reveals that "churches have been closed down...in Rwanda for failing to comply with health and safety regulations, including not being properly soundproofed."<sup>2</sup>

The articles also make clear that in addition to cave churches,



churches operating in tents or on riverbanks have also been shut down. Aciafrica also reported, "The crackdown on places of worship

is part of a broader effort to regulate religious practices in Rwanda. A 2018 law requires pastors to hold theological degrees from accredited institutions and mandates churches to adhere to strict building codes and hygiene standards." Apparently, the law requires that "ordained pastors of all denominations must have the equivalent of a bachelor's or master's degree in theology or education to continue to serve their congregations."

While this law in Rwanda may be improving hygiene and eliminating some prosperity gospel moneymakers, to the Christian the implications of this law are quite distressing. Just a brief look at open-air preaching on Wikipedia reminds us that this law would have outlawed the street preaching of "Noah, Solomon, Ezra, Jeremiah, Jonah, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul, Phillip and Apollos." The article also reminds us that "During the Protestant Reformation, open-air preaching was often employed by Protestants throughout Europe who could not always preach inside churches, which were mostly Catholic." Some well-known preachers who would have been outlawed include John Wesley, George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon, Dwight Moody, Billy Sunday, and more. With laws like this against tent meetings Methodism and Adventism would probably not even exist. Indeed, John's preaching and baptizing at the River Jordan and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount would all have been shut down.

Since the law passed, several pastors and missionaries have been arrested in Rwanda.<sup>5</sup> And I find the concept of eliminating from the pastorate those who do not have a theological degree quite troubling. The writers of the four gospels would have been arrested if they had decided to pastor. After all, Matthew's training was in accounting, Mark was just an apprentice, Luke was a physician, not a theologian, and John was a just a common fisherman, as was Peter, and many of the other disciples. Only Paul might have had enough theological training, but his street preaching would have gotten him in trouble anyway. Sadly, a law like this would give Annas and Caiaphas the precedence over Jesus Christ. However, all is not lost, for we are promised, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19

1-Screenshot <a href="https://www.aciafrica.org/news/11703/rwanda-shuts-down-over-5500-churches-due-to-non-compliance-with-safety-health-regulations">https://www.aciafrica.org/news/11703/rwanda-shuts-down-over-5500-churches-due-to-non-compliance-with-safety-health-regulations</a>
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# SWIFT RUNNER-MINISTRIES

## Atrazine—One More Reason to Eat Organic or Homegrown Food

After the herbicide glyphosate, commonly known as Roundup, "Atrazine is the second-most widely used weed killer in the United States, with more than 70 million pounds applied across the nation each year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It is an endocrine disruptor and also linked to various cancers, premature birth and birth defects."

What is crazy is this "herbicide has been banned for use in the European Union since 2004." But "in the U.S., it is one of the most commonly reported contaminants in groundwater and public drinking water, according to the EPA. While atrazine is applied to a wide range of crops, it is primarily used on sugarcane, soy, sorghum, and corn; the USDA notes that more than 65 percent of all corn crops in the U.S. have been treated with the herbicide. It is also a weed killer for golf courses, fields, and residential and commercial lawn spaces across the United States. Atrazine is among the most prevalent herbicides used in Canada and Australia, as well." 1

The Center for Food Safety reports that, "Atrazine is an endocrine disruptor, which means that it interferes with the hormones that regulate the

development and functioning of all our bodily systems. It has been associated with reproductive dysfunction, behavioral abnormalities, and impaired fetal growth. There is also evidence atrazine contributes to birth defects and cancers, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, breast and prostate cancer. While of particular concern to farmworkers and their children, atrazine can also be more broadly harmful to human health, especially through exposure from drinking water. Associations have been found between atrazine exposure and low birth weight and small head circumference in newborns."<sup>2</sup>

Other studies have shown that, "ATZ [atrazine]-exposed human male pesticide applicators showed altered kidney function, chronic kidney disease, and a reduced glomerular filtration rate. ATZ lowered eGFR and enhanced the risk of end stage renal disease as well as chronic kidney disease among male pesticide applicators. ATZ applicators were found to have an increased incidence of renal cell carcinoma in later stages of life."<sup>3</sup>

But perhaps the scariest side effect was headlined by National Geographic "Weed Killer Makes Male Frog Lay Eggs." Scientific American reports, "As described in the March 1 Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences, biologist Tyrone Hayes of the University of California, Berkeley, and his colleagues exposed 40 African clawed frogs (Xenopus laevis) to 2.5 parts per billion (ppb) of atrazine in a water solution continuously for three years—a level below the three ppb allowed in drinking water by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As a result, 30 of the frogs were chemically castrated, incapable of reproducing, among other impacts. And four of the treated frogs



actually turned female, going so far as to mate with other males and produce viable eggs despite being genetically male. Whereas another four of the treated frogs apparently resisted atrazine's effects, the rest 'lacked male reproductive behavior, had reduced male features, and severely reduced sperm and low fertility,' Hayes says."<sup>5</sup>

UC Berkley News stated that, "Syngenta, which manufactures atrazine, disputes many of these studies, including Hayes', that show adverse effects of the pesticide. But Hayes said that 'when you have studies all over the world showing problems with atrazine in every vertebrate that has been looked at – fish, frogs, reptiles, birds, mammals – all of them can't be wrong.

What people have to realize is that, just as with taking pharmaceuticals, they have to decide whether the benefits outweigh the costs,' he said. 'Not every frog or every human

will be affected by atrazine, but do you want to take a chance, what with all the other things that we know atrazine does, not just to humans but to rodents and frogs and fish?"<sup>6</sup>

Instead of taking a chance, buying organic or growing your own food sounds like a much safer option. And yes, the PCC Community Market states, "Instead of using insecticides, such as atrazine (a hormone disruptor) and chlorpyrifos (a nerve toxin), organic farmers must use other methods to control pests." Like Europe, I think erring on the side of caution is a much better idea. For the biblical directive is, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 22:3

#### 1—Screenshot

https://usrtk.org/pesticides/atrazine/#:~:text=Atrazine%2C%20an%20endocrine%2Ddisrupting%20herbicide.widely%20used%20in%20the%20U.S.&text=Atrazine%20is%20the%20second%2Dmost,to%20the%20U.S.%20Geological%20Survey 2-https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues/6459/pesticides/atrazine
3-- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10301673/ 4-- https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/100301-atrazine-frogs-female-chemical
5-- https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/common-herbicide-turns-male-frogs-into-females/ 6- https://news.berkeley.edu/2010/03/01/frogs/
7- https://www.pccmarkets.com/sound-consumer/2018-09/a-salute-to-farmers-growing-organic-sweet-com/



### Outnumbered!

The noise was so slight that only a trained ear could have heard it. It lasted only a moment, and then it was gone, and the engines of the big Air Force bomber sounded as sweet and smooth as they always had. But Mac, the flight engineer, had a trained ear and heard the noise. He glanced around at the other crew members. Apparently they hadn't heard it, not even the captain.

Mac glanced out the cockpit window. The Pacific Ocean stretched clear to the horizon. He knew there were some islands just beyond the horizon, over to the southwest. He had heard stories about the South Sea Islands when he was a boy. Many of the people were cannibals...

The noise came again. A little louder this time, and it hung on just a little longer. The navigator didn't notice it, the copilot still dozed, but when Mac looked at the captain, their eyes met-- only for an instant, but it was long enough to confirm Mac's fears. He had not imagined the noise. **Something was wrong with one of the engines.** Sooner than before, the noise came again. Then it came so



often and with increasing loudness that everyone heard it. Tension crackled in the cockpit... Mac checked the dials. One was flickering in the danger zone. He ran through all the routine procedures for correcting the defect, but none helped. The copilot grabbed the engine manual and read off instructions so Mac wouldn't miss any. The engine got so bad that the pilot cut it and feathered the propeller. The trouble spread to the next engine, and from there to a third. The bomber was losing altitude.

Mac strained his eyes for a glimpse of one of the islands. The navigator noticed and shook his head. "Nearest island is 100 miles away, Mac."

"Prepare to ditch!" But the captain's order wasn't necessary. The crew had already prepared.

The plane made a remarkably smooth landing. The men had plenty of time to inflate the life raft and stock it with emergency supplies. They were all safely aboard and well away from the plane when it sank. They rigged a sail, and the navigator set a course for the nearest island. But mostly they went where the wind blew them.

"What's the use of landing?" Mac said. "We'll only run into the savages. They'll either kill us or turn us over to the enemy. There are enemy garrisons on all these islands."



"But there have been missionaries on these islands," the copilot said.

"Missionaries!" Mac scoffed. "Missionaries can't change cannibals."

After two and a half days the men saw land low on the horizon. Under cover of darkness they went ashore, hoping to remain hidden until they could work out some way to get back to the American forces. They set up camp in a protected spot. "No one will find us here," Mac remarked.

For several days no one did find them. And then one afternoon Mac heard a rustle behind him and looked around. An islander was staring at him. A moment later the man disappeared. The captain

also saw him before he vanished. "It's only a matter of time now," he commented. "The man will return, and he will not come alone."

"We will be outnumbered for sure, but at least we can go down fighting." The tail gunner caressed his service pistol. The copilot smiled. 
"Have you forgotten that there have been missionaries on these islands? These people may have been converted to Christianity." 
Mac snorted in derision. But though Mac snorted, he didn't say anything. For the first time he realized that their only hope for 
getting out of this spot alive lay, not in the tail gunner's service pistol, but on the slim chance that the islanders had indeed 
chosen to follow Jesus Christ.

The sun dropped rapidly toward the horizon. The sky was rosy red and purple and gold. The next minute it was dark. The men waited. Then there was a light, the flickering flame of a burning torch held in the powerful hand of a South Sea Islander. The light reflected off the swarthy bodies of a long line of huge men coming rapidly toward the American camp. The tail gunner fingered his pistol.

The captain raised a hand. "Hold your fire. These men are not armed."

And now the man with the torch had reached the edge of the airmen's camp. He stopped. He walked forward slowly. He handed one of the airmen a black book—a Bible! Mac glanced at the copilot. Maybe the missionaries—

But he didn't have time to think about the missionaries just then. Several more islanders came into the clearing carrying food and drink!

And when those good things had been taken care of, the leader opened the Bible and read a passage that even Mac recognized. Then the islanders began singing. Mac couldn't catch all the words, but he remembered the tunes from church back at home. They were the same songs!

The airmen remained on the island 87 more days. Every evening the islanders came with food and read the Bible to the men and sang hymns. More than 200 of them knew the Americans were there, but never a word of their presence was breathed to the enemy. At last the islanders helped the airmen construct a raft on which, in the dead of night, the Americans set sail. After a few days they were picked up by one of their own Air Force planes.

In a hospital recuperating from the experience, Mac spoke for the whole group. "You can tell the world that I am now a devout Christian," he said. "Those islanders gave us the Bible, and they led us 'Christians' to Christ. Thank God for missionaries."

Reprinted/Abridged from Lawrence Maxwell's Outnumbered! (Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1970)

# Kids' Corner

## **God's Amazing Creations**

The hamerkop lives mostly in Africa. This birds' head shape looks similar to a hammer. That is how it gets its name in Afrikaans which literally means hammerhead. Hamerkops eat mostly fish and amphibians, but they will also eat shrimp, insects, and rodents. They build huge nests, sometimes around five feet (1.5 m) across, and strong enough to support a man's weight. The hamerkop's favorite location for the nest is in the fork of a tree, often over water. But it will build on a bank, a cliff, a human-built wall or dam, or on the ground. To build a nest, a pair of hamerkops start by making a platform of sticks held together with mud. Then they



add walls and a domed roof. The nest can take up to 14 weeks to build and possibly up to 8,000 sticks. Isn't the hamerkop such a uniquely-created bird? He does his job well, too. The Bible says, "But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls [birds] of the air, and they shall tell thee... Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?" Job 12:7, 9

Hey Kids, you can listen to Bible, mission and character-building stories on the Kids' Corner page of our website here -- https://www.biblepicturepathways.com/kids-corner.php