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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 4

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Worship .....10:30 a.m.
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I Want to Look Upon His Face

Allen Webster

I've never seen a photo, a video, a marble bust, or even so much as a rock etching to show what Jesus really looked like.

Yet I have no doubt that Jesus lived and that He is the Son of God (John 20:30–31). I firmly believe that He is in heaven and that He will come back one day (Acts 1:9–11; John 14:1–2). No picture of Him is necessary right now.

- We do not need to see Him in order to believe in Him. We "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).
- We do not need to see Him in order to be blessed by Him: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).
- We do not need to see Him in order to love Him: "Whom having not seen you love" (1 Peter 1:8). But I still want to see Him!

The Bible promises that one day we will. John wrote, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him" (Revelation 1:7). Not only will Christians see Him, but we will get to remain in His presence! "Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:17–18).

What would it have been like to have lived two thousand years ago and to have seen Jesus? One who did see Him was an old man named Simeon. Simeon lived in Jerusalem and had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die "before he



had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). When Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon met them. The historian Luke records the scene: "He took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 'Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation'" (Luke 2:28–30). One day we too will lay eyes on Him for the first time, and like it was for Simeon it will be the highlight of our lives.

There is a sense in which we *see* deity now. We see Christ through His Word and His world (Psalm 19). We speak of seeing God in the face of a child, the flower of the field, the precision of the planetary orbits, and the complexity of DNA. It is reported Sir Isaac Newton said that he could take his telescope and look millions of miles into space. "But when I lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, and get down on my knees in earnest prayer, I see more of heaven and feel closer to the Lord than if I were assisted by all the telescopes on earth."

The New Testament holds out the hope for more than this—that we can one day see God (cf. Hebrews 12:14). Moses was once allowed to see the goodness, glory, and back of God (Exodus 33:17–23), but he was warned, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live" (33:20). The Bible makes it clear that "no one has seen God at any time" (John 1:18; cf. Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27). Job believed he would see God: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:25–26). Jesus promised us, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). John confirms that in heaven we will be allowed to see God's face (Revelation 22:4).

The story is told of William M. Dyke, who became blind at age ten. Nonetheless, he grew into an intelligent, witty, and handsome young man. While attending graduate school in England, he became engaged to an English admiral's daughter. The admiral insisted that William have a new procedure to restore his sight. Hoping against hope, William wanted the gauze removed from his eyes during the wedding, so the first thing he saw would be his bride's face. As she came down the aisle, William's father unwound the bandages, not knowing if the operation was successful. When the last layer came off, William looked into his bride's face for the first time. He said, "You are more beautiful than I ever imagined."

Like this young groom, we will one day see our Beloved for the first time during a wedding (Revelation 19:9). We shall "see His face" (Revelation 22:3–4). When Jesus came the first time, He had "no form or comeliness" and "no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2). He visited earth from heaven in a form that most did not recognize (John 1:10–14). Yet when He appears the second time, Jesus will be more beautiful than any picture ever painted of Him or any thought ever imagined of Him. It will be worth the years of waiting to one day "see Him as He is" (1 John 3:1–2).

During the time of William E. Gladstone, people would travel across the Atlantic Ocean just to look on his face. Can you think of a more thrilling thought than that our eyes will look upon the face of God's Son who redeemed us from our sins?

> There shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. —Revelation 22:3–5



I'm Awfully Well for the Shape I'm In

There's nothing whatever the matter with me;
I'm just as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both of my knees;
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to walk on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
And every morning I look a sight.
My memory is failing; my head is in a spin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is, as this tale was to unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It is better to say, "I'm fine," with a grin,
Than to let them know the shape we're in. —Anonymous

"Let your speech be always with grace."

COLOSSIANS 4:6



If God Should Go on Strike

How good is it that God above has never gone on strike,
Because He was not treated fair or saw things He didn't like.
If only once He'd given up and said, "That's it; I'm through!
I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do.

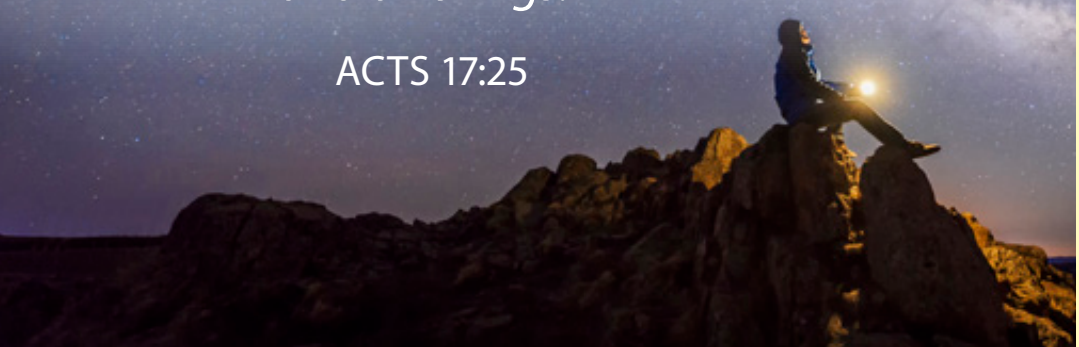
I'll give my orders to the sun—cut off the heat supply!
And to the moon—give no more light, and run the oceans dry.
Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,
Turn off the vital oxygen, till every breath is gone!"

You know He would be justified, if fairness was the game.
For no one has been more abused, or met with more disdain
Than God; and yet He carries on, supplying you and me
With all the favors of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,
But what a deal we've given God, to whom all things we owe.
We don't care whom we hurt, to gain the things we like;
But what a mess we'd all be in, if God should go on strike. —Walt Huntley

"He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

ACTS 17:25





Finding Time for the Bible

- Put a Bible under your pillow to read each night before you go to sleep.
- Wake up ten minutes earlier each morning.
- Turn off the TV at 8:00 P.M. each night and read to your children.
- Read a few verses at mealtime when the family is together.
- Talk less to have a few more minutes to read.
- Keep a Bible in the kitchen, to read while waiting for food to cook or for water to boil, or near the phone, to read while on hold.
- Carry a Bible in your purse or pocket, to read while waiting in line for doctors or when arriving early.
- Take a Bible on trips and read on a plane or in a hotel.

Don't just own a Bible—read it!

"Blessed is he who reads."

REVELATION 1:3

God's Plan for Saving Man

Watch on youtube

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



How Families Grow Spiritually

You do not grow a Christian family by going through a daily ritual, but neither do you grow one without planning and definite cultivation. Here are some proven activities that help a family grow spiritually.

- Attending church together (Hebrews 10:25).
- Worshiping together in daily devotionals (1 Chronicles 23:30).
- Giving thanks to God at mealtimes (1 Timothy 4:4).
- Having fun together (Ecclesiastes 9:9).
- Expressing love and affection openly and freely (Proverbs 16:24).
- Undergirding and supporting each other's activities and interests (Philippians 2:4).
- Working together; accepting responsibility for doing chores and jobs around the house (Proverbs 20:11).
- Reaching out to others as a Christian family (Ephesians 4:28).

"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb."

PROVERBS 16:24



Lite Fare

A boy and a girl had a date. He thought she was a peach, and he became the apple of her eye. They were soon plum crazy about each other, and in due time became a happily married pair.

To watch videos, read articles, answer Bible questions, and more go to housetohouse.com

Have You Considered My Servant?

Those are words that Jehovah spoke to Satan (Job 1:8). God went on to tell him that Job was a unique, complete, and upright man who feared God and shunned evil. That is quite a commendation from the One who knows every single thing there is to know about a person.

Most Bible students are quite familiar with the tragic circumstances that beset Job and his family. Job's steadfastness and patience have been renowned worldwide throughout the ages. But here are three important things about Job as a father, and these things are seen before his children and livestock were taken from him.

As a father, Job showed his children that his first devotion was to God Almighty, not material things. Possessing great flocks and herds of livestock helped make Job "the greatest of all the people of the East" (Job 1:3). Yet, the Lord still referred to Job as "My servant" (Job 1:8). Job did not allow his stuff to crowd out, hinder, or diminish his devotion to the God of heaven. Dads, what do your children see as your number one commitment: stuff, or God? Believe me, they can tell what is number one!

As a father, Job recognized that his children made mistakes. Job offered burnt offerings on behalf of his grown children, saying, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts" (Job 1:5). There are some fathers who never seem to have anything good to say about their children, and they seldom, if ever, give them support and positive exhortation. On the other hand, some dads are blind. They are convinced that "little Mary" and "Billy, Jr." could never do anything wrong. Their children would never be deceptive, selfish, or disrespectful. There are many great children in the world, but no one is perfect. Dads need to accept the truth that all sin (Romans 3:23). Job admitted that about his own children.

As a father, Job showed his concern for the spiritual welfare of his children. It was on their behalf that he rose up early and offered burnt offerings to God. It makes an impression on a child to see his daddy doing something for his spiritual benefit. There is more to being a dad than putting food on the table and showing a child how to hit, throw, or kick a ball. The number one task of fathers is to bring up their children in the Lord's nurture and admonition (Ephesians 6:4).

We will always remember Job's endurance, but we should never forget what the Bible shows us about Job as a father.

—Roger D. Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee





Can One Rely on the Bible?

Yes, absolutely the Bible can be trusted. While we do not have an original copy of the Bible, it has been faithfully copied and handed down from one generation to another.

Just as the writings of Shakespeare can be reproduced by comparing the many and varied copies of that author's work, so we can verify the Bible by comparing its manuscripts and translations. In fact, there is far more support for the text of the Bible than any other ancient book.

Compare the span of time and the number of manuscripts of the Bible with these other ancient writings.

- Julius Caesar's *The Gallic Wars* was composed between 58 and 50 B.C., with the oldest known manuscript dating to about A.D. 850. A gap of 900 years exists between composition and copies. Only ten manuscripts are known, yet scholars do not question it as being reliable.
- The works of Aristotle were composed between 384 and 322 B.C., but the earliest manuscript we have is from around A.D. 1100, a gap of more than 1400 years. We have but 49 manuscripts, and scholars view these works as reliable.
- The works of Homer, the *Iliad* and the odyssey, are among the best-known books of antiquity. They were written around 900 B.C. The earliest manuscript we have is from 400 B.C. (a 500-year gap), and we have 643 manuscript copies. These are considered among the best-attested works of antiquity.

Now, compare this to the New Testament. All of the books were written in the first century. We have over 5,800 manuscripts of the New Testament books, and the earliest are from around A.D. 125–250. This puts us within 30 years of the completion of Revelation. When we take into account the number of quotations from early Christians from A.D. 90 forward, we see literally thousands more copies of sacred Scriptures that enable comparison and assure an accurate text.

As soon as they were composed, copies of the New Testament books were being made. They were soon translated into Latin, Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Coptic, Ethiopic, and Armenian. When we take these into account, there are over 19,300 additional manuscripts.

No other ancient work comes anywhere close in terms of quantity and quality of evidence. —Flavil Nichols, updated by Luke Griffin

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:4

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Church History Timeline" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 31:2 *Cases of Conversion:* Match the converts: 1. d; 2. g; 3. a; 4. c; 5. b; 6. h; 7. f; 8. e.

Match the name: 1. About 3,000 on Pentecost (Acts 2:41); 2. Corinthians (Acts 18:8); 3. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:18); 4. Ethiopian eunuch/treasurer (Acts 8:38); 5. Samaritans (Acts 8:12); 6. Cornelius (Acts 10:48); 7. Philippian jailer (Acts 16:33); 8. Lydia (Acts 16:14–15).

V. 31:3 *More About Jesus, Would I Know:* 1. The angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26–31); 2. Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1); 3. A manger (Luke 2:7); 4. Shepherds (Luke 2:15–16); 5. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11); 6. Egypt (Matthew 2:13–15); 7. Sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions (Luke 2:46–47); 8. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13–15); 9. The Spirit or a dove (Matthew 3:16–17); 10. Forty days (Matthew 4:1–2); 11. Turning water into wine (John 2:1–11); 12. Peter, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18–22); 13. Born again (born of water and the Spirit) (John 3:3–5); 14. "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39–41); 15. Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38–42); 16. He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43–44); 17. Five loaves, two fish (Matthew 14:17–21); 18. He walked on the water toward Jesus (Matthew 14:28–31); 19. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:36–40); 20. He denied knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69–75); 21. Simon of Cyrene (Luke 23:26); 22. The first day of the week (Matthew 28:1–6).

Scrambled Titles: New Testament

Directions: Unscramble the letters below to discover a book of the New Testament.

—Lillian Skeele

1. SIT TU _____
2. NOR SAM _____
3. MY IT HOT _____
4. IN THIS ACORN _____
5. LEAVE IT ON R _____
6. SHE TAILS NASON _____
7. LATIN SAGA _____
8. CANS IS SOLO _____
9. PIN A SLIP HIP _____
10. SHE IS NAPE _____

Directions: Chose from these three answers:

A. Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40)
B. 3000 on Pentecost (Acts 2:1–47)
C. Jailer (Acts 16:23–34)

1. Baptism is for believers ("If you believe with all your heart, you may"). ___
2. Baptism is for penitent believers ("Repent, and let every one of you be baptized"). ___
3. Baptism is a burial in water ("Both . . . went down into the water . . . and he baptized him. . . . They came up out of the water"). ___
4. Baptism is not to be delayed ("And he took them the same hour of the night . . . and immediately he and all his family were baptized"). ___

Take a moment and privately answer three important questions.

1. Does the Bible teach baptism is necessary for salvation? _____
2. Does scriptural baptism involve or require immersion? _____
3. Have you been baptized in accord with Bible teachings? _____

(If not, and we can assist you, please let us know.)

How I Know THE BIBLE Is the Word of God

Imagine a fleet of ships setting sail from different continents—some from ancient ports, others from modern harbors. Their captains speak different languages. Their voyages begin centuries apart. Each ship carries only a fragment of a map, incomplete by itself and often puzzling in isolation.

Yet every vessel, guided only by its fragment, charts a course across storm and calm, through night and cloud, and arrives at the same harbor. Not one is lost. When the routes are finally laid side by side, the fragments form a single, coherent chart—every bearing aligned, every star accounted for, every current anticipated.

How would such a thing be explained?

You would not say the captains guessed their way home. You would not credit chance or coincidence. You would conclude that the fragments came from a single source—that one mind knew the seas, the stars, the dangers, and the destination, and distributed the portions accordingly.

So it is with the Scriptures.

The Bible was written by many hands, across many centuries, in lands separated by deserts and seas. Its authors were shepherds and kings, prophets and prisoners, fishermen and scholars. Some wrote in prosperity, others in exile. Yet from Genesis to Revelation, the course is one. The themes converge. The promises anticipate their fulfillment. The end answers the beginning.

No book of the Bible contradicts or corrects another. No truth stands isolated. What is hinted in one age is clarified in another. What is shadowed in history is revealed in Christ.

"The solid foundation of God stands. . . ."

2 TIMOTHY 2:19

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

Recommended **Resource**

In a world of increasing unbelief, **ApologeticsPress.org** is a free resource that could be a great blessing to your life. With thousands of articles and hundreds of videos on everything from the existence of God to alleged Bible contradictions, AP's website can assist you in your search for and defense of God's truth.

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: _____

_____

I would like:



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More subjects:



☐ The Scourging of Jesus



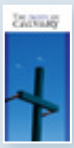
☐ Watered Down Baptism



☐ Simon Says



☐ What Teens Want



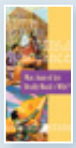
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Don't see the topic you need? Go to **housetohouse.com** to find more subjects.

VOLUME 31:4

All materials are completely FREE of charge (including shipping in the U.S. or Canada).

Chapter to Chapter JUDGES

This chart is part of a memory system for learning the key people, events, topics, and verses of all 929 Old Testament chapters.

INTRODUCTION

Probably written by Samuel, Judges recounts Israel's repeated cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance during the time between Joshua's leadership and the rise of the monarchy. The nation lacked a central ruler, and "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). God raised up deliverers—called judges—to rescue Israel from its enemies and call them back to faithfulness. The book emphasizes God's mercy and Israel's spiritual decline. It was likely written around 1050–1045 BC.

CHAPTER/TOPICS	VERSES
1. Israel fails to fully drive out the Jebusites.	1:21
2. God raises up judges to deliver Israel.	2:16
3. Ehud kills the king; Shamgar saves with an ox goad.	3:21, 31
4. Deborah leads Israel; Jael defeats Sisera.	4:4, 21
5. The Song of Deborah and Barak praises God's deliverance.	5:1
6. God calls Gideon a mighty man of valor.	6:11–12
7. Gideon's army is reduced to 300.	7:7
8. Gideon brings peace.	8:28
9. Abimelech kills his brothers to become king.	9:4–6
10. Israel cries out again in repentance.	10:10
11. Jephthah makes a tragic vow in battle.	11:30–31
12. The "shibboleth" test leads to death in civil war.	12:6
13. The angel announces the birth of Samson.	13:3–5, 24
14. Samson's strength begins to show.	14:6
15. Samson kills 1,000 men with a donkey's jawbone.	15:14–15
16. Samson dies with the Philistines.	16:30
17. There was no king in Israel—"everyone did what was right in his own eyes."	17:6
18. Danites steal idols and settle in the north.	18:18, 28
19. A Levite's concubine is abused and killed—moral decay deepens.	19:25
20. Civil war breaks out against Benjamin.	20:48
21. "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."	21:25



The Plan of Jesus

From the fall in Eden to the empty tomb to the book of Revelation, Scripture unfolds one rescue plan. Immediately after the fall, God promised a Deliverer: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15). God's promise to Abraham—"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3)—further points to a universal Redeemer. Deuteronomy predicted a prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18), and Isaiah pictured a suffering servant who would bear our iniquities (Isaiah 53).

These threads converge in Jesus. He fulfills covenant promises, prophetic warnings, and sacrificial imagery. The Old Testament lays the framework; the New Testament unveils the fulfillment. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are not surprises but the willing accomplishment of God's lifelong plan to restore sinners to Himself, "according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1–4). Understanding God's eternal plan (Ephesians 3:11) helps us see the Bible as one continuous story: a holy God who pursues, promises, and delivers through His Son, Jesus, the Christ (Luke 19:10). —Matt Wallin

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Are You Addicted?

Addiction wears many faces. For some, it is alcohol, drugs, or gambling. For others, it is a phone, a screen, approval, or even work. Anything that controls us becomes a chain. Jesus said, "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin . . . Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:34–36).

Freedom begins with honesty. Addiction thrives in secrecy and shame, but God already knows what binds you—and He still wants to heal you. The first step is not willpower; it is surrender: "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Grace is stronger than guilt.

When Jesus left this earth to return to heaven, He did not leave us alone—He left us His church. God's plan for your recovery is not isolation but community. The church is a family that helps bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), encourages confession and prayer (James 5:16), and meets together to stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). You do not have to fight this battle by yourself. God designed His people to help one another, and some of us have been where you are.

You may feel trapped, but no chain is stronger than Christ. His power can free you, and His people can walk with you as you heal.

If you are ready to start fresh and find the support God designed for you, we would love to study the Bible with you and help you connect with the freedom and family that Christ offers through His church. —Matt Wallin

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0489 Jerseyville

What Do You Look for in a Church?

Are you looking for a church home? With a church building on every corner, how does one decide where to attend?

Some pick a church based on how close it is, the programs it has for families, or where their friends go. Is there a better way, a more biblical way? Can we find a church that looks like the one in the New Testament?

Do you want help choosing a church? Do you have questions about what is taught and practiced where you attend?

Scan the code or enter the link for a test you can give a church before placing membership.



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