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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 11

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SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

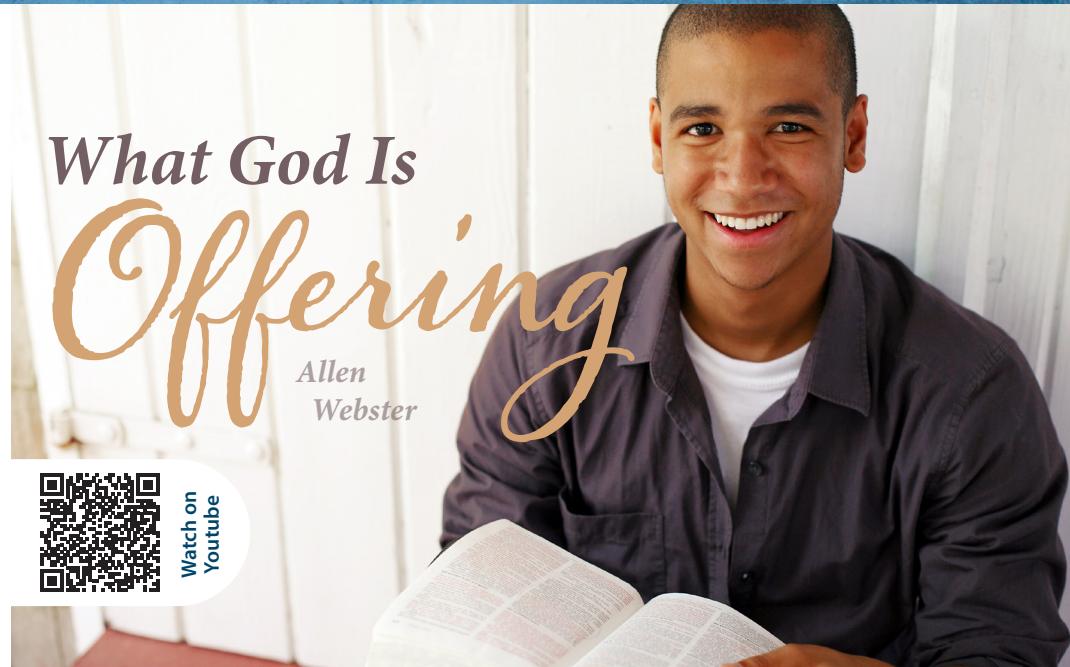
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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HOUSE TO HOUSE/HEART TO HEART is published monthly. It is sent to select Titusville routes and individuals free upon request. Send all correspondence to PO Box 2136, Titusville, FL 32781-2136. To God be the glory.



Christianity might be the best-kept secret in the world.

God offers 642 personal invitations to “come” in the Bible.¹ Consider one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Isaiah wrote, “Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword’; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken” (Isaiah 1:18-20). He invites sinners to think about what He offers—even to come, sit at His conference table, and present reasons for rejecting His invitation.

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). Here is an invitation to rest, to have life’s bur-

dens lifted, and to develop a friendship with the greatest Man who ever lived.

What kind of offer is on the table for every person in the world?

GOD SAVES—NO ONE HAS TO BE LOST

Everyone sins (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Therefore, everyone needs salvation on this side of death (Matthew 25:46). Jesus came to pay for it (Galatians 1:14). Just before returning to heaven, He promised, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). *Will. Be. Saved.* Let those words sink in . . . resonate . . . take hold. We have been delivered from the greatest evil, which exposed us to the greatest misery, and which alone could deprive us of eternal happiness. That is enough reason to take God’s offer—but there is more!

JESUS PAID—NO ONE HAS TO BE CONDEMNED

Alexander III was Tsar of Russia from 1881 to 1894. He ruled harshly, persecut-

ing Jews in particular. His wife, Maria Fedorovna, was different. She was known for her compassion and generosity to those in need. Once, her husband signed an order consigning a prisoner to life in exile. He had written in pencil, simply, “Pardon impossible, to be sent to Siberia.” Maria changed that prisoner’s life by moving the comma in her husband’s order. She altered it to “Pardon, impossible to be sent to Siberia.”²

When Christ paid the debt of sin (Acts 20:28), He moved the comma for us. Eternity changed from “Pardon impossible, to send to hell” to the possibility of “Pardon, impossible to send to hell.” Peter said, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Baptism, with repentance, is “for”—“unto, in order to obtain”—remission³ of sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19). If we will believe in, follow, obey, and remain steadfast to Him, our future is secured (John 10:27–29; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

BAPTISM CLEANSES—NO ONE HAS TO WEAR SIN’S STAINS

“Wash me!” was the fervent prayer of King David following his lapse into sin (Psalm 51:2, 7). Saul of Tarsus was told, “Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash⁴ away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Saul’s sins were washed away when he was baptized (Acts 9:18).

In baptism, sinners come in contact with Christ’s blood—being baptized into the benefits of His death (John 19:34; Romans 6:3)—and sins are washed away (Revelation 1:5–6). We are sanctified and cleansed “with the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:25–27). Peter affirmed that baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21). Baptized believers can trust Jesus to keep His promise.

An Old Testament event illustrates this. Naaman had leprosy, a dreaded disease, and desired cleansing. He was told to dip seven times in the River Jordan, and he would be cured. He was not cleansed from leprosy until he had dipped in the river (2 Kings 5:14). Likewise, a sinner is not cleansed from sins until after he has been baptized. But when he is, he is clean! That is a reason to come to Jesus.

JESUS’ BLOOD JUSTIFIES—NO ONE HAS TO BE GUILTY

God justifies—and gives up His wrath against—sinners because of the atoning death of Christ. Paul wrote, “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:9; cf. Acts 13:39). “Justified” (*dikaios*) means, “just, righteous.” The verb form (*dikaiō*) means “to make righteous, to make innocent, to declare to be pure, to cleanse, and to free from all guilt and accusation.” This does not mean that we have been righteous, but that God declares us so because Jesus was. Forgiveness makes it as if we had never sinned (Isaiah 38:17; 44:22; Micah 7:19).

There was a king who had suffered much from his rebellious subjects. One day they surrendered their arms, threw themselves at his feet, and begged for mercy. He pardoned them all. One of his friends objected to this leniency, saying, “Did you not say that every rebel should die?”

“Yes,” replied the king, “but I see no rebels here.”

God sees no rebel when we throw ourselves upon His mercy. Justification is an act of God on our behalf. It happens once, but the process is ongoing; we need to continually walk in the light by listening to His Word so that we can be continually—day by day, morning and evening—cleansed from sin in our lives (1 John 1:6–10).

Forgiveness is freedom from guilt. A twelve-year-old accidentally killed one of his family’s geese by throwing a stone to scare it away. Figuring his parents would not notice one of twenty-four gone, but would punish him if he confessed, he buried it and kept quiet. His sister said, “I saw what you did, and if you don’t wash the dishes for me, I’ll tell Mom.” The boy did the dishes for days and days. Finally, he told her, “You do them.” His sister said, “I’ll tell Mom.” He replied, “I already told her, and she forgave me—I’m free again.” Freedom is a reason to take God’s offer.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS—NO ONE NEED BE DENIED

Upon becoming a baptized believer, Christians receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Such is an earnest of our inheritance

(Ephesians 1:13–14), a seal of our salvation (Ephesians 4:30), and evidence of our divine sonship (Galatians 4:6–7). The gift of the Spirit is not something that is miraculous, mysterious, and sensory—resulting in a “better felt than told” or “I-can’t-explain-it-but-it-is-wonderful” experience. What the Holy Spirit does for Christians on earth He does through the Word (Ephesians 6:17). Otherwise, to whatever extent this is not the case, to that extent the Word is not all-sufficient. Yet Paul said that the Word is all-sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16–17). The Spirit’s work through His Word results in many blessings and is a great reason to accept God’s offer.

Here are five reasons to take God up on His invitation. On the other hand, there is no good reason to reject God’s offer. Someone may think, “I am too bad to come,” but this is not true. “Scarlet” and “crimson” in Isaiah 1:18 indicate glaring sins.⁵ Forgiveness is available for the worst sinner (Isaiah 55:7; Luke 7:47; Acts 2:22, 38, 41; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 1 John 1:7). Some think, “I’m good enough. I’m doing my best. What more can I do?” Our best will never make us acceptable to God—we need God’s grace (Ecclesiastes 3:15; Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:8–10). Another reasons, “I must straighten out my life before I can come,” but this is reversed. Jesus helps us change—we cannot guide our own steps (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23; Matthew 11:28; Philippians 4:13). Another believes, “There’s plenty of time to come to Jesus later,” but only a fool boasts of tomorrow (Proverbs 27:1; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:7–8).

God’s invitation stands. You will never receive a better offer. The day you come to Him will be the second greatest day of your life—surpassed only by the day He welcomes you home.

Endnotes

¹ Quote attributed to Frances Dixon, no further information known.

² Sources: biography.com and *Today in the Word*, July 14, 1993

³ *aphesis*, “freedom; pardon; deliverance, forgiveness, liberty”

⁴ wash away, *apolou*, “to wash fully, have remitted”

⁵ The word *scarlet* means “double-dyed” (what is known as a fast color).

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

—For there I see the love of God (Romans 5:8).
—For there I see the value of one soul (Galatians 2:20).
—For there I see the blackness of sin (2 Corinthians 5:21).
—For there I see the preciousness of blood (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34); and we are baptized into His death (Romans 6:3). Furthermore, the blood washes away our sins (Revelation 1:5–6) through baptism (Acts 22:16). Therefore, in baptism we contact the blood and our sins are remitted.
—For there I see man's inability to save himself (Ephesians 2:8–10).
—For there I see God's willingness to save (2 Peter 3:9).
—For there I see God's desire for unity (Ephesians 2:12–16).
—For there I see the essentiality of the church (Acts 20:28).
—For there I see the abrogation of the law (Colossians 2:14–17).
—For there I see that untold blessings can be enjoyed (Colossians 1:14).

—For there I see the need for separation (Galatians 6:14).
—For there I see there is a cross for me (Matthew 16:24).
—For there I see the fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 12:10).
—For there I see the gates of heaven open (Mark 15:38).

"And I, if I am lifted up...."

JOHN 12:32



Elvis Presley's Bible

In 2012, a Bible given to Elvis Presley in 1957 by his aunt and uncle was auctioned. Elvis read and used this Bible, for it contained several notes in his handwriting.

One such note in the margin of Luke 9 says, "For what is a man advantaged if he should gain the whole world and lose himself or be cast away." This is an interesting insight from a man who had so much of what this world values.

The Bible sold for \$97,000.00. The value of this Bible was determined by the person who owned it—that is how the whole "celebrity thing" works. However, the Bible is priceless no matter who owns it, and frankly, the value of a Bible is not increased by its owner. Rather, the Bible brings value to its owner. Give it some thought. —Steve Higginbotham

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10

Watch
on youtube



1 Corinthians 13:4–7

Paraphrased for Mothers

A mother is patient and is not easily angered. She does not fly into a rage, but keeps her temper under control.

She is kind to her children. She does not envy them, wishing that she could have done all the things they get to do.

She does not boast about how much better she was as a child, nor is she proud. She is not rude and discourteous to her children, remembering that they are humans, too.

She does not embarrass them in front of others. She is the epitome of unselfishness.

A mother does not keep a list of her child's mistakes, reminding him of all of them each time a new one is committed.

Instead of rejoicing when her child fails, she empathizes with him. She is filled with sadness by wrongdoing of any kind.

A mother always protects her children and draws them close when danger of any kind threatens them.

There is nothing they cannot face together.

She is not distrustful and suspicious; instead, she hopes for the best and never gives up hope.

She always believes in her child and expects the best of him; she always stands her ground when she defends him.



The Way He Should Go

To know “the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6) requires knowing each child: learning his abilities, her character, and his temperament. Each child needs to be taught in the best way he or she can learn. Each child is different.

Train them based on their age. Newborns and infants learn by hearing, feeling, and seeing; toddlers and preschoolers learn by imagination and representative play; grade school children learn through activity, realistic play, and talking; and typically, teens have enough life experience to learn through talking and discussion.¹

Train them based on their individuality. Each child is different, with his or her individual personality and idiosyncrasies; strengths and weakness; sensitivities and fears; preferences and taste; skills and handicaps; with her individual capacity to learn by seeing, hearing, and doing.

Each child is different, not a mere clone of dad, mom, big sister, or big brother. A child prone to facts, logic, and tangible realities learns differently and must be trained differently than her older sister who is more inclined toward emotions and stories.

Each child is different! Is it nature or nurture? Are traits shaped by nature and genetics, by nurture and environment, or a combination of the two? Let psychologists debate the causalities; as for fathers,

God's wisdom teaches dads to learn their children's nature so that they will be better prepared to nurture!

Train them based on their interests. While children frequently pursue interests that appeal to their parents, they must not be forced to adopt their parents' interests. A child may enjoy different hobbies: dad may love hunting, fishing, and sports, but Junior is not odd for being drawn to movies, music, and art. He may choose a different career path: dad may be a doctor, technician, or entrepreneur, but that does not obligate Junior to a foreordained field. Preachers, take heed!

When dad rears the child this way, according to Solomon, “when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). By following God's wisdom and by training the child “in the way that he should go,” fathers learn how to help their children to be themselves. Such upbringing better equips a child to use his strengths and weaknesses as he matures instead of becoming an adult who second-guesses himself, and who “cannot seem to find himself.”

—Scott Cain, Memphis, Tennessee

Endnote

¹ Frank Minereth. *Minirth Guide for Christian Counselors*, 2003.

Just for Fun Proverbs and Sayings

One proverb in each column is not a reference from the Bible. Can you identify them?

<input type="checkbox"/> An eye for an eye.	<input type="checkbox"/> By the skin of your teeth.	<input type="checkbox"/> Spare the rod, spoil the child.
<input type="checkbox"/> Go the extra mile.	<input type="checkbox"/> The root of the matter.	<input type="checkbox"/> When God closes a door,
<input type="checkbox"/> A man after my own heart.	<input type="checkbox"/> Weighed in the balance.	<input type="checkbox"/> He opens a window.
<input type="checkbox"/> How the mighty have fallen.	<input type="checkbox"/> Bite the dust.	<input type="checkbox"/> For everything there is a season.
<input type="checkbox"/> Put words in one's mouth.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanliness is next to godliness.	<input type="checkbox"/> Eat, drink, and be merry.
<input type="checkbox"/> God helps those who help themselves.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is nothing new under the sun.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fly in the ointment.
<input type="checkbox"/> Nothing but skin and bones.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign of the times.	<input type="checkbox"/> Drop in a bucket.
<input type="checkbox"/> Throw the first stone.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wolves in sheep's clothing.	<input type="checkbox"/> See eye to eye.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall by the wayside.	<input type="checkbox"/> Can a leopard change his spots?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reap what you sow.	<input type="checkbox"/> The blind leading the blind.



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Conversion of Saul of Tarsus—And Us

If you are a Christian, how did you become one? Once we were “without Christ . . . strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). But praise God, if we are in Christ Jesus, we “who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ”! (Ephesians 2:13). When did you move from lost to saved? From out of Christ to in Christ?

The conversion story of Saul (later called Paul) is shared three times in the book of Acts. (It must be important!) Your story will not be exactly like his, but the method of salvation should be the same.

In Acts 9, Saul came face to face with Jesus and realized he was persecuting God. Can you imagine passionately thinking you are right and then finding out you are wrong? How would you react? Humbled, Saul admitted his error, as he asked Jesus, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” (Acts 9:6). Would you do whatever Jesus says, regardless of the cost? Jesus said, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do” (Acts 9:6).

Was Saul saved yet? He believed Jesus, calling Him “Lord,” but he had not yet obeyed; he was not acting like someone who had just been saved, and the text does not say he was.

Jesus told Saul what he “must do” (Acts 9:6). Saul believed enough to obey; he went into the city (Acts 9:8). Saul obeyed in baptism (Acts 9:18). Later, Saul, whose name changed to Paul, taught that baptism spiritually reenacts what Jesus did physically (Romans 6:3–11). Paul taught that we die to sin the moment we are baptized.

Paul used the phrase “obeyed the gospel” (Romans 10:16). Previous verses explain how we obey the gospel. We need to hear preaching (10:14) and believe it (10:10, 14). We need to confess our belief (10:10) and call upon the name of the Lord (10:13–14).

What, then, is “calling on the name of the Lord”? In Acts 22:16, Paul retold his conversion story, saying that he called on the name of the Lord and washed away his sins when he was baptized.

Even though some of the details of our experiences are different, we are all saved the same way.

When Paul heard the truth, he believed it. He turned from his sins (repented) and confessed his new belief. Paul obeyed in baptism, calling on the name of the Lord and washing away his sins.

What about you?

—Matt Wallin

*“Behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2

*“And now why are you waiting? Arise
and be baptized, and wash away your
sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

ACTS 22:16



Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Bible Quiz

VOLUME 29:11



Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “The Benefits of Prayer” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 29:10 One “Killer” Sermon: 1. The God of glory (Acts 7:2); 2. No child (7:5); 3. Eighth (7:8); 4. Egypt (7:9); 5. Time, promise (7:17); 6. Expose, live (7:19); 7. Deliver (7:25); 8. Angel, Lord (7:30); 9. I am (7:32); 10. Egypt, Red Sea (7:36); 11. Prophet like (7:37); 12. Hearts (7:39); 13. Calf (7:41); 14. Turned, gave (7:42); 15. According, pattern (7:44); 16. Temples made, hands (7:48); 17. Betrayers, murderers (7:52); 18. Standing (7:55); 19. Stoned (7:58); 20. Spirit, charge (7:59–60).

V. 29:10 “Starts with the Letter “K”: 1. Knife (Genesis 22:10); 2. Kedron (2 Samuel 15:23); 3. Kadesh (Numbers 20:1); 4. Kirjath Arba (Joshua 14:14–15); 5. Kish (1 Samuel 9:3); 6. Kohath (Genesis 46:11); 7. Kiss (Luke 22:48); 8. Korah (Numbers 16:1–32); 9. Keren-Happuch (Job 42:14); 10. Keturah (Genesis 25:1); 11. King (1 Timothy 6:15); 12. Keys (Matthew 16:19).

V. 29:10 “Find the Hidden Bible Names”: 1. Amos; 2. Enoch; 3. Eli; 4. Boaz; 5. Caleb; 6. Asa; 7. Eve, Adam; 8. Abel; 9. Asa, Amos; 10. Elisha.

God’s Suffering Servant

Find answers in Isaiah 53 and Acts 8. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- God’s Servant lacked what quality that people generally find desirable? _____
- This despised and rejected Servant is described as “a Man of _____.” _____
- What did observers hide from the despised Servant? Their _____
- “Surely He has borne our _____ and carried our _____.” _____
- God’s Servant was wounded for “_____.” _____
- What do we receive from the Servant’s chastising? _____
- The Servant provides healing through what? His _____
- “All we like sheep have gone _____.” _____
- According to Isaiah, how many have turned to his/her own way? _____
- On behalf of all humanity, the Lord laid what burden on the Servant? _____
- Without opening His mouth, the _____

Servant resembles a “lamb to the _____.” _____

12. “As a _____ before its _____ is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” _____

13. God’s Servant associated with whom “at His death?” The _____

14. In addition to no violence in His life, this Servant lacked “_____ in His mouth.” _____

15. “Yet it pleased the Lord to _____ Him.” _____

16. In death, what did the Servant bear for many? _____

17. From what prophet was the eunuch from Ethiopia reading? _____

18. The Scripture read by the eunuch (treasurer) referred to One “led as a _____ to the _____.” _____

19. Beginning at this Scripture, what did Philip preach to the eunuch? _____

20. When Philip departed, the eunuch went on his way in what state of mind? _____

ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" . . . "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).

We will never be able to plumb the depth of these words while on this earth. Was this an expression of His physical and emotional suffering; or was He momentarily forsaken by His Father since He was dying as a sin offering for the world? (2 Corinthians 5:21; cf. Habakkuk 1:13).

These words were misunderstood by those who heard them. When Jesus said, "Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani" some "who stood there, when they heard that, said, 'This Man is calling for Elijah!'" (Matthew 27:46–47).

"Eli" is Hebrew, the language of Scripture, quoted here from Psalm 22:1. "Eloi" is Aramaic, the language of the people (Mark 15:34). Those

standing by thought He was calling for Elijah.

Then, having spoken His last words, Jesus breathed His last" (Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46) or, "yielded up His spirit" (Matthew 27:50; John 19:30). "Yielded up His spirit" suggests that Jesus died voluntarily, in keeping with His prediction (John 10:17–18). These precious words prompt us to love and obey Him.



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Recommended Resource



The Light Network is a podcast network that produces Bible-based, culturally relevant programs for God's glory. Weekly podcasts cover a wide variety of topics relevant to Christian living, from highlighting how God is magnified on every page of Scripture to financial stewardship to family studies. There's something for everyone on The Light Network! Check it out online: www.TheLightNetwork.tv

I want to learn more **about the Bible!**

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

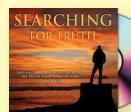
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

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VOLUME 29:11



ISRAEL

The land of the Bible is a geographically diverse place whose features include snowcapped mountains and the lowest spot on earth's surface. This map has been generated to highlight those features.

○ Cities

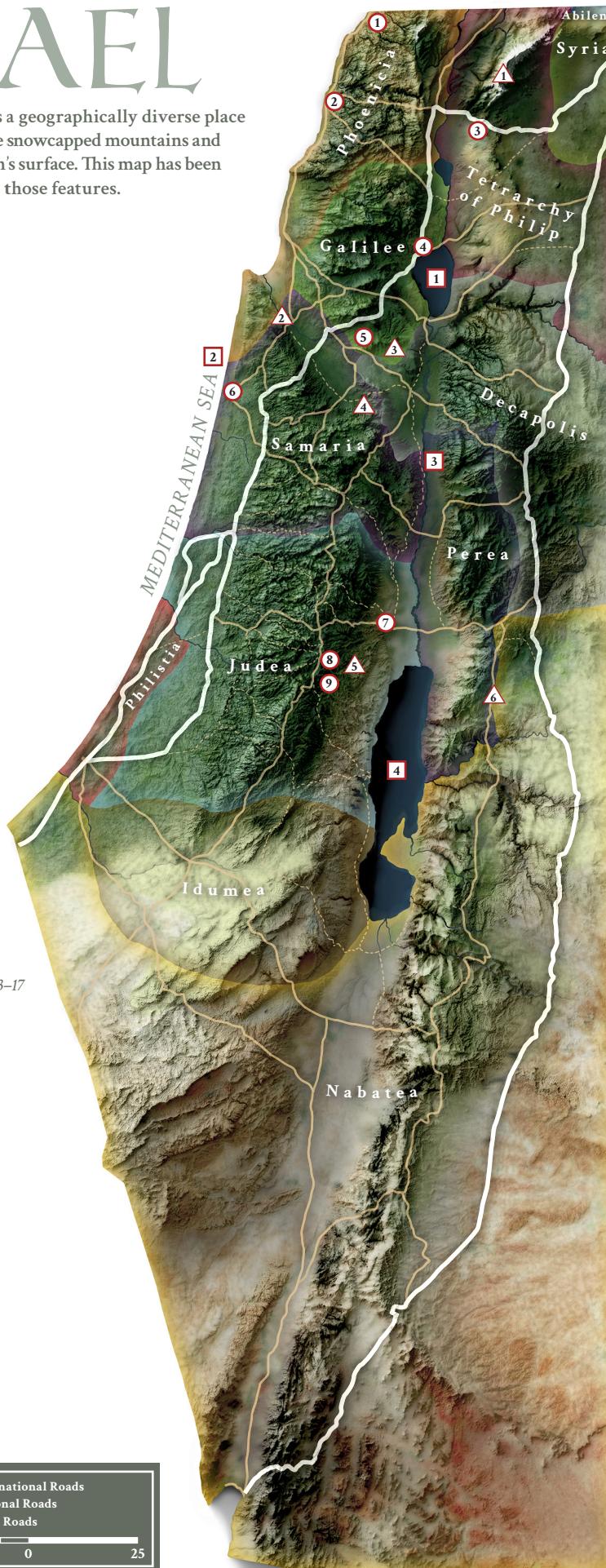
1. Sidon
Matthew 11:21-22
2. Tyre
2 Samuel 5:11
3. Caesarea Philippi
Matthew 16:13-20
4. Capernaum
Mark 1:21-28
5. Nazareth
John 1:45-46
6. Caesarea Maritima
Acts 10:1-6; 23:23-24
7. Jericho
Joshua 6:1-2
8. Jerusalem
Isaiah 2:3; Acts 2:5
9. Bethlehem
Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1

□ Bodies of Water

1. Sea of Galilee (-686 FT)
Matthew 8:23-27
2. Mediterranean Sea
2 Corinthians 11:25
3. Jordan River
2 Kings 5:10-14; Matthew 3:13-17
4. Dead Sea (-1368 FT)
Numbers 34:3

△ Mountains

1. Mt. Hermon (9232 FT)
Joshua 11:16-17
2. Mt. Carmel (1724 FT)
1 Kings 18:16-40
3. Mt. Tabor (1886 FT)
Judges 4:6
4. Mt. Gilboa (1765 FT)
1 Samuel 31:1-4
5. Mt. of Olives (2962 FT)
Luke 22:39-42
6. Mt. Nebo (2680 FT)
Deuteronomy 32:48-50



The Seven Statements on the Cross

Grace: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Mission: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Struggle: "'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).

Family: "Woman, behold your son!" (John 19:26-27).

Humanity: "I thirst" (John 19:28).

Trust: "'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit'" (Luke 23:46).

Perseverance: "It is finished" (John 19:30).

"Then Jesus spoke to them again...."

JOHN 8:12

He Gave. We Have.

Consider the blessings we enjoy because Jesus "gave Himself."

Sanctification—We are delivered from this wicked world (Galatians 1:4).

Transformation—We are changed into the image of Jesus (Galatians 2:20).

Purification—We are cleansed from our past sins (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Redemption—We are ransomed away from God's offended holiness and avenging justice by His love and mercy (Titus 2:14; cf. Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6).

—Dan Winkler, *Just-If-led Never Sinned*, 2005, p. 93)



House to House Heart to Heart

11/24



How Did Judas Die?

One of the most frequently asked questions by Bible skeptics is, "How exactly did Judas die?" According to Matthew, after Judas betrayed Jesus, Judas "went and hanged himself" (27:5). In the book of Acts, however, Luke mentioned that "falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out" (1:18). So which is it? Did Judas hang himself, or did he fall headlong and burst his mid-section open?

The truth is, Matthew 27:5 and Acts 1:18 cannot logically contradict each other if it is *possible* for both to be true—and it certainly is possible for both incidents to have occurred.

Consider a brawl in which two men are fighting to the death. The larger man strikes the undersized man in the throat, crushing his larynx. For nearly 60 seconds, the wounded man stumbles around, trying to breathe, but he cannot. Then he falls, striking his head on the cement, and he dies.

One witness may declare, "James hit John and killed him." Another person may say, "John suffocated after being struck in the throat." A third witness might add, "Falling headfirst, John hit his head on the ground and died." Are the witnesses' statements contradictory? No. They are supplementary.

Likewise, neither of the Bible statements concerning the death of Judas is contradictory. Simply put, one does not exclude the other; thus, logically, they can both be true.

Matthew does not deny that Judas fell and had his entrails gush out, and Luke does not deny that Judas hanged himself. In short, Matthew records the *method* by which Judas attempted his death, while Luke reports the *end result*. —Eric Lyons



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