



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

Trusting in Other Things

packing. He's the best!
When we read Genesis 31, it appears that Rachel, Jacob's wife, had the same problem with packing extra stuff. The saga of Jacob and his family had continued for 20 years. Now he was preparing to leave Paddan Aram for the land of Canaan with Leah and Rachel (his two wives), and their children. On the way out of town, Rachel grabbed her father's household gods. Into the camel's saddle they went. The group-including livestock-traveled to Gilead where Jacob's father-in-law, Laban, overtook them 10 days later. He was looking for his daughters AND the idols.

It was a tense scene as Laban contested Jacob's departure. His speech ended with news that the household gods had been stolen. Jacob was shocked. "What do you mean...?!" he challenged Laban. "You can search whatever and wherever you want!" he insisted (paraphrased). Laban plundered the tents but found no idols. (Rachel was sitting on them, claiming she was indisposed and unable to get up.) Everything was searched; Laban found nothing. Jacob made a covenant with his father-in-law and they parted company.

Whoever said the Bible is boring?!
Slipping out of their father's house, Rachel and Leah had rounded up their kids in a hurry. As in any crisis, you grab what

you can as you run out the door. I get that. But your daddy's household gods?!

As I read the story, I wonder what was going through Rachel's mind. Did she take the idols (plural!) in case Jacob's God didn't work out? She'd had no real history with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob-only her husband's say so. Her life hadn't been working out as she hoped. She was the second wife to Jacob and had planned for many more children than the one she had. Was she afraid to trust in the God she could not see? Did she keep them as good luck charms? Did she think they would give her peace/comfort in their new land? They are described as her "father's" household gods, not "her" household gods, so that's a good thing-right? She was leaving the old ways, the ways of her father, behind.

When life is hard, it's easy to turn back to old ways. Fearful of what lies ahead, we can be tempted to cling to other things and people to find the peace and comfort that only comes from trusting in the Lord.

I won't judge her, but I can learn from her, asking myself: When I am uncertain...when I am in crisis, do I fully rely on God alone?

I wish I could hug her and say, "Oh Rachel, God can be trusted even when you have no clue what His plan is!"

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

John 10:14-15

Jesus said, "I am the **good shepherd**; I **know** my sheep **and** my sheep know me—**just** as the **Father** knows me and I know **the** Father—and I **lay down** my **life for** the **sheep**."

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

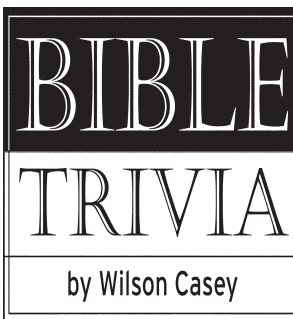
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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12



1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. The King James translation of the Bible contains more than how many references to gems and precious stones? 100, 500, 1,700, 2,200
3. Which book recounts the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years? Titus, He-

- brews, James, Romans
4. From 2 Samuel 14, how many shekels did Absalom's hair weigh after he cut it off? 2, 10, 50, 200
 5. Two hundred shekels weighed around how many pounds by royal standard in biblical times? 1/2, 1, 3, 5
 6. Where did Jesus attend a wedding where the wine was exhausted? Sardis, Antioch of Syria, Joppa, Cana of Galilee

Answers on bottom of Page 12
"Test Your Bible knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.



Albert came home from school with bruises, a torn shirt and tears. "Fighting again?" sighed his mother. "I thought it was clear that you were to be a good Christian, not get angry and to stop getting into fights. Did you count to a hundred like I told you to?" she asked. "Well, I tried," he said with resentment in his voice. "But John's mother told him to only count to fifty and that's when he knocked me to the ground and jumped on me." Many of us get angry quickly. But not the Lord. In Psalm 103:8 we read that "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." Imagine what life would be like with an angry God

- one who was quick to punish us for any and every sin. As soon as we broke one of His laws "He hammers" us. And if He were not compassionate and merciful, there would be no provision or pardon for our wrong doings. Or again, if we were suffering and brokenhearted and filled with grief and guilt for betraying Him we would never hear Him say, "My grace is sufficient." In the Lord we find mercy for our sins and comfort for our sorrows.

If God were not gracious there would be no grace - no matter how wonderful and needed it is. But it only has significance when we understand that it means God, at no cost to us, will unconditionally and willingly forgive us of all of our sins. The Lord erases the ugliness of the past and provides us with clean, blank pages to fill with the potential of a new life committed to Him. Amazing grace!
Sower Ministries.org
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Eschatology: End Times Things

by BOB CASEY, preacher
Cornerstone Church of Christ
70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

Apocalyptic language is defined as language "describing or prophesying the complete destruction of this world. Resembling the end of this world: momentous or catastrophic, or resembling the Biblical Apocalypse," says the New Oxford American Dictionary.

Now, all this information may be new to the none-Bible reader, but it can be found within the pages of both the Old and New Testaments.

Just last week, we brought forth at Cornerstone the subject entitled, "The world's greatest event up to the present day." But, then we also mentioned that there is a day yet to come that will overshadow even the resurrection from the dead. And, this of course is his second coming to the earth. Our Lord who cannot lie, promised his return in **John 14:3**, "I will come again." Not only did Jesus make this promise, so did his Holy Angel in Acts 1:11, saying, "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Paul, in writing to **Titus 1:2** says, "God, that cannot lie." This is the very principle of God's nature, and it is the theme that runs throughout the whole Bible. **1 Samuel 15:29** says, "for he is not a man, that he should repent." In **Numbers 25:19**, Moses declares, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent."

So then, God does mean what he has said, whether men believe it or not! In **John 5:28-29**, Did God mean what he said about, "the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth?" Does God mean what he says when he stated that "Heaven and earth shall pass away?" **Matthew 24:35** Does God mean what he says in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 when he promises that Jesus will return in the clouds? Does God mean what he says about the gathering of all nations to be judged? **Matthew 25:32**, **2 Corinthians 5:10**

Does God mean what he says about a time when there will be no crying, pain, nor death. **Revelations 21:4** But we who are saved, believe that our God does not lie, and what he has promised, this he will accomplish. Those who do not believe it are trying to impugn the honest of our Lord. In **Numbers 23:19**, the Holy Spirit asks, "hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Yes, God always does what he says!

Personally, I do not believe that very many people really believe that Jesus will return suddenly or when the majority of this world is looking for him. Paul has foretold us in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that the day of his return would be foreshadowed with a non-desire to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. Yes, we have a lot of church buildings and preachers within them that preach a different doctrine than each other, and so, farther away from God, we are going. Paul calls this action a falling away. Paul wrote to Timothy, saying that there would be many forms of godliness but denying the power (authority) thereof, such turn away. **2 Timothy 3:5** What other conclusion can a Bible reading find than what we are seeing is and has been going on for a long time, but is now escalating. He warns us in 2 Timothy 4, that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine and would turn away their ears to it. So, what other conclusion can be reached when people turn away from God's plan to save them for the remission of sins? Again, when men construct a building to worship in and they place some teachings or names of men above the door, have they not impugned the integrity of Christ who died for their sins? **Ephesians 5:25**

And, there are several other things that could be mentioned, but this is enough that it should at least awaken your curiosity to read the Bible for yourselves, lest ye be rejects. This is why we preach that we expose people to the truth that saves.

P.S. -- We remain willing to spend time with you if you have a doubt about your salvation.

Call 1-859-369-4165

Thanks to Bro. Kyle Pope from whom we have gleaned some very good points.

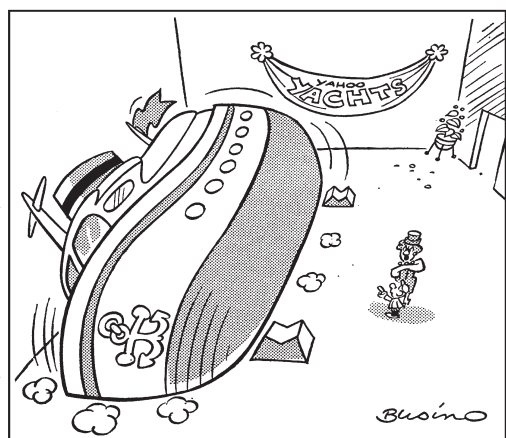
Sincerely, Bob Casey

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Insult **RESCU**
- Fashion **LYTES**
- Direct **PINTO**
- Accuse **CHEGAR**

TODAY'S WORD

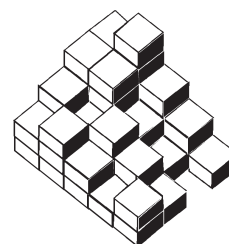


"How many times have I told you not to _____ things?"

Stickeler's Puzzle



How many individual cubes are in the stack below? Assume each stack runs to completion.



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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12