

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 26

Michael R. Daily, January 2026

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

These questions were submitted anonymously by a group of 30 mid-schoolers who regularly attend church & AWANAs.

How can I spread the word of the Lord without making it weird?

You can't. Satan has set up his world system to oppose the things of God, including spreading His Word (**I John 5:19, II Timothy 2:24-26**). As a result, sharing the gospel will never be something that feels natural or normal (**II Cor 4:3-4, I Corinthians 1:18, II Corinthians 2:14-17**). It's normal to talk to people about the weather, sports, news, etc. It's not normal to talk to people about sin, death, judgement, and salvation (**John 16:8**)! Having said that, there are things you can do to make it easier and more effective and much less stressful. For example, I am not a great conversationalist. I have never been effective trying to initiate a two-way spiritual conversation with a non-Christian, move the conversation to a gospel presentation, complete a full gospel presentation without interruption or disagreement, and bring the person to a clear decision point to either accept Christ or reject Him (**I Corinthians 2:1-5**).

But I do have a method of sharing the gospel that is easy to do and very effective at bringing people to Christ that I learned from the missionary who discipled me and trained me when I was a college student. As an example of results, for the last three years I have averaged sharing this method with about 10 non-Christians a year with 4 per year praying to receive Christ with me. This is way above results that the typical Christian experiences. I use a First-Person, Five-Minute Bridge Illustration that I have memorized. It uses first person language (e.g., "I was a sinner separated from God") instead of second-person or third-person language because it's been found that first person language does not threaten people or cause them to argue with you while second-person and third-person language (you, we, man) does. I also quote from eleven Bible verses in the Bridge Illustration because the Bible teaches that saving faith comes from hearing God's Word (**John 5:24, I Peter 1:23, Romans 10:17, Mark 4:14**). So, if you want to greatly increase the probability that someone will listen to a full gospel presentation without interruption and then pray to receive Christ, the Bible says to quote scripture (**Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12**). Finally, I present the Bridge Illustration within five minutes because it's been found that people get irritated if you take longer than five minutes to get your point across. By doing these three things (five-minute limit, quote scripture, use first person language) sharing the gospel becomes much easier, much less stressful, and much more effective. For a detailed study on this topic please see, "Good Works Witnessing and Evangelism" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

For most people the hardest part of sharing the gospel is in how to start. I use a very simple method to start. Once people know that I am a Christian or that I am religious (i.e., I go to church) I look for a time when I am alone with the person and there is no time pressure. Then I say, "May I share with you how I became a Christian, it only takes five minutes". If they say, "yes" I pull out a piece of paper and do my Bridge Illustration. If they say, "no" I say, "OK, thanks." That's it. When people hear that it is only five minutes most of them say, "yes". Once they say, "yes" people don't argue or disagree they just listen to the complete gospel - as long as I keep using first person language and quote scripture.

I also have two other ways of starting for special situations. For example, if a non-Christian hears that I am teaching a class at church they will sometimes ask what the class is about. If the class happens to be on how to share the gospel, I don't say that because it will sound weird to them and they won't understand. Instead, I say, "The class is, *How to Explain Christianity in Five Minutes*". Then they will often say, "So, how do you do that?" Then I share the Bridge Illustration.

For situations where I am doing public witnessing at a Fall Festival, a Christmas event at church, on youth soccer fields, or in some other weekend or holiday crowds I use another way to start. For a detailed study on this third way to start please see, "Sharing The Bridge Illustration in Holiday Crowds" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

But for now, you will only need one way to start, "May I share with you how I became a Christian, it only takes five minutes". If you are willing to make the up-front investment of effort to memorize and practice the First-Person, Five-Minute Bridge Illustration you will be able to then easily share the gospel with anyone, and you can do it for the rest of your life (**I Peter 3:15, II Timothy 4:6-16, II Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 6:15**). It's easier to memorize and practice the Bridge Illustration if you can find someone to work with who also wants to memorize and practice it (**Proverbs 27:17**).

(I John 5:19, II Timothy 2:24-26, II Corinthians 4:3-4, I Corinthians 1:18, II Corinthians 2:14-17, John 16:8, I Corinthians 2:1-5, John 5:24, I Peter 1:23, Romans 10:17, Mark 4:14, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12, I Peter 3:15, II Timothy 4:6-16, II Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 6:15, Proverbs 27:17)

How large is Heaven? Does the New Jerusalem have enough room in it for everyone?

When Christians die today their body goes into the ground, but their spirits live with God in Paradise until the resurrection. In the future, God is going to create a new city named, "The New Jerusalem". We will inhabit it after we receive our resurrected, eternal bodies. Just as our new bodies will be physical (as well as eternal), this city will also be physical (and eternal). This city is what we commonly refer to as Heaven. The Bible provides a detailed physical description of the city in **Revelation chapter 21**. For a detailed study on this topic please see, "The New Jerusalem – An Engineering Feasibility Study", at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

The size of the New Jerusalem is specified in **Revelation 21:15-17**.

Revelation 21:15-17

The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. ¹⁶The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

So, the dimensions of Heaven are 1500 miles x 1500 miles x 1500 miles = 3,375,000,000 cubic miles!

The next question that people usually ask is, "Will that be big enough to provide the experience of paradise for the billions of people who have or will become Christians (including Old Testament believers)?"

Let's start with the number of believers that have lived from Adam to today – assuming the world ended tomorrow. Estimates using a creationist model and the biblical timelines given in the Old Testament put the number at 51 billion. But let's be conservative and add another 9 billion people to compensate for any errors in birth and death rate estimates, abortions, etc. That brings us to a total of 60 billion people who have lived on the Earth. Keep in mind that at the time the Bible was written the total population of the earth was about 300 million people. We reached 1 billion in 1800, 6 billion in 2000 and should reach 12 billion in 2055.

Based on a survey done a few years ago by National Geographic Magazine about 1/3 of the Earth's population identify themselves as Christian. Many of these people are not really Christians but let's assume for now that if they say they are a Christian then they are – this is also a conservative estimate. If we assume that a similar ratio has been in effect through most of history that would put the total number of people that would inhabit the New Jerusalem at about 20 billion people! So, you are going to be living in a city for all eternity with 20 billion other people. How do you feel about that? Does it sound like a good deal to you? It sounds a little crowded to me.

Fortunately, God has given us the engineering dimensions of the New Jerusalem so we can do an engineering feasibility study to see if the biblical claims about the New Jerusalem are reasonable. An engineering feasibility study is a way of getting a better feel for a new idea to see if the claims it makes are reasonable. You take what limited information that you are given, and you apply known laws of science, mathematics, historical records, and conservative assumptions from which you can derive an estimate of how reasonable a new idea is. The New Jerusalem claims to be able to provide the experience of paradise for eternity for at least 20 billion people.

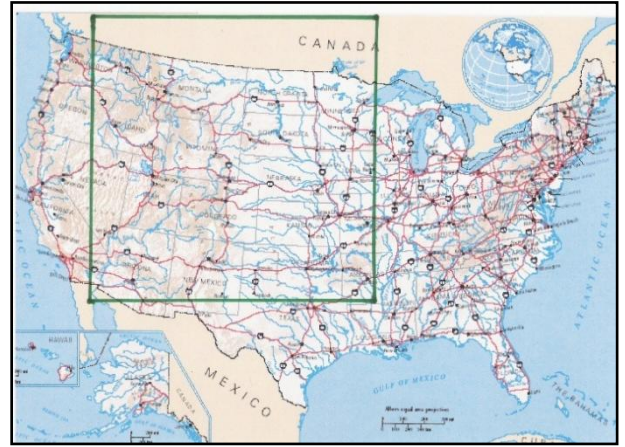
Let's do an analysis to see how crowded the New Jerusalem will be – in other words, what will the population density (people per square mile) be in the New Jerusalem? According to verse 17, angels use the same measurement systems as humans. This is a significant verse because it tells us that the measurements the angel is making are real dimensions – this is not figurative language.

What shape is the city? It is a 3-dimensional cube (its height is the same as its width and length). Have you ever seen a city in the shape of a cube? What is the length of each side of the cube? The measurement in the original Greek is 12,000 stadia. One issue is that there were 3 different lengths, all of which were referred to as "stadia", at the time the bible was written. One definition is about the same as a modern furlong which is 1/8 of a mile. That would mean that 12,000 stadia (or furlongs) equals 1500 miles (the other two definitions give a result of over 1300 miles and over 1400 miles respectively)! So, God has told us the size of the heavenly city. It is a 3-dimensional cube that is 1500 miles long on each side. Is this good or bad? Can't say – its just some numbers and humans don't relate well to numbers – but they are very good at comparing something new to something they are very familiar with.

If you are an American, you are familiar with the map of the continental United States. You probably have a feel for the size of this land area since you have walked around on it, driven cars around on it, and perhaps flown around it in airplanes. If we take the footprint of the New Jerusalem (1500 miles x 1500 miles) and overlay that on top of the continental United States, we get the result below.

This thing is massive! It covers over half of the continental United States! As John saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven it would have completely filled the sky from the northern horizon to the southern, and from the eastern horizon to the western. The area of the footprint is $1500 \times 1500 = 2,250,000$ square miles.

But the city is unlike anything we have ever seen because it is also 1500 miles vertical as well! So, how are we going to deal with this vertical dimension? Since we have never seen such a cubic city, we do not know exactly how it is constructed, and the Bible does not tell us. But we are not trying to figure out the details of how it is designed (we don't have enough information to do that), we are just trying to see if the claims of the New Jerusalem are reasonable or not by relating it to things we understand.



<http://www.nationalatlas.gov/printable/reference.html>

With that in mind how do people usually deal with building in the vertical direction? We usually use structures with floors or levels when we build in the vertical direction. So, if we were to assume a thickness for each level what thickness or height would make sense? 10 feet? 100 feet? Remember, the New Jerusalem makes the claim that it can provide the experience of paradise. I'm sorry but I'm going to need more than 100 feet! Let me make a proposal. Imagine that you are taking an airplane trip. You pack and head to your car. It is a dark, stormy day and as you drive to the airport the sky is black, and the rain comes down steadily and heavily. You get to the airport, check your bags and board the plane. As the plane taxi's down the runway the rain beats against your window. As you lift off the ground the plane steadily climbs – all the while the dark sky continues to beat rain against your airplane window. Soon you have entered the clouds, it is even darker and the rain streaks past your window. You bump through the clouds as you continue to climb and then, all of a sudden, your plane breaks through the clouds and climbs to 35,000 feet. What is it like up there? At that altitude the sky is clear and blue, the clouds are below you - all the weather is below you. Based on this experience we know that if God wanted to, He could replicate a human experience of Earth in a thickness of 35,000 feet which is less than 7 miles. So, in order to relate the New Jerusalem to things we are familiar with and using this experience, if the New Jerusalem was built in levels with a thickness of 7 miles per level that would not be unreasonable. The number of 7-mile thick levels that could fit in the New Jerusalem is: 1500 miles divided by 7 = 214 levels.

The total square miles of earth-like land in the city would be: $214 \times 2,250,000 = 481,500,000$ square miles.

So, we can estimate the population density of the New Jerusalem as:
 $20,000,000,000 \text{ people} / 481,500,000 \text{ square miles} = 41.5 \text{ people per square mile}.$

Is this good or bad? Can't tell. People don't relate well to numbers. But if we can find something familiar to relate it to that would help. According to historical records, 41.5 people per square mile is about the same as the population density of Hawaii in the year 1920 – at that time Hawaii was considered a pristine paradise. So, what do you think so far – are the claims of the New Jerusalem reasonable or unreasonable?

But the end of time has not yet occurred so what will happen as people continue to be born before the end of the age? The current population density of the United States is 76 people per square mile. If we assume the population density of the City grows to be similar to that of the US how many more people would that accommodate?

$76 \times 481,500,000 = 36.6 \text{ billion}$

$36.6 - 20 = 16.6 \text{ billion more Christians (or } 16.6 \times 3 = 49.8 \text{ billion more people born on the earth.)}$

But wait! – population in the US is concentrated in urban and suburban areas. In fact, the vast majority of Americans live in these areas which are only 5% of the land area of the US. 95% of the land area of the US is either wilderness or farmland. The reason people cram together into cities is that we want to be able to go to work and run errands without having to drive thousands of miles. If we didn't live together in high concentrations, it would take too much time and money to travel around to get our errands done. In the new city, transportation will likely be instantaneous so we can all spread out as much as we want. Therefore, the capacity of the New Jerusalem to provide an experience of paradise for large numbers of people is actually far greater than the very conservative engineering estimate we have done tonight. The conclusion we can draw from this is that the dimensions of the New Jerusalem are consistent with its claims that it can provide the experience of paradise to tens of billions of people. **(Revelation 21)**

Do we have to go in order in the Bible?

Reference: Chuck Missler, *Technology & The Bible*, video DVD, Koinonia House Ministries, 2008

No. There are two reasons for why reading / studying the Bible in sequential order is not required. First, the books of the Bible themselves cannot be arranged in strictly chronological order without breaking each of the books into pieces and interposing the sections. This is true for both the Old and New Testaments, but it is more prominent in the Old Testament. The good news is that scholars have actually broken apart the books of the Bible and arranged the sections in them in chronological order. These Bibles, called Chronological Bibles, are available for purchase anywhere Bibles are sold, if that is something you are interested in. And although its not necessary to read the Bible in sequential order, it is still important to read and study the entire Bible so that you have the full revelation from God and are not missing parts.

The second reason for why studying the Bible in sequential order is not required is because the Bible was intentionally designed by God to transmit information in small pieces rather than large chunks. The reason why follows. I prefer to use a topical style when teaching the Bible. In other words, I like to pick a topic and then see what the whole Bible has to say about that topic. When I do that something very interesting happens. I end up with verses from all over the books of the Bible that are important to that topic. Why is that? Why isn't all the information related to a topic found in one book of the Bible? Why isn't there a book of the Bible titled, "The Book of Marriage" or "The Book of Finances"? Why is the information spread out across so many different books? After all it makes the job of understanding God's will on a topic more work to dig out and uncover.

The message encoding approach used in the Bible is referred to by communications engineers as a "Spread Spectrum" approach to transmitting a message. Spread Spectrum techniques are methods by which a message is broken up into small pieces and each piece is deliberately spread over a wide range of frequencies for transmission instead of using one frequency. Even if many of the transmitted pieces don't get to the receiver, enough will that the receiver's processor can reassemble the complete message. With today's low-cost signal processing chips, the pieces can be reassembled into the original message in fractions of a second.

Why would you use a Spread Spectrum method to transmit a message? Spread Spectrum transmissions are used to establish secure communications, are very resistant to interference, noise and jamming, and to prevent detection. If you want to make your message resistant to jamming or modification by a hostile adversary, you would encode your message using Spread Spectrum. So, God has encoded His message in the Bible in such a way that it is extremely resistant to jamming or intentional modification by evil men or fallen angels.

How does this work? Think of each book of the Bible as a transmission frequency. Let's imagine that the Bible did not use a spread spectrum approach but instead each book of the Bible fully contained a single topic area of life (for example, the Book of Marriage). In this case if someone had a Bible but it was missing a single book what would happen to the information? Without Spread Spectrum, the information from God in the missing book would be completely unavailable to that person and might be lost forever. The missing book could also be replaced, undetected, by an impostor book in which the message had been changed by an adversary since there would be nothing else to compare it to. All the information from God on the topic was in that one book.

But by using a Spread Spectrum approach, God's will on a particular topic would still be available if one of the books of the Bible (for example, the book of James) was lost but some of the detail would be slightly degraded. However, the person would still have enough guidance from the rest of the Bible to do God's will. In addition, if an adversary tried to put an impostor book in its place, the impostor book would be easily detected because it would contradict multiple other books of the Bible in multiple topic areas.

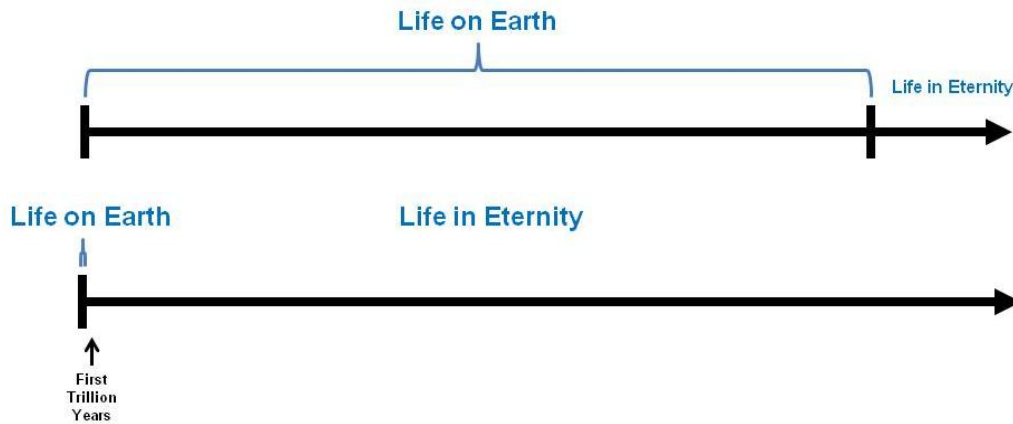
There are places in the world that are hostile to the existence of the Bible. Because of this, sometimes people have access to some but not all of the books of the Bible. God's encoding of His message across multiple books of the Bible makes it easier for people in these situations to still understand the mind of God on most issues.

The Spread Spectrum approach used by God in His design of the Bible is so obvious that even non-engineers recognize it. For example, in writing about his research on Bible prophecy, one writer concluded, *"the number of prophecies in the Bible is so large and their distribution so evenly spread through both Testaments and all types of literary forms that the interpreter is alerted to the fact that he or she is dealing with a major component of the Bible"* – Walter Kaiser, *Back Toward the Future*, Wipf & Stock Publishers, Eugene, OR, 2003.

Spread Spectrum approaches were invented during World War II by Hedy Lamarr and George Anthiel. Lamarr and Anthiel received a patent in 1941, but their methods were not used until the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) and, later, in numerous military applications. In addition, "Spread Spectrum" technology has enabled today's digital communications boom, making cellular phones and other wireless operations possible. But God used this same "cell phone technology" to protect His Word thousands of years before engineers discovered it.

How long is eternity?

The graph on the top is how most Christians view their lives. But God views our lives very differently, as on the bottom.



Compared to our lives in eternity, our life on the Earth is microscopically small! However, the decisions we make during our life on the Earth cast a long shadow throughout all of eternity. If we could see into the fullness of our eternal future, we would be able to understand the value of our obedience to God and of our challenges, trials, and sufferings on the Earth. Eternity is a difficult concept for us to relate to because we live in a world where our physical lives start, progress through time, and come to an end. But time is a part of the created, physical universe. Until God created time, it did not exist! Many things that God created will come to an end, but people and angels will live for eternity. Some will spend that eternity with God in Heaven and some will spend eternity without God in the Lake of Fire. The word, “eternal” means:

eternal: *having infinite duration; continuing without intermission; valid or existing at all times*

infinite: *extending indefinitely, endless; immeasurably or inconceivably great or extensive; incapable of being used up or worn out; subject to no limitation; extending beyond, lying beyond, or being greater than any preassigned finite value, no matter how large*

The Bible tells us that there are many things that will continue forever without end. For example:

- 1) Jesus will live in His resurrected body forever and will maintain His office of Priest on our behalf to ensure our eternal salvation (**Hebrews 7:24-25, Revelation 1:17-18, Hebrews 13:20-21**)
- 2) Jesus will reign forever and have dominion over every kingdom, including things that satan currently controls (**Revelation 11:15, I Timothy 6:16**)
- 3) God’s power is eternal and will continue forever (**Romans 1:20**)
- 4) God will be honored and glorified by His people and His angels forever and ever (**Revelation 5:13**)
- 5) God’s Word (i.e., the Bible) will continue to be in effect forever (**I Peter 1:23-25**)
- 6) Torment of God’s enemies will continue forever, no relief (**Rev 14:9-11, Rev 20:10-15, II Thess 1:6-10, Jude 1:6-7**)
- 7) Christians and Old Testament believers will live with God in paradise forever (**Matthew 25:46, John 5:24**)
- 8) God’s people will receive a valuable inheritance that will last forever (**Hebrews 9:15**)
- 9) God’s people will be glorified for eternity based on their lives on Earth (**II Cor 4:16-18, II Tim 2:10-13, Rom 8:16-18**)
- 10) God’s people will be given authority to reign over areas or parts of the eternal creation (**Revelation 22:3-5**)

Below are some additional definitions to help in understanding more about these eternal things:

immortal: *exempt from death and/or oblivion; not perishable or subject to decay; enduring forever*

dominion: *supreme authority and absolute ownership over an area*

reign: *authority or controlling influence; the dominion, sway, or influence of one resembling a monarch*

torment: *to cause severe usually persistent or recurrent distress of body or mind*

inheritance: *to come into possession of or receive something especially as a right or divine portion*

honor: *to regard or treat (someone) with admiration and respect; to give special recognition to*

glorify: *to elevate by bestowing honor, praise, and admiration, resulting in great gratification and renown; the height of prosperity and achievement; fame*

For more information on this topic please see the study. “An Eternal Weight of Glory” at:

<http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(Hebrews 7:24-25, Revelation 1:17-18, Hebrews 13:20-21, Revelation 11:15, I Timothy 6:16, Romans 1:20, Revelation 5:13, I Peter 1:23-25, Revelation 14:9-11, Revelation 20:10-15, II Thessalonians 1:6-10, Jude 1:6-7, Matthew 25:46, John 5:24, Hebrews 9:15, II Corinthians 4:16-18, II Timothy 2:10-13, Romans 8:16-18, Rev 22:3-5)

Can a person who was a strong Christian in childhood renounce their faith, God, or Christianity later?

It can appear that way but what really happened was they were never really a Christian, they just appeared to be one. There are certain types of people who have been immersed in the Christian community for long periods of time who ultimately decide to reject Christ. We will refer to these people as Apostate Non-Christians.

I John 2:18-19

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Churches are full of people, some of whom are Christians, some who are non-Christians still deciding what they believe, and some who present themselves as Christians but actually have not decided to become Christians yet. Eventually, those in the church who decide to not become Christians will separate themselves out and reveal what they truly believe.

Galatians 5:2-7

Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. ⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. ⁷ You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Paul is talking to two different types of people in this passage. One group (verses 2 to 4) are people who have heard the gospel and find it to be interesting, but they are not sure they really believe it. As a result, they seek to add additional requirements to salvation, because they don't really believe it can be true. Therefore, these people, although they may claim an intellectual or emotional sympathy with the gospel as well as friendship with Christians, are not really Christians themselves – they have never made the personal decision to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. Paul uses the term "severed from Christ" not because they are attached to Christ but because they think they are. These people have fallen short of the grace of God. The second group (verses 5-7) are immature Christians listening to these other people and wondering if they are right.

Key Point: *While the eternal destiny for apostate non-Christians is different than for Christians who fall away from the faith, it is often not easy to tell which is which from external observation so we don't give up on anyone.*

Hebrews 6:4-6

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

This passage refers to non-Christians who have been immersed in the study of God's Word or in fellowship with Christians perhaps for many years. For whatever reason they find it attractive but have never received Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. The Greek word for partakers is "metochous" which means to be associated with or to go along with. The Holy Spirit, using the Living and Active Word of God works on all men convicting them of sin, righteousness, and judgment (**John 16:8**) so even non-Christians who spend time around Christians and the study of God's Word have been made partakers of (i.e., to go along with) the Holy Spirit (If God had used the terms "sealed with" or "indwelt by" the Holy Spirit the reference would be of Christians, but those are not the terms used).

They have also observed the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Christians they have been immersed in fellowship with. Eventually, these people will either become Christians or will intentionally decide against Christ. If they decide to reject Christ it is impossible to renew them to repentance since they have seen all there is to see, and it was not enough. They rejected Christ even though they had an intimate, insider's view of everything. Note that the words used in this passage (enlightened, tasted, partake) are words demonstrating a weak association – these people are observers and social participants, but not Christians.

II Peter 2:20-21

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

Again, this passage is referring to non-Christians who have immersed themselves in fellowship with Christians and the study of God's Word but who never made that decision to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Their experience is one of Biblical knowledge, not personal relationship with God. When they turn away, they are in a worse state because they cannot be renewed to repentance (**Hebrews 6:6**). If they had not known these things, there would still be hope for them to repent.

Here's the problem: *Some people have been involved in church activities since they were in pre-school. They have memorized verses, heard hundreds of sermons, studied the Bible, and even been involved in Christian ministry. Even so, some of the people in this situation have never actually accepted Christ and put their trust in Him as their Savior.*

This is a very dangerous situation. One of three things will eventually result:

- 1) They will continue to drift along out of habit and die in their sins, separated from Christ for eternity
- 2) They will, at some point, make a decision to accept Christ as their personal Savior and Lord before they die
- 3) They will, at some point, decide that they don't believe any of this, reject Christ, and go another way

Let's talk first about numbers 1 and 2.

Perhaps you don't know which situation you are in. Our hearts can easily deceive us (**Jeremiah 17:9**) so its not always easy to know for sure if you have made a decision to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. Perhaps you engage in Christian activities out of habit. Perhaps you prayed to receive Christ, but the memory is a little fuzzy and you were young and you are just not sure. If you are in this situation what should you do?

II Corinthians 13:5-6

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? ⁶But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.

II Corinthians 2:9

For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

We can test ourselves to see if we are in the faith. How? By doing something out of obedience to Christ that cannot be done out of routine or habit. You have to go out of your way. Let's look at Paul's conversion.

Acts 22:12-16

"A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. ¹⁴And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. ¹⁵For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

We are saved by faith calling on the name of Jesus, not by baptism. But baptism is a good test to see if we are in the faith. Why? Because baptism is easy enough that any new Christian can do it, but its hard enough that most non-christians won't. You can use baptism to test yourself to see what is in your heart. If you have not been baptized why not? Why do you delay? If you are a real Christian, you will find a way to get yourself baptized. If not, you won't bother with it. Perhaps you are not sure if you are a Christian and you were baptized when you were younger but you are not sure why you did it. Perhaps you wanted to please your parents or get something that was being offered to those who got baptized. Now that you are more mature and free from these other motivations its OK to ask to be baptized again. Just explain the situation to your pastor. You getting baptized is an encouragement to others, but its primary purpose is to demonstrate to yourself that you have made a real decision to follow Christ.

Let's move on to item #3

(Non-christians immersed for long periods of time in the study of God's Word and fellowship with Christians who ultimately decide to reject Christ).

Hebrews 10:26-30

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

²⁸ **Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

²⁹ **How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."**

This passage also refers to non-Christians who have some knowledge of the truth because of their openness to studying the Bible and fellowshiping with Christians but who never received Christ as personal Lord and Savior. If they end up turning away from Christ and deciding against Him they are, in effect, trampling the Son of God under their feet and there is no hope of repentance for them. The only new puzzle in this passage is the phrase, "and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified". Non-Christians are not typically thought of as set apart or sanctified by the blood of the covenant. Some scholars (such as John MacArthur) believe the "he" that was sanctified was Christ. Is there any evidence in the Bible of Christ being sanctified? Yes, please see the following verses (**John 17:16-19, Hebrews 2:9-10, Hebrews 5:8-9, John 10:36**)

The First Apostate Non-Christian: Judas Iscariot

Judas was personally discipled by Jesus Christ in the flesh for 3 years. He saw all the miracles. He heard all of Jesus' teaching. He saw Jesus and the disciples do the Christian ministry. He himself did the Christian ministry. And after all of that, he decided that none of it was real, and he sold Jesus for a bag of coins. At the moment he publicly turned against Jesus, all hope for his salvation was lost (**Matthew 26:20-25, John 6:64**).

Another Example: Charles Templeton (1915 to 2001)

In 1936, Charles Templeton became a Christian evangelist. In 1941, Templeton founded the Avenue Road Church of the Nazarene, in Toronto and in 1946 Templeton co-founded a Christian ministry called Youth for Christ which is still in existence today. Templeton hired Billy Graham to be their first full-time evangelist. In essence, Templeton was Billy Graham's boss. Shortly afterward, Billy Graham and Templeton made an evangelistic tour of western Europe, frequently rooming together, and holding crusades in England, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden and other countries. Both Graham and Templeton took turns preaching at these crusades to audiences of 30,000 a night. After 21 years as an internationally known evangelist, Templeton left the ministry and publicly declared himself an agnostic. He went on to author various secular books and host secular radio programs. In 1995 he completed his slide into atheism in publishing his last book before his death titled, "*Farewell to God: my reasons for rejecting the Christian faith*". In his writings Templeton states that from the very beginning he never really believed in the Creation account recorded in Genesis or in the existence of Hell. He never really believed the Gospel. Is it possible to do Christian ministry without being a Christian? Judas did. Templeton did. The senior pastor of a church I attended said that he was a pastor for 8 years before he became a Christian. The Holy Spirit will use God's Word to work in people's hearts regardless of who the speaker of the words is. And what does the Bible say?

Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Just because you have led people to Christ or taught the Bible or pastored a church or started a Christian ministry or prayed for someone to be healed and they were (Templeton did all of these things) it does not mean you are a Christian. It comes down to a personal relationship with Christ based on your decision to accept Christ as Lord and Savior by faith. Nothing else can take the place of that. For a more detailed study on this topic please see, "How To Interpret Passages That Seem To Indicate Salvation Can Be Lost", at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(I John 2:18-19, Galatians 5:2-7, Hebrews 6:4-6, John 16:8, II Peter 2:20-21, Hebrews 6:6, Jeremiah 17:9, II Corinthians 13:5-6, II Corinthians 2:9, Acts 22:12-16, Hebrews 10:26-30, John 17:16-19, Hebrews 2:9-10, Hebrews 5:8-9, John 10:36, Matthew 26:20-25, John 6:64, Matthew 7:22-23)

Since God is perfect and never changes why did He get persuaded to not wipe out the Israelites by Moses? When Isaac was supposed to be sacrificed why did God change His mind?

God does not change His mind the way humans do (**Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Numbers 23:19**). Humans change their mind when they realize that they are making a mistake, they stop, change their mind, and try something different. God does not do this because He is perfect and does not make mistakes. He also is omniscient, so He is not surprised by anything. He is also all-powerful, so nothing is beyond His ability to control. He also highly values interacting relationally with humans and so He adjusts His approach to accommodate the relationship with the humans He is interacting with (**Exodus 33**). For example, in the case of God's command to sacrifice Isaac it was never God's intention for Isaac to die. The command was given to Abraham as a test of Abraham's willingness to obey God. Isaac was never in any danger since God can stop things from happening as He wishes, and He did (**Genesis 22, Matthew 10:37**).

Another difference between God and humans is that humans are often dominated in their decisions by emotions and feelings. As our emotions and feelings change, we change our minds and our decisions. This is not true for God. He has emotions and feelings, and He expresses them from time to time in the Bible, but these feelings do not change His Sovereign Will. In other words, God's decisions are not driven by emotions and feelings. God's expression of His

feelings is referred to as His Dispositional Will which is how He feels about things that please Him or displease Him. For example, **I Timothy 2:4** tells us that God, “.... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”. This is an expression of God’s feelings and emotions on the issue of men being saved. But we know that God is all-powerful and could, in fact, save everyone if He really decided to. But He is not going to. This demonstrates that God’s Dispositional Will (feelings and emotions) are different from His Sovereign Will (things that God has decided and decreed will definitely happen). Another example is in **Genesis 6:6 - The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart**. So, when you read a passage that appears to be an expression of emotions and feelings by God, don’t jump to the conclusion that God is going to change what He does because of them!

In **Exodus 32:9-10** it says, “**The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. ¹⁰ Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.”** Later in the chapter Moses asks God to not destroy the people, and it says that God changed His mind. God didn’t really change His mind it just looked that way from Moses’ human perspective. In reality, God is expressing His feelings about the situation and that He would be justified in destroying the people. But notice the wording of God’s statement, “Now then let Me alone” God is basically saying, “I would be justified in destroying this people, but this would be a good time for you to say something, Moses!” This is God valuing the personal relationship with His friend, Moses and including him in the decision. The other factor to keep in mind is that God’s Sovereign Will will be accomplished regardless of what Moses or any other man decides to do or not do (**Isaiah 46:9-11**). God literally controls every atom in the universe and men are easily directed through changes in circumstances. God can put it in Moses heart to request that Israel not be destroyed (**Proverbs 21:1**). Or if Moses chose not to intervene, God could destroy some of the offending people and rebuild Israel from there with no change to His Sovereign Will. There are an infinite number of paths that God can choose from to accomplish His Sovereign Will while also allowing men the free will to make their own decisions. This is not God changing His mind it is God graciously accommodating men’s free will while also ensuring His Sovereign Will is accomplished. In a similar way prayer is the opportunity God has given us (because He values the personal relationship with us) to influence which of the infinite paths God uses to accomplish His will. His Will will be accomplished one way or the other but the details about when, where, and how He does it and who He does it with can be influenced by our prayers. In other words, people and their decisions are heavily influenced by circumstances (as well as by their emotions) and our prayers can influence how God changes circumstances in people’s lives to accommodate our requests while also accomplishing His pre-determined will (**I John 5:14-15, Luke 18:1, II Chron 16:9**).

Another factor to consider is that God often says things that are conditional. In other words, “I will do X if you do Y” or “I won’t do X if you don’t do Y”. An example of this is in **Jonah 3** where God said that Nineveh would be overthrown in 40 days, but it didn’t happen because they repented. There was no change in God’s mind He is just giving people a choice of two alternatives to choose from (**Jeremiah 18:5-12**).

For completeness let’s summarize the different types of God’s Will:

- 1) God’s Sovereign Efficacious Will – Things that God actively chooses to make happen
- 2) God’s Sovereign Permissive Will – Things that God allows to happen that He could have chosen to stop
- 3) God’s Revealed Will – God’s commands given to us in the Bible
- 4) God’s Dispositional Will – God’s feelings and emotions regarding things that please Him or displease Him.

(**Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Numbers 23:19, Exodus chapter 33, Genesis chapter 22, Matthew 10:37, I Timothy 2:4, Genesis 6:6, Exodus 32:9-10, Isaiah 46:9-11, Proverbs 21:1, I John 5:14-15, Luke 18:1, II Chronicles 16:9, Jonah chapter 3, Jeremiah 18:5-12**)

What is the meaning of Philippians 3:1?

Philippians 3:1 [APMC] - For the rest, my brethren, delight yourselves in the Lord *and* continue to rejoice that you are in Him. To keep writing to you [over and over] of the same things is not irksome to me, and it is [a precaution] for your safety. There are two ideas in this verse. The first is the idea of delighting ourselves in the Lord and rejoicing that we are in Him. The second idea is the value of using repetition in teaching. Let’s discuss the idea of delighting ourselves in the Lord and rejoicing that we are in Him first.

Delight yourselves in the Lord and continue to rejoice that you are in Him

When we became Christians the path of our lives changed dramatically. For most people it didn’t feel like a large change at the time, it seemed small. But the direction of our lives shifted, and over time, what seemed like a small shift grew into a very large change as time went on. I am a very different person today than I would have been had I not become a Christian when I was a college student (**II Corinthians 5:17**). The biggest change in my life has been that my energies and resources have shifted from being spent on my own entertainment and pleasures to investing in eternity (**Prov 11:18, II Corinthians 9:6-12, Revelation 22:12-13, I Corinthians 3:8-15**). This brings me joy because I know that in eternity, I will receive a large return on these investments (**I Peter 1:3-4, Matthew 6:19-21**). When I look at people my age who spent their lives investing in the things of this world (entertainment, pleasure seeking, career, comfort seeking) what I see

is lost resources spent on things that disappoint (**Romans 8:5-8, I Timothy 6:9-10**). As time goes by these people end up disillusioned, disappointed, and unhappy (**I John 2:15-17**)! As Christians we experience some of the same disappointments the non-Christians do but because our focus is on our relationship with God and our future in eternity, we have sources of joy the non-Christians don't have. When I am treated unfairly in my career, I know that God is in control and using it for good (**Romans 8:28-30, Genesis 50:15-21**). I know that He will fight for me and defend me or move me to a better job (**I Peter 5:6-7, Matthew 6:33**). Non-Christians don't have that. If I have financial problems or health problems or enemies who are causing me problems I can turn to God in prayer, and He takes action on my behalf and helps me overcome these situations and He provides for me (**Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 94:19, Isaiah 35:4, Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:6**). Non-Christians don't have that. A few weeks ago at work, we had a workshop on Resilience in the face of overwhelming stress. How do non-Christians handle stress? Some drink alcohol or take drugs, some exercise or try to distract themselves with social activities. But at the end of the day, they are alone with no one to help them handle their overwhelming problems. When the leader of the workshop asked me how I handled overwhelming stress I said I read the Bible because it reminded me that things that seem like permanent losses (deaths, job loss, health loss, etc.) are really just temporary, they are not really permanent (**Jeremiah 17:5-8, Psalm 1, Luke 18:28-30**). Non-Christians can't say that! No matter what happens in this life God is going to help me now and compensate me in eternity and is my primary source of joy in life (**Romans 14:17, I Peter 1:8, Nehemiah 8:10**).

The value of using repetition in teaching

It is well established that humans start forgetting new information almost immediately unless it is reinforced through repetition. Therefore, when teaching new ideas and methods to people, teachers expect to have to repeat or review the material on a regular basis. For example, at work it is not uncommon for the same training to be repeated at least once a year if not more often. We see this same pattern of repeating and reminding in the Bible with the apostles in their letters. (**Romans 15:15-16, I Corinthians 4:17, II Timothy 2:14, Titus 3:1-2, II Peter 1:12-15, II Peter 3:1-2, Jude 1:5**). Even Jesus repeated some of His miracles to help His disciples learn the lessons they needed to learn. For example, there were two times when Jesus saved the disciples during the night when they were caught in a storm on a boat. Once He was sleeping in the boat (**Matt 8:23-27**) and the other time He walked on the water toward the boat (**Matt 14:22-33**)! There were two times when He fed large crowds. Once He fed 5,000+ people with five loaves and two fish (**Matthew 14:13-21**). Another time He fed 4,000+ people with seven loaves and a few small fish (**Matthew 15:32-38**).

(**Philippians 3:1, II Cor 5:17, Prov 11:18, II Cor 9:6-12, Rev 22:12-13, I Cor 3:8-15, I Peter 1:3-4, Matthew 6:19-21, Romans 8:5-8, I Timothy 6:9-10, I John 2:15-17, Romans 8:28-30, Genesis 50:15-21, I Peter 5:6-7, Matthew 6:33, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 94:19, Isaiah 35:4, Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:6, Jeremiah 17:5-8, Psalm 1, Luke 18:28-30, Romans 14:17, I Peter 1:8, Neh 8:10, Romans 15:15-16, I Cor 4:17, II Timothy 2:14, Titus 3:1-2, II Peter 1:12-15, II Peter 3:1-2, Jude 1:5, Matthew 8:23-27, Matthew 14:22-33, Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 15:32-38**)

Since we're all descended from Adam and Eve why are there not more genetic deformities in us?

Abnormalities or mutations in a person's DNA (i.e., deoxyribonucleic acid) can cause a person to have a genetic disease or deformity. Even though there are thousands of known genetic diseases today, they are very rare in the general population. We will discuss some of the reasons why.

DNA contains the genetic information to build an entire you, and a copy of it exists in every cell of your body. The DNA is made up of 23 chromosomes made from your parent's chromosomes. Because it contains all the information to construct everything about you, it is extremely complex containing about 1.5 gigabytes of data (in every cell). Because it is so complex and important, God created multiple ways for the DNA system to detect and remove defects and abnormalities from DNA. For example, DNA replication includes a "proofreading" system that helps to make sure copying of DNA is accurate. This system assembles new DNA strands one base pair at a time, but it also can detect an incorrect base on the new strand, back up, snip out the bad base, replace it with the correct base and resume its replicating process! This "proofreading" process has an accuracy rate of about 99%. A second correction system is "mismatch repair" to fix the mistakes that the proofreader enzymes missed. The mismatch repair system inspects the DNA helix structure for deformities, and another family of enzymes finds a good location to cleave the strand and removes a portion of the DNA that contains the mismatch, usually a portion that is thousands of base pairs long. Then another system builds a new version of the removed portion that is correct. As a result, most people don't have a lot of mutations in their DNA and, if they do, the mutation does not cause any problems or disease. If the error correction systems work well through most of a person's life but start to lose their effectiveness as they get older the result is DNA mutations that typically cause cancer. This is why cancer is more prevalent as people get older. Also, many genetic diseases require multiple mutations in different genes in order to cause the disease to occur. The probability of multiple specific mutations occurring in one person's DNA is extremely small. Another reason why genetic diseases are so rare is because, if they cause severe disease, the person will often die before birth or when they are very young before they can have children, which means the genetic problem stops in their generation and is not passed on (i.e., no descendants).

The biggest problem contributing to genetic disease is that many of these diseases are inherited in what is called an “autosomal recessive manner”. This means that the disease will only show up in descendants if both parents have the same mutated gene. Since the probability of two randomly selected people having the same mutation in the same gene is extremely low, this probability of causing disease is also extremely low. Having said that, there is one danger. If the two people are not randomly selected but are instead closely related, the probability they both have the same gene mutation goes up significantly! For example, if both parents have the same mutation in the same gene the probability that their child will have the genetic disorder increases from extremely low to about 25%! There are two ways to prevent this from happening. First, the married couple can be tested for genetic compatibility. If they both have the same mutated gene known to cause serious disease, they can choose not to have children. The second way is to not allow people who are closely related to marry each other and have children. Adam and Eve were created with perfect DNA. After their sin the world began to decay, and death entered creation (**Romans 8:18-25**). Over time, human DNA would slowly begin to accumulate damage so that by the time of Moses, God issued the commands against marriage of close relatives in order to mitigate this problem (**Leviticus 18**). This is why, today, marriage to a close relative is prohibited by God and most societies consider it a crime (i.e. incest). But before God issued the commands in Leviticus, it was not a sin or a crime to marry a close relative. <https://www.britannica.com/science/DNA-repair> (**Romans 8:18-25, Leviticus 18**)

Will animals return to being vegetarian after the Rapture?

In God’s original creation, before Adam’s sin, animals behaved differently than they do today. For example, they did not kill each other, and they ate plants for food (**Genesis 1:29-30**). After Adam’s sin, all of creation started to change and decay and become corrupted from its original design, including animals (**Romans 8:19-22**). After Adam’s sin, animals started to kill and eat each other as they do today. And God allowed people to eat some of the animals after the flood of Noah’s time (**Genesis 9:1-3**). In the future, the Rapture of the Church will occur with all the Christians in the world removed from Earth in an instant. After the Rapture there will be a seven-year period of great distress called the Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will return to the Earth, destroy His enemies, put satan in a prison called the Abyss, and live and rule on Earth for 1,000 years (**Micah 4:1-4, Revelation 20:1-3**). This time period is called the Millennial Kingdom. During the Millennial Kingdom the Earth will be physically changed, Jesus will physically live on Earth and rule the government, Christians and Old Testament believers who have died will live there in their eternal, resurrected bodies, and Christians who physically survived the Tribulation will also live there in their fallen bodies (like the ones we have today). During the Millennial Kingdom the animals will be like they were originally and will not kill and eat each other (**Isaiah 11:6-9, Isaiah 65:25**). So, yes animals will be vegetarian during the Millennial Kingdom!

(**Genesis 1:29-30, Romans 8:19-22, Genesis 9:1-3, Micah 4:1-4, Revelation 20:1-3, Isaiah 11:6-9, Isaiah 65:25**)

What does the Bible say about seemingly mythical creatures such as Leviathan or Bigfoot or Sea People?

One of the most powerful methods humans use to communicate ideas and information in ways that are easy to remember and connect emotionally with other people is by telling a good story. The story can be true, or it can contain important truths that can be helpful to people. But a story could also be made up or created to inappropriately persuade or influence people to believe things that may not be true. Other stories are made up just for entertainment. The problem is that sometimes its hard to tell which stories are true, which ones are figurative, and which ones are misleading and could cause someone to believe things that are not true.

Myths and legends are really good stories about things that are not supported with objective evidence as being real

mythical: *described in a myth as contrasted with history; existing only in the imagination; fictitious; imaginary*

objective: *dealing with facts or conditions without distortion by personal feelings, prejudices, or interpretations*

evidence: *an outward sign or indication; something that furnishes proof*

These stories can be entertaining and perhaps even teach some important lessons, but the stories themselves are not true. Myths usually are based on stories about non-humans (gods, demigods, supernatural characters or animals) while legends are exaggerated stories about real people, but the stories themselves are not true. In both cases, myths and legends do not have a historical basis in fact. The Bible tells us to not pay attention to myths because they can lead us to believing things that are not true (**I Timothy 1:3-4, II Timothy 4:3-4**). In contrast to myths, there are animals and supernatural entities that have existed in the past and supernatural entities that exist in the present that are not mythical but are real. For example, we know from objective evidence (i.e., fossilized bones) that dinosaurs lived in the past. And we know from the Bible that supernatural entities such as angels and demons lived in the past as well as in our present time. These are different from myths because they are real. The Bible (**Job chapters 40 & 41**) describes two large animals that appear to be a land dinosaur (Behemoth) and a sea dinosaur (Leviathan). These were real animals that lived at the same time that people lived, but are now extinct. There are also words in the Bible such as the Hebrew word, *tanniyn*, that indicates some kind of very large or hideous creature. The bottom line is that unusual creatures mentioned in the Bible were real unless the context presents them as figurative of something else (e.g., satan being referred to as a dragon). If not mentioned in the Bible and if no objective evidence can be provided, then its best to assume an unusual creature is not real but mythical. (**I Timothy 1:3-4, II Timothy 4:3-4, Job chapters 40 & 41**)

Where did the ideas for Greek and Roman gods come from? Could they have been fooled by demons?

You are correct! The Bible teaches that all false religions are created by the work of satan and his fallen angels (i.e., demons). The result being that people would make sacrifices to “new gods” that were really demons (**Deut 32:16-17, I Corinthians 10:20-22**). They would even kill their children as sacrifices to the demons (**Psalm 106:34-39**). When people do these things, they are not aware that they are worshipping or sacrificing to demons, they think these entities are spirits or “the gods” but the Bible tells us they are actually demons pretending to be gods. In some cases, demons will start a religion by appearing physically or performing physical miracles (**Exodus 7:11-12, Revelation 16:13-14**) demonstrating that they are more powerful than people and should be worshipped. In other cases, demons don’t act or appear physically but instead convince people to believe in doctrines that are false as stated in **I Timothy 4:1 [AMPC] - But the [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach**. In the case of the Greeks and Romans, satan combined their love of storytelling with a need to be able to explain natural phenomena, cultural variations, traditional enmities, and friendships in some meaningful way, to create their false religion. satan continues to take whatever appeals to people and uses it to persuade them to believe in the “doctrines of demons” that are compatible with their preferences (**II Timothy 4:1-5**). This is one of the reasons why you would never marry someone who believes in a false religion – they are living their life based on the teachings of demons (**II Corinthians 6:14-18**)!

delude: *to mislead the mind or judgment of; deceive; trick*

seduce: *to persuade to disobedience or disloyalty; to lead astray usually with false promises*

doctrine: *the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief*

(Deuteronomy 32:16-17, I Corinthians 10:20-22, Psalm 106:34-39, Exodus 7:11-12, Revelation 16:13-14, I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 4:1-5, II Corinthians 6:14-18)

I have a lot of problems that seem to continually get worse and I don’t want to make my parents feel like its their fault or break their hearts but I’m not sure what to do. Why would people commit suicide because of bullying?

The teen years (13 to 18) are some of the most difficult years of life. During these five short years you are rapidly changing physically from a child to an adult. It is also a time when emotions are very intense. Things that seem like minor bumps in the road to older adults can feel like devastating permanent losses to a teen. As you get older you will gain perspective and realize that most of these feelings are temporary and will greatly reduce in intensity over time but right now they feel like much more than that. The important thing to remember is that what you are feeling is common to all teens, even if they don’t show it to other people, and that most of the feelings and emotions are temporary and don’t mean anything, in and of themselves (**I Corinthians 10:13**). The biggest mistake some teens make when they have these feelings is that they try to take actions that have permanent consequences in trying to address these temporary problems – don’t do that! As you watch other teens (Christian and non-Christian) try to handle these intense feelings you will notice some of them doing things to relieve these feelings that have permanent consequences. Some will turn to alcohol or drugs, pornography or pre-marital sex, suicide, criminal activities, or addictive activities such as gaming or cutting. These things have permanent consequences that make things worse, not better. Instead, we look to God and what He tells us to do in the Bible and focus our energies (teens have a lot of increased energy too!) on obeying Him and putting His Will into practice (**Proverbs 1:1-7**). We trust God and the promises He has made to be in control of our lives (**Psalm 71:5**). As you follow God and obey Him your friends are going to change because some of them will decide they don’t want to make God their first priority (**II Timothy 2:22**). So, don’t be concerned if you lose some of your old friends too. This is normal. Focus your energies on things that are productive: studying the Bible, learning your Bridge Illustration, serving in church, working on your school work, being involved in team sports or other forms of regular exercise, music, art, etc. and develop friends who share these same interests (**Psalm 71:17, I Timothy 4:12**). Also, your parents can help you by giving you advice on other ways to spend your time and energy that will be productive for you and not destructive (**Proverbs 1:8-9**). Also, don’t underestimate the importance of exercise. Intense exercise can calm your emotions and help you feel better!

(I Corinthians 10:13, Proverbs 1:1-7, Psalm 71:5, II Timothy 2:22, Psalm 71:17, I Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 1:8-9)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How can I spread the word of the Lord without making it weird?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I John 5:19, II Timothy 2:24-26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 4:3-4, I Corinthians 1:18, II Corinthians 2:14-17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 16:8, I Corinthians 2:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How can I spread the word of the Lord without making it weird?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 5:24, I Peter 1:23, Romans 10:17, Mark 4:14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 3:15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How can I spread the word of the Lord without making it weird?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 4:6-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 6:15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 27:17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How large is Heaven? Does the New Jerusalem have enough room in it for everyone?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 21:1-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 21:10-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 21:22-27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long is eternity?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 7:24-25, Revelation 1:17-18, Hebrews 13:20-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 11:15, I Timothy 6:16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 1:20, Revelation 5:13, I Peter 1:23-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long is eternity?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 14:9-11, Revelation 20:10-15, II Thess 1:6-10, Jude 1:6-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 25:46, John 5:24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 9:15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long is eternity?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 4:16-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:10-13, Romans 8:16-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 22:3-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Can a person who was a strong Christian in childhood renounce their faith later?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I John 2:18-19, Galatians 5:2-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 6:4-6, John 16:8, II Peter 2:20-21, Hebrews 6:6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 17:9, II Corinthians 13:5-6, II Corinthians 2:9, Acts 22:12-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Can a person who was a strong Christian in childhood renounce their faith later?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 10:26-30*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 17:16-19, Hebrews 2:9-10, Hebrews 5:8-9, John 10:36*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 26:20-25, John 6:64, Matthew 7:22-23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Since God is perfect and never changes why did He get persuaded to change His mind sometimes?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Numbers 23:19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus Chapter 33*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 22, Matthew 10:37*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Since God is perfect and never changes why did He get persuaded to change His mind sometimes?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 2:4, Genesis 6:6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 32:9-10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 46:9-11, Proverbs 21:1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Since God is perfect and never changes why did He get persuaded to change His mind sometimes?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I John 5:14-15, Luke 18:1, II Chronicles 16:9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jonah Chapter 3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 18:5-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of Philippians 3:1?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Philippians 3:1, II Corinthians 5:17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Prov 11:18, II Corinthians 9:6-12, Rev 22:12-13, I Corinthians 3:8-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 1:3-4, Matthew 6:19-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of Philippians 3:1?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:5-8, I Timothy 6:9-10, I John 2:15-17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:28-30, Genesis 50:15-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 5:6-7, Matthew 6:33*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of Philippians 3:1?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 94:19, Isaiah 35:4, Matt 6:25-34, Philippians 4:6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 17:5-8, Luke 18:28-30*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm Chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of Philippians 3:1?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 14:17, I Peter 1:8, Nehemiah 8:10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 15:15-16, I Corinthians 4:17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:14, Titus 3:1-2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of Philippians 3:1?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Peter 1:12-15, II Peter 3:1-2, Jude 1:5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 8:23-27, Matthew 14:22-33*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 15:32-38*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Since we are all descended from Adam and Eve why are there not more genetic deformities in us?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:18-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Leviticus 18:1-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Leviticus 18:19-30*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will animals return to being vegetarians after the Rapture?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 1:29-30, Romans 8:19-22, Genesis 9:1-3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Micah 4:1-4, Revelation 20:1-3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 11:6-9, Isaiah 65:25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What does the Bible say about seemingly mythical creatures (Leviathan, Bigfoot, or Sea people)?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 1:3-4, II Timothy 4:3-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Job Chapter 40*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Job Chapter 41*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Where did ideas for Greek and Roman gods come from? Could they have been fooled by demons?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 32:16-17, I Corinthians 10:20-22, Psalm 106:34-39*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 7:11-2, Revelation 16:13-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 4:1-5, II Corinthians 6:14-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *I have a lot of problems that seem to continually get worse and I don't know what to do.*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 10:13, Proverbs 1:1-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 71:5, II Timothy 2:22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 71:17, I Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 1:8-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?