

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 7
Michael R. Daily, 2013 (updated December 2015)

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

Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

First, the Bible says that there are no good people (**Romans 3:9-12**). It says that we are all sinners (**Romans 3:23**) and deserve to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. Its only by God's grace and the sacrifice of His Son on the Cross that we are allowed to spend eternity in paradise with God forever and ever (if we give our lives to God and receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord). So, it would be more appropriate to ask, "Why does God let bad things happen to people? Let's tackle that first then we will work on the second question.

The reason that God lets bad things happen to people can be traced back to what the purpose of life on the Earth is. The purpose of life is not to be happy, fulfilled, or satisfied (**Hebrews 12**). Why? Because we live in enemy territory in the middle of a war (**Ephesians 6:10-17**)! We live on a planet ruled by a fallen archangel, satan (**I John 5:19**), who has imprisoned non-Christians and controls them (**II Timothy 2:24-26**). We live in a decaying body whose desires are constantly set against the will of God, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - including Christmas! (**Romans 7:14-25**). We struggle everyday with a world system that is hostile to God's Word and His values (**Romans 12:1-2**). Each day that passes brings us closer to facing our final enemy, death. If your goal is to find happiness, fulfillment, and satisfaction in this life without God, you are going to be terribly disappointed (**The Book of Ecclesiastes**). That's why Jesus came to the Earth, to save us from this hopeless situation and give us happiness, fulfillment, and satisfaction for all of eternity in the next life. If that is true then why don't we all just immediately go to heaven after we become Christians? Why do we have to hang around down here in this mess? Because God as a purpose for that as well. The purpose, for you the Christian, is to develop in you a Godly Faith and Christlike Character (**Ephesians 4:13, I Peter 1:6-7**). Nothing is more valuable to God than that.

Now that we understand what the purpose for life is let's think about this a little bit. What if God never let anything bad happen to people? What kind of world would that be? If God is going to intervene every time someone tries to do something that will have bad consequences what would that teach people? It would teach people that bad things are harmless. Imagine if someone put their hand on a hot stove. What would happen? Nothing. God would intervene and make the hot stove unable to burn anyone. Every time someone did something foolish or unwise nothing bad would happen to them or anyone else. What would they learn from this? They would learn that wisdom has no value and foolishness is a great way to live! How would this achieve God's purpose in developing in people Christlikeness, wisdom, discernment, prudence, and all of the other character qualities that God highly values for people? It wouldn't. In fact it would do just the opposite (**Ecclesiastes 8:11**). So, to fulfill the purpose God has for developing our character during our few short years on the Earth (**James 4:14**), God allows our actions to have consequences, both for ourselves and for other people (**Hebrews 12:11, Galatians 6:7-10, Exodus 34:6-7**). Having said that, God also remains in control so nothing that anyone else does can affect us without God's permission (**Proverbs 21:1**). So, God has set up life on the Earth so that it consistently accomplishes His purpose of developing our characters without being more than we can handle (**I Corinthians 10:13**). Because God is a loving Father He also gives us times of happiness and pleasure, just don't make the mistake of thinking that is what life is all about (**James 1:17**).

OK, now let's talk about PAIN (isn't this a fun study?). There are many different types of pain in life. There are small, temporary pains and irritations that are constantly coming and going. Getting tired, hungry, sick, getting your feelings hurt, having something you own break, having something you own stolen, the list goes on and on (**Ecclesiastes 2:22-23**). These pains are a constant reminder that we don't belong here, and that our home is in heaven. But with "practice" we can get used to these pains and become numb to them and think everything is great.

Then there are things that cause severe pain but are temporary. One summer, when I was in middle school I was selected for the All-Star baseball team. They selected 2 more boys than they were allowed to have on the team. We then had hard practices everyday for 3 weeks and the coaches decided who would be the starting players, who would be substitute players who mostly sat in the dugout and played occasionally, and which 2 boys would be designated as "alternates". I was selected as one of the 2 alternates. Being an alternate is the worst thing that can happen to you. As an alternate I had to go to the games in my regular clothes and sit in the bleachers. No uniform, no dugout, nothing. I would only suit up and join the team if someone died or was severely injured. I had thought I was going to be an All-Star but instead I was nothing. It was an extremely painful experience but I showed up to ride the bus to our first official game anyway (the other alternate never showed up). It was extremely hot during our first game and no one had brought any water for the players and the rules forbid anyone from leaving the game field and returning. As a result the boys in our team's dugout starting asking me to go get them cups of water once the game got started. Now I was demoted down to water boy! I couldn't take it. The pain was so intense I told the whole team (including the coaches), right in the middle of

the game, that I was not their water boy and I walked off to the bus and waited for the game to end. This was not a good way to handle the situation but the point is, I had never experienced such a deep level of emotional pain before - anger, sadness, disappointment, humiliation, embarrassment, all rolled into one. I just can't tell you how much it hurt. Nevertheless, it was temporary (**Ecclesiastes 11:10**). The team died of thirst and thankfully (from my perspective) lost the game and was eliminated from the tournament, thus ending the season and my misery. A few months later there would be other sports and after that other baseball teams for me to play on.

But there is another type of pain. This is a severe pain that is permanent. Eventually, there will come a time in life when something will inflict some type of severe pain or loss on us, but this pain or loss will be permanent. It never completely goes away. Why would God allow this to happen? Because God wants to find out, when push comes to shove, what is really in our hearts? When it appears that everything you love on this Earth is stripped away from you what will you do? When every form of encouragement to follow God disappears and there is nothing left except you and God, what will you do? When the future appears to be hopeless, difficult, and painful, what will you do? Christians respond to these situations in one of three ways. One thing they might do is give up. They feel like they have lost everything that was meaningful to them on Earth and the only future they see on Earth is a painful one. As a result they may kill themselves (bad decision). Another thing they might do is try to find some way to relieve the pain. There are many things on the Earth that can temporarily dull the pain they are feeling. These things include drugs, alcohol, and many other addictive behaviors. At first these things can give the person a feeling of being able to cope with the pain but very quickly these things take over and control the person's life as an addiction. Now the person is in even worse shape. I had a Christian friend who chose this path, became severely addicted to drugs, became even more hopeless, and killed himself (another bad decision). Notice I said Christians. Remember, Christians are sinners. Some have more faith than others. Just because a Christian becomes addicted to drugs or kills themselves doesn't mean they won't go to heaven. Their lack of faith during this test means they will be embarrassed at the Judgment and will forfeit some rewards they otherwise would have gotten but God still forgives them, loves them, and will let them in to heaven. Why? Because they made no claims to be righteous apart from the blood of Christ. So, they still get to go to heaven (**I Corinthians 3:1-15**).

The third option is the right decision. God wants us to get serious about living for eternity instead of for this life. Instead of looking forward to things on the Earth that we like, we replace that with looking forward to the life after this one (**John 12:24-26**). We focus our lives on pleasing God, getting to know Him, serving others, helping others know Him, all the while looking to the rewards He will give us at the Judgment (**II Corinthians 1:3-7, Romans 8:18 Philippians 3:7-11**). This becomes the focus of our lives and, over time, becomes a source of satisfaction and pleasure in this life as well. In other words, the future that appeared to be hopeless, difficult, and painful turns out to not be as bad as we thought and, although it may take a few years to get there, turns out to be better, now that our focus is on the right things. We have passed the test, just as Job did.

God also promises to provide grace for difficult circumstances. He promises that He will never leave us or forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5-6**). In addition He has special promises for specific situations. For example, if a child's father dies God says that He will personally fill the role of father for that person, if they want Him to (**Psalms 68:5-6, Psalm 146:8-9, Deuteronomy 10:17-18**). Think about that. If your father dies and you ask God to personally fill your father's spot Himself, He will! While everyone else only has imperfect human fathers yours will be the perfect, all powerful, infinite God! He will do some special things for you that children with regular fathers will never experience. But only if you believe what He says and ask Him. See how that works? It always comes back to faith. When push comes to shove do you really believe that what God says is true?

One last thought about suicide. In some cases mental illness is involved, even with Christians. Over time doctors are finding that many forms of mental illness are caused by chemical or physical problems in the brain. These problems in the brain make it impossible for the person to think like a normal brain would think. For example, my mother was a Christian but she struggled with mental illness for all of her adult life. Most of the time she was fine. The doctors gave her medicine which helped her brain work normally. There were a few times when the medicine wasn't quite right and she had to go into the hospital until they got things back in balance but it didn't take very long. Toward the end of her life her brain got out of balance again and this time the doctors could not get it back in balance and she ended up killing herself. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that she is in heaven. Her mental illness was not due to a lack of faith but due to a physical infirmity. The primary reason I became a Christian was because of my mother's example during the times when her brain was working properly.

(Rom 3:9-12, Rom 3:23, Hebrews 12, Ephesians 6:10-17, I John 5:19, II Timothy 2:24-26, Rom 7:14-25, Rom 12:1-2, Ecclesiastes 3:16-17, Ephesians 4:13, I Peter 1:6-7, Ecclesiastes 8:11, James 4:14, Hebrews 12:11, Gal 6:7-10, Exodus 34:6-7, Proverbs 21:1, I Cor 10:13, James 1:17, Ecclesiastes 2:22-23, Ecclesiastes 11:10, I Cor 3:1-15, John 12:24-26, II Cor 1:3-7, Rom 8:18, Philippians 3:7-11, Heb 13:5-6, Ps 68:5-6, Ps 146:8-9, Deut 10:17-18)

For more information on this topic see, "Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen To Good People?" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

Yes, angels and demons (fallen angels) are still around. One of satan's most successful deceptions has been to convince people that he and his fallen angels either don't exist or that they exist but that they are currently in the Lake of Fire. Neither is true (**Ephesians 6:12**). The Bible says that when the archangel Lucifer (satan's original name which meant, "The Shining One") rebelled against God he was able to persuade 1/3 of God's angels to follow him (**Rev 12:4, 7-9**). Think about that. This guy is so persuasive that he was able to convince supernatural beings, intentionally designed to highly value obedience to God and who lived everyday in the presence of God in heaven, to rebel against God! Satan and his angels went to battle with the archangel Michael and his angels, and Michael won. Satan and the angels that followed him in rebellion were kicked out of heaven and thrown down to Earth which is where they have been living since the time of Adam and Eve (**Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12**). Satan lost the battle for heaven but he continues the war against God here on Earth (**Revelation 12:17**). The Bible says that these fallen angels constantly roam about the Earth seeking people to devour and destroy (**I Peter 5:18**). So, why isn't this more obvious? Because the most effective enemy is the one you don't believe in or the attack that you never see coming. "*No enterprise is more likely to succeed than one concealed from the enemy until it is ripe for execution*" - Niccolo Machiavelli (1469 -1527). So, satan's goals are to take as many of God's creations (people) to the Lake of Fire as possible, destroy the faith and spiritual lives of Christians, and destroy the nation of Israel, all without being identified as the cause. Why? Because if people become conscious and aware that fallen angels are doing these things Christians will pray against them. This terrifies fallen angels because it would mean their defeat (**Romans 16:20**). So, the primary tool that fallen angels use is deception. Deception just means to convince you that something bad is good or that something good is bad. If they can do that with people, then people will destroy themselves or others and think it was not only their own idea but that it was a good idea, at least until it was too late.

In addition, satan and his angels have boundaries that God has set that they are not allowed to cross. Any demon who crosses the boundary would be immediately removed from Earth and placed in a special prison God created for them called "The Abyss". The Abyss is a prison of darkness and chains where a demon can't see and they can't move. Demons are terrified of the Abyss (**Luke 8:27-32**). So, if you are a demon you have two choices. 1) Roam about the Earth for a few thousand years harassing and deceiving people but staying within the boundaries God has set, then, at the end of the age, be judged by God and thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity, or 2) Spend a few thousand years locked in a prison of darkness and chains where you can't see or move, then, at the end of the age, be judged by God and thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity. Most demons choose number 1. There was a time in the past when a few demons did violate God's boundaries which caused the Nephilim problem during Noah's time that God cleaned up using a worldwide flood (**Genesis 6:1-13**). However, the example that God made of those demons by putting them in the Abyss is what deters the demons of today from crossing God's boundaries (**Jude 1:6-7, II Peter 2:4-5**). This is the reason why we live in a world with evil demonic beings and yet life is not a horror movie. The demons can only do things within the limitations God has set for them (**Job chapters 1&2**). So, satan can't destroy you directly but he is still extremely good at convincing people to destroy themselves! In addition, he can also ask God to give him permission to test you with difficulties (**Luke 22:31-34, I Peter 4:12-16**) like he did with Job. By the way, the Bible says that in the future, during the Tribulation period, God is going to open up the Abyss and let out the demonic war criminals onto the Earth again (**Revelation 9:1-11 & 20:1-3**). The horror movie of Noah's time is going to happen again during the 7 year Tribulation (thank goodness we won't be here then)!

OK, now there is an exception to the rule. If people seek out demons then God allows the boundaries to shift for those people. In other words if people involve themselves in the occult (this word means "secret spiritual knowledge") in one or more of its various forms then God allows the demons more freedom to interact with that person. Why? Because the person is essentially inviting the demons in! Occult practices that open people up to demonic influence or even demon possession include: satan worship, witchcraft, magical incantations, horoscopes, palm reading, fortune telling, tarot cards, ouija boards, astrology, wicca, new age religions, shamanism, channeling, spirit guides, ghost hunting, UFOs, flying saucers, and alien abductions (**Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6, Deut 18:9-12, Jeremiah 10:2, Isaiah 19:1-4**). Even if done in a non-serious way, dabbling in these things can open doors best left unopened. If you stay away from these things you won't have any problems with demon possession (this is true for everyone including non-christians). Hollywood (a street in California that is also a symbol of the movie industry) has made the word "demon" seem frightening but the truth is that demons are terrified of Christians who are not ignorant of their schemes (**II Corinthians 2:11**) because if you start praying against them they are in big trouble (**Mark 16:17, Luke 10:17-20**)! If you ever get the feeling a demon is bothering you just start praying and ask God to help you and the demon will take off running (**James 4:7**)!

Let's talk about what angels look like. First, angels accomplish missions for God, often on our behalf (**Hebrews 1:7&14, Matthew 18:10, Psalm 34:7**). While evil men and fallen angels harass us and oppose us, God sends His angels to assist us in overcoming these things. Angels take forms that best enable them to complete their mission successfully. The large majority of their missions can be completed without them needing to take a physical form. In other words they are invisible most of the time. According to the Bible angels can appear as humans, humanoids (something similar in shape to a human being), spinning wheels, metallic objects, neon lights, or as beings with a mixture of these characteristics along with the characteristics of animals. For example, the Bible says that we should be hospitable to strangers because

some of them are angels even though they appear to be exactly human to the point where it is impossible to tell that they are not (**Hebrews 13:1-2, Gen 19:1-11**). Why do they show up this way? Because it is the optimal way to complete their mission. It allows them to interact with and help people without causing undue distractions. Then there are messenger angels like Gabriel and the angels that appeared at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning (**Matt 28:1-7, John 20:11-16**). These angels have a human but also a supernatural appearance. These angels appear in a way that is not too scary but also causes humans to pay extreme attention to what they are being told (**Luke 2:8-14, Judges 13:6-7**). Why? Again, because this form is optimal for completing this type of mission - the successful transmission of an important message. Angels that deliver prophetic visions often have some human characteristics but also have non-human characteristics such as faces like lightning, eyes like burning coals, or flesh like yellow crystal. When they speak it is with the power of a hurricane or a lion (**Daniel 10, Revelation 10:1-3**)! Some angels, such as the one guarding the Garden of Eden appear in great power with flaming swords (**Genesis 3:22-24**). Others may appear as a large giant (**I Chronicles 21:16, Revelation 14:6-7 & 14-20**). When appearing in this type of humanoid form it usually invokes feelings of extreme terror in the human seeing them, causing the human to physically collapse in fear (that's when the angel usually says something helpful like, "do not fear"). Another characteristic of angels is regardless of the physical form they take sometimes everyone around can see them and other times only certain people can see them (**II Kings 6:15-17**). Why? Because that is optimal for the mission they need to complete (it always comes back to that).

Hollywood also likes to portray angels as young women or babies. In the Bible, angels never show up looking like women or babies. Its hard to think of a mission where appearing as a baby would be helpful. There may be missions today where appearing as a woman would be helpful but during Biblical times it was more advantageous to show up looking like a man. As a result the Bible always records angels showing up as men when in human or humanoid form. Today, angels may occasionally show up as women but, if it happens, it is more likely the exception rather than the rule.

OK, now let's talk about what fallen angels look like. Fallen angels can also take physical forms if they think it provides them a deceptive advantage (**Colossians 2:18-19**). In both cases angels and demons have to stay within forms that God has identified in the Bible. Why? To protect the follower of God from being hopelessly deceived by supernatural activity. We don't have to wonder if a puddle of water or a blade of grass is a demon. Its not because the Bible never indicates that angels or demons take those forms. By the way, it is extremely dangerous for a demon to show up in physical form. Why? Because someone might identify them and the Christians will start praying! The Bible describes demons as being able to appear as spirit guides that may or may not have animal characteristics (**Genesis 3:1**), an angel of light (**II Corinthians 11:14**), humanoid forms - ghosts, aliens, supernatural beings, saints (**Galatians 1:8**), spinning wheels & metallic objects (i.e. flying saucers), and neon lights - which are described in Ezekiel as sparkling beryl. (**Ezekiel 10:9-17, Ezekiel 1:6-10, 15-20, Ephesians 2:1-3**)



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beryl>

As you can see from the picture, the term "sparkling beryl" used by Ezekiel in describing the angelic beings he saw might be described by someone today as a neon light.

Demons can also possess (take control) of the bodies of humans and animals under certain situations. Forms of demonic influence or possession of a human include channeling, shamanism, automatic writing, astral projection and alien abduction experiences. As a Christian, if you stay away from these things you won't have any problems.

Another characteristic of both angels and demons that they can perform miracles. This is why it is important to be cautious if a miracle occurs. Don't jump to the conclusion that the occurrence of a miracle means that something is from God. It may or may not be (**I John 4:1-3, Deuteronomy 13:1-5, II Thessalonians 2:9, Matthew 24:24**). For example, Pharaoh's magicians were able to perform miracles (**Exodus 7:8-13**) and during the future Tribulation satan will also perform miracles that lead people to worship him (**Revelation 13:11-18**)!

(**Ephesians 6:12, Revelation 12:4-9, Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12:17, I Peter 5:18, Romans 16:20, Luke 8:27-32, Genesis 6:1-13, Jude 1:6-7, II Peter 2:4-5, Job chapters 1&2, Luke 22:31-34, I Peter 4:12-16, Rev 9:1-11 & 20:1-3, Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6, Deut 18:9-12, Jeremiah 10:2, Isaiah 19:1-4, II Cor 2:11, Mark 16:17, Luke 10:17-20, James 4:7, Hebrews 1:7&14, Matthew 18:10, Psalm 34:7, Hebrews 13:1-2, Gen 19:1-11, Matt 28:1-7, John 20:11-16, Luke 2:8-14, Judges 13:6-7, Daniel 10, Revelation 10:1-3, Genesis 3:22-24, I Chronicles 21:16, Rev 14:6-7 & 14-20, II Kings 6:15-17, Colossians 2:18-19, Gen 3:1, II Cor 11:14, Galatians 1:8, Ezekiel 10:9-17, Ezekiel 1:6-10&15-20, Ephesians 2:1-3, I John 4:1-3, Deut 13:1-5, II Thessalonians 2:9, Matthew 24:24, Exodus 7:8-13, Rev 13:11-18**)

For more information on this topic see, "Aliens Among Us" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Where was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?

To start with, we know that Jesus' body and spirit were separated. His body remained in the tomb, the heart of the Earth (**Matthew 12:40**), but it did not decay (**Psalm 16:10-11, Acts 2:27-33**). At the end of the three days His spirit and resurrected body were reunited when He rose from the dead. So, the question is, where was His Spirit during these 3 days? First, we know that He was not suffering because He declared that His work was finished when He was on the cross (**John 19:28-30**). He also said, as He was dying, that He committed His spirit into the Father's hands and He told the thief on the cross next to Him that he would be with Jesus that very day in Paradise (**Luke 23:42-46**). So, we know that when Jesus died He spent that first day in Paradise.

At this point we need to clarify the meaning of some terms or we will get confused. These terms are Heaven, Paradise, Millennial Kingdom, New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, Hell, Hades, Sheol, Abyss, and Lake of Fire.

Heaven: A general term indicating the place where God dwells. The term "Heaven" is kind of like the term "Air Force One". Air Force One is not the name of a specific airplane. It is the name of any USAF airplane that the president of the United States is on. The second the president steps onto a plane, that plane instantly becomes "Air Force One". The same is true for Heaven. Wherever God dwells that place is called Heaven (**Matthew 6:9**).

Paradise: This is place of the dead for those with faith in Christ. Today, when a person dies with faith in Christ their spirit goes to Paradise to live with God while awaiting judgment. Their body remains in the grave. Right now all those who have died in Christ, including the Old Testament believers, are in Paradise with God (**II Cor 12:2-4, II Cor 5:1-8**).

Millennial Kingdom: At the end of the Tribulation, believers who have previously died will receive their resurrected bodies and will come to physically live on Earth with Christ for 1,000 years. This will occur after the seven year Tribulation but before the creation of the New Heaven, the New Earth, and the New Jerusalem. During this time the Earth will also have people on it who survived the Tribulation and who have not died or been resurrected yet. The Millennial Kingdom will end after 1,000 years following a final rebellion led by satan.

New Heaven/New Earth: In the future God is going to destroy the current physical universe and create a new one for us to live in with Him. Same is true for planet Earth. This will happen shortly after the completion of the Millennial Kingdom.

New Jerusalem: A physical city that will be created in the future in the new universe (New Heaven) where Christians and Old Testament believers will live in their resurrected bodies. In the future, God will dwell with men in the New Jerusalem. The Bible seems to indicate that the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem will be eternal. For a detailed study of this topic see, "The New Jerusalem – An Engineering Feasibility Study" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Hell: Hell, like Heaven, is a general term that can refer to different things depending on how it is used. As Heaven indicates the place where God dwells, Hell indicates a place, after this life, where God does not dwell. Depending on how it is used it can refer to Hades/Sheol, the Abyss, or the Lake of Fire. Whenever a Bible translation uses the word "hell" it is important to understand which Hebrew or Greek word was originally used since they represent different places.

Hades/Sheol: This is the place of the dead who do not have faith in Christ. Today, when a person dies without Christ their spirit goes to Hades to await judgment. Their body remains in the grave. It is a temporary waiting place where God does not dwell (**Luke 16:19-31**). Hades is the Greek word. Sheol is the Hebrew word for Hades. Hades/Sheol is for people only. Fallen angels do not inhabit it. Although most Bible translations today retain the words "Hades" and "Sheol" there are some that translate these words as "hell" (such as the King James Version).

Abyss: The Abyss or Bottomless Pit is a temporary prison of chains and darkness created to hold certain fallen angels. In this prison fallen angels cannot move and they cannot see. It is used for fallen angels that do not stay within the boundaries God has set for them. The angels that created the Nephilim problem during the days of Noah were removed from the Earth and placed in the Abyss. This action deters the remaining fallen angels (who live on Earth) from crossing God's boundaries for what they are allowed to do. The Abyss is only used for fallen angels who have achieved "war criminal" status in spiritual warfare. It is not used for people at all or for fallen angels that stay within the boundaries God has set for their behavior on the Earth (**Genesis chapter 6, Jude 1:6-7, 2 Peter 2:4-9, Luke 8:28-31, Rev 9:1-10**). **2 Peter 2:4** is the only place in the New Testament where the word "tartarus" is translated "hell" which means this place is different from Hades/Sheol or the Lake of Fire. It is actually referring to the Abyss and not the Lake of Fire.

Lake of Fire: This is the eternal dwelling place of those who died without faith in Christ. After the resurrection their spirits, who were in Hades, will be reunited with their resurrected bodies. They will then be judged by God and thrown body and soul into the Lake of Fire for eternity. The fallen angels will also be judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire as well for eternity (**Revelation 20:10-15, Matthew 25:41**). The Greek word translated as "hell" in most of the New Testament is "gehenna" and is another name for the Lake of Fire.

Out of all of these places only the following ones were available at the time of Jesus' death: Paradise, Hades/Sheol, and the Abyss. In addition the Bible tells us that Jesus did not go to Sheol when He died (**Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:25**) and we know He spent some of these three days in Paradise. The only other place He could have gone during this time is the Abyss. Is there any evidence He went there? Yes.

I Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, ²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, ²¹ during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the water*. ²¹ Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

According to this passage Jesus appears to have spent some of His time during the three days visiting some spirits that were in prison. The passage goes on to describe these spirits as having been disobedient during the days of Noah. Who are these spirits? There are only two possibilities. Perhaps they were disobedient people who lived during the days of Noah and are now in some kind of prison. The other possibility is that they were the fallen angels who committed war crimes during the days of Noah and were removed from the Earth and placed in the Abyss. The first possibility is not consistent with the rest of scripture. People were going to Hades and Paradise before the flood based on their faith (**Hebrews chapter 11**). An example being Enoch (**Genesis 5:21-24**). In addition the Bible is clear that after death, people do not have a second chance to repent (**Hebrews 9:27**). The second option is more likely. The word "spirits" is almost always used in the Bible to indicate fallen angels. We also know that a special prison for fallen angels does exist and is called the Abyss. We also know that the first angels (and perhaps the only ones) to be placed in the Abyss were put there for causing the Nephilim problem during Noah's time. Verse 22 also provides support for this option by stating that Jesus went into heaven after the angels, authorities, and powers had been subjected to him. These three terms include all of the fallen angels. So, what was Jesus doing in the Abyss? Was he there to help the demons? No (**Hebrews 2:16**). He went there to make it clear to the demons in the Abyss that their efforts to thwart the plan of salvation had failed and, in effect, to officially declare victory over them (**Colossians 2:15**)! He did this before ascending into Heaven after His resurrection so He had to have done this during the three days His body was in the tomb in fulfillment of verse 22.

So, the Bible indicates that Jesus' spirit spent these three days in Paradise with a brief visit to the Abyss to declare victory over the efforts of the fallen angels who had attempted to thwart the plan of salvation during the days of Noah.

For a detailed study of this event see, "Why Isn't Life Like A Horror Movie?" at:

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

(Matthew 12:40, Psalm 16:10-11, Acts 2:27-33, John 19:28-30, Luke 23:42-46, Matthew 6:9, II Corinthians 12:2-4, II Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 16:19-31, Genesis 6, Jude 1:6-7, 2 Peter 2:4-9, Luke 8:28-31, Revelation 9:1-10, Revelation 20:10-15, Matt 25:41, I Peter 3:18-22, Heb 11, Genesis 5:21-24, Heb 9:27, Heb 2:16, Colossians 2:15)

For more information on this topic see, "Heaven & Hell" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

What books did Paul write?

Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon and possibly Hebrews.

The New Testament was written by 8 (possibly 9 authors). Six of these had interacted with Christ personally. Of those, 4 of the authors were apostles (Peter, Matthew, John, and Paul) and two, James and Jude, were brothers of Jesus. Luke, a gentile physician, wrote his Gospel and the book of Acts based on eyewitness testimony of the apostles. Peter was the source for Mark's gospel. Although not an apostle, there is some evidence that Mark, as a teenager, was an eyewitness to some of Jesus' ministry. The only New Testament book whose authorship is not clear is Hebrews. Possibilities include Paul or Barnabas, a fellow missionary with Paul. At least 3 authors of the New Testament did not become Christians until after Christ's resurrection and one of these was Paul.

Paul is compelled to write what he has received as scripture. Paul did not become a Christian until after Christ's resurrection. Paul had been trained as a Jewish religious scholar (Pharisee) and was also a Roman citizen. Before his conversion he hunted down Christians and turned them over to the government (**I Corinthians 15:3-9**). Paul became the most prolific writer of the New Testament. In order to do this task Paul was given supernatural revelations. He was also given a physical handicap of some type to counter the pride that might otherwise have occurred from the revelations he was given in order to write his New Testament books (**II Corinthians 12:7-9**). Peter validates Paul's writings as scripture in **II Peter 3:15-16**. (**I Corinthians 15:3-9, II Corinthians 12:7-9, II Peter 3:15-16**)

When, where, and how was the Bible written?

The Bible is made up of 66 books - 1,189 chapters - 31,095 verses. The Bible was written by over 40 people over a 1,400 year period, on 3 continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe), in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), in multiple forms (History, Poetry, Prophecy, Narrative), by people with diverse backgrounds (priests, doctors, political leaders, teachers, fishermen, shepherds).

In areas of doctrine the Bible claims that it is true for all people, at all times in history, in all cultures, and in all places.

If the Bible is true for all people then we can use that claim to test the Bible. For example, if the writers of the books of the Bible were multiple people and they were different types of people then our ability to trust the Bible as the Word of God would be greater than if the Bible had been written by one person or even by the same type of person (example: all rabbis). Why? Because if one person or even one type of person wrote the Bible it would be easier for a group of men to write a set of consistent books through human coordination. But if the books were written by a large number of different people and these people had diverse backgrounds and occupations it would be impossible for them to write a self-consistent set of books unless God supernaturally helped them. In fact, the 66 books of the Bible were written by over 40 people with backgrounds and occupations as diverse as priests, medical doctors, political leaders, teachers, fishermen, and shepherds. Imagine the difference in how medical doctors talk to each other compared to how fishermen talk to each other. This is one piece of evidence that the Bible is supernatural in nature.

Compare this to the writings of other religions. If the book was written by one man that shows it is weak compared to the Bible (examples are the Book of Mormon, the Koran, the writings of the Unification Church (i.e. "moonies"), L. Ron Hubbard, etc.

If the Bible is true for all times of history we can use time itself as a test for the Bible's validity. For example, when the books of the Bible were being written our ability to trust them as the Word of God would be stronger if they were written over long periods of time rather than written all at once. Why? Because a group of men could write a consistent set of books if it was coordinated by writing them at the same time. But if the books were written with separations of long periods of time it would be impossible to make them self-consistent unless God made them so. In fact, the Bible was written over a period of 1,400 years. Imagine how much life has changed over the last 1,400 years (from 612 AD to 2012). This is one piece of evidence that the Bible is supernatural in nature.

If the Bible is true for all human cultures we can use this as a test for the Bible's validity. For example, if the authors of the Bible came from different cultures and places then our ability to trust the Bible would be greater than if the Bible had been written by people from a single culture or location. Why? Because it would be easier for a group of authors to write a self-consistent group of books if they shared a common culture, location, or language. But if the books were written by people from different cultures, locations, and languages it would be impossible for their writings to be completely consistent with each other. In fact, the books of the Bible were written by people on three different continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe), in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), and in four different linguistic forms (history, poetry, prophecy, and narrative). Think about how differently a Russian history professor communicates compared to an African poet. This is another piece of evidence that the Bible is supernatural in nature. It would be impossible to coordinate the writings of 66 books across people diverse in any one of these areas (diversity of people type, time, culture, geography).

The need to coordinate across all four of these areas simultaneously and with perfection provides strong evidence of God's supernatural action in writing the Bible.

Compare these things to the inconsistencies of other religions. Initially the Book of Mormon denounced polygamy as an abomination before God (Jacob 2:27-28, Jacob 3:5-8) as well as the Doctrine & Covenants (D&C 42:22). Later, founder and author Joseph Smith changed this to unlimited plural marriage (D&C 132:61-63) directly contradicting previous "revelation". Once the US government started prosecuting polygamists in the late 1800's LDS president Wilford Woodruff, whose declarations carry the weight of scripture, declared polygamy to be wrong thus reversing church doctrine on this issue once again.

The Koran contradicts itself when talking about Jesus. In Shura 3:45 it states that Jesus will be with god in paradise but in Shura 21:98 it says that Jesus will be in hell for being worshipped by Christians.

If you would like to read through a very detailed study of this topic please see the study, "Can I Really Trust The Bible?" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(I Timothy 2:1-4, Psalm 105:7-8, Revelation 14:6)

What is True Peace?

The dictionary definition of "peace" is: *a state of tranquility or quiet, freedom from civil disturbance, a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relationships*. True peace as spoken of in the Bible is more closely related to "freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relationships". Without Christ it is not possible to experience true peace (**Isaiah 48:22, Isaiah 57:20-21**). Without Christ our lives are dominated by fear and selfishness (**Hebrews 2:14-15, Galatians 5:16-24**). Fear causes us to not have peace in our thoughts and emotions. Selfishness causes us to not have peace in our personal relationships with other people. On top of that we were born sinners and were declared enemies of God before we were even born (**Colossians 1:19-23**). True peace is developed over time. The first step is to become a Christian. When this happens the state of hostilities between the person and God officially cease (**Romans 5:1-5**). Often one of the first changes new Christians experience is a greater sense of peace. They are no longer an official enemy of God. They are now on "God's side". But we still have conflicts with the desires of our flesh, the values of the world system, and the temptations of satan (**John 16:32-33**). Over time as we learn to obey God more and more we have victory over these things, but it takes time (**John 14:25-29**). In fact, until the day we die we will be engaged against these enemies of God's will to one extent or another. So, as we grow in our faith and in our relationship with Christ our sense of peace also grows but is never completely fulfilled in this life (**Romans 15:13, Colossians 3:15**). As we mature in our relationship with God we learn to trust Him more and more in many different types of situations (**Isaiah 26:3-4**). We also learn to trust Him to watch out for us in our relationships with others so we don't feel as strong a need to be selfish or protect ourselves from the selfishness of others because we know that God is in control of our lives (**Philippians 4:4-7**). The best ways to grow in peace are to set our minds on the things of God and not the things of the flesh (**Romans 8:5-8**), live in a way that is pleasing to God (**Prov 16:7**), love and study God's Word (**Psalms 119:165**), and pray and ask God to give us peace (**Psalms 29:11, Numbers 6:22-27**). So, we grow in our sense of true peace as we mature as Christians but we will never achieve 100% true peace until we get to heaven. In heaven, our relationships with God and people will be perfect and the values of the world system and the temptations of satan will no longer exist. In addition the desires of our perfected, resurrected flesh will be in 100% harmony with God's will. That is when we will experience 100% true peace.

(Isaiah 48:22, Isaiah 57:20-21, Hebrews 2:14-15, Galatians 5:16-24, Colossians 1:19-23, Rom 5:1-5, John 16:32-33, John 14:25-29, Romans 15:13, Colossians 3:15, Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:4-7, Romans 8:5-8, Proverbs 16:7, Psalm 119:165, Psalm 29:11, Numbers 6:22-27)

What is Hope?

The dictionary definition of "hope" is: *to cherish a desire with anticipation; to desire with expectation of obtainment; to expect with confidence*. Hope as spoken of in the Bible is most closely related to "desire with expectation of obtainment and to expect with confidence". It is closely related to faith in that we hope for things we have not seen yet (**Rom 8:24-25, I Corinthians 13:13**). Without Christ, hope is nothing more than wishful thinking that isn't based on anything (**Job 8:11-7, Job 27:8-9, Ephesians 2:12, I Timothy 6:17-19**). But as Christians we put our faith in what God says is true (**Rom 15:4, Psalm 130:5-6**). The basis for our hope is God and His character (**Lamentations 3:22-25**). If God says something is true then I accept it and act on that truth based on the evidence God has provided me in the Bible (**I John 3:2-3**). If the thing God said is a promise concerning my future then I put my hope in that (**Jeremiah 29:11-13, Proverbs 23:17-18**). For example, if God says that He will not forget my service to Him and will reward me someday in heaven then I hope in that (**Hebrews 6:10**). If it costs me something to serve Him (it always does) and no one seems to appreciate it or it does not seem to be making a difference right now but God's Word says I should do it then I do it even though there is no other reason to. Why? Because I put my hope in God's promise to make it worth my while when I get to heaven (**I Tim 4:10**). I am looking forward with anticipation to receiving what He has promised to give me someday and I am excited about it now – that's hope (**I Peter 1:13, I Thessalonians 1:2-3**). Real hope is also the basis for having the courage to do hard things that God wants us to do that we otherwise would not do (**Psalm 31:23-24, Psalm 33:18-22, Psalm 71:1-5**).

(Romans 8:24-25, I Corinthians 13:13, Job 8:11-7, Job 27:8-9, Ephesians 2:12, I Timothy 6:17-19, Romans 15:4, Psalm 130:5-6, Lamentations 3:22-25, I John 3:2-3, Jeremiah 29:11-13, Prov 23:17-18, Heb 6:10, I Timothy 4:10, I Peter 1:13, I Thessalonians 1:2-3, Psalm 31:23-24, Psalm 33:18-22, Psalm 71:1-5)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 3:9-12, Romans 3:23*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews Chapter 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: *Ephesians 6:10-17, I John 5:19*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *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: *Romans 7:14-25*

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: *Romans 12:1-2*

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: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 4:13, I Peter 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: *James 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: *Hebrews 12:11, Galatians 6:7-10, Exodus 34:6-7*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 10:13*

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: *James 1:17*

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: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 3:1-15*

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: *John 12:24-26*

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 1:3-7, Romans 8:18, Philipians 3:7-11*

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: Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Why does God let people we love die?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 13:5-6*

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: *Psalm 68:5-6, Psalm 146:8-9, Deuteronomy 10:17-18*

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: *The Book of Ecclesiastes*

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 do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 6:12, I Peter 5:8, Romans 16:20*

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 12:4 & 7-9, Isaiah 14:12-14*

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: *Luke 8:27-32*

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 do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 6:1-13*

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: *Jude 1:6-7, II Peter 2:4-5*

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: *Job 1:6-12, Job 2:1-7*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 22:31-34, I Peter 4:12-16*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 9:1-11, 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: *Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6, Deuteronomy 18:9-12*

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 do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 10:2, Isaiah 19:1-4*

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: *II Corinthians 2:11, Mark 16:17, Luke 10:17-20*

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: *James 4:7, Hebrews 1:7 & 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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 18:10, Psalm 34:7*

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 13:1-2, Genesis 19:1-11*

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 28:1-7, John 20:11-16*

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: What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 2:8-14, Judges 13:6-7*

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: *Daniel 10:5-6 & 11-14, Revelation 10:1-3*

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: *Genesis 3:22-24*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Chronicles 21:16, Revelation 14:6-7 & 14-20*

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 Kings 6:15-17*

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: *Colossians 2:18-19*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 3:1, II Corinthians 11:14, Galatians 1:8*

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: *Ezekiel 10:9-17, Ezekiel 1:6-10 & 15-20, Ephesians 2:1-3*

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: *I John 4:1-3, II Thessalonians 2:9*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What do angels and demons look like? Do demons still enter people? Are they still around?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 13:1-5*

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: *Exodus 7:8-13*

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 13:11-18*

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: Where was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 12:40*

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: *Psalms 16:10-11, Acts 2:27-33*

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: *John 19:28-30, Luke 23:42-46*

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 was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 6:9, II Corinthians 12:2-4, II Corinthians 5:1-8*

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: *Luke 16:19-31*

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 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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Where was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jude 1:6-7, II Peter 2:4-9*

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: *Luke 8:28-31, Revelation 9:1-10*

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: *Revelation 20:10-15, Matthew 25:41*

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 was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 3:18-22, Colossians 2:15*

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: *Hebrews Chapter 11*

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 5:21-24, Hebrews 9:27, Hebrews 2:16*

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: What books did Paul write?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:3-9*

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: *II Corinthians 12:7-9*

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: *II Peter 3:15-16*

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: When, where, and how was the Bible written?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 2:1-4*

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: *Psalms 105:7-8*

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 14:6*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What is True Peace?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 48:22, Isaiah 57:20-21*

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: *Hebrews 2:14-15, Galatians 5:16-24*

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: *Colossians 1:19-23, Romans 5:1-5*

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: What is True Peace?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 16:32-33, John 14:25-29*

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 15:13, Colossians 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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:4-7*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What is True Peace?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:5-8*

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 16:7, Psalm 119:165*

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 29:11, Numbers 6:22-27*

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: What is Hope?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:24-25, I Corinthians 13:13*

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 8:11-17, Job 27:8-9, Ephesians 2:12, I Timothy 6:17-19*

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: *Romans 15:4, Psalm 130:5-6*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What is Hope?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Lamentations 3:22-25*

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: *I John 3:2-3*

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 29:11-13, Proverbs 23:17-18*

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: What is Hope?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 6:10, I Timothy 4:10*

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: *I Peter 1:13, I Thessalonians 1:2-3*

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: *Psalm 31:23-24 Psalm 33:18-22, Psalm 71:1-5*

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?