

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

ISAIAH 49:4

**But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."**

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

S P E N T F D J R H  
 T A H W N E W E H T  
 R Z T E R P W E T G  
 B U S O Z A G S I N  
 B A B A R N L T W E  
 Q A D D I S O V S R  
 L V V H O D H A D T  
 G D T L R A D I R S  
 V O L Q N U X N O P  
 N A D D E N F H L U

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

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Amos in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Mosaic law, what would happen to the person who cursed his father or mother? Imprisonment, Outcast, 10 lashings, Death
3. In Daniel 2, who had a dream about a statue composed of different

materials? Jezebel, Abednego, Rezin, Nebuchadnezzar

4. From Acts 7, who said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"? Philip, Stephen, Luke, David

5. In Genesis 14:3, what "lake" is called the Salt Sea? Galilee, Lake Pison, Dead Sea, Euphrates

6. Whose biblical name means "salvation"? Jude, Ahaz, Hosea, Ruth

**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.**



We live in a busy world. Days are crowded with more things to do than time allows. Instant texting and rapid responses to anything and everything, whether accurate or not, crown every moment of our lives. Everyone seems to have an opinion we need to hear on every subject - from the mundane to the insane, from the very important to "stuff" that does not matter. We have become conditioned to listen for something to listen to whether it matters or not. Psalm 75 explodes with an important reminder. "We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks for Your Name is near! Men tell of your wondrous works!" The fact that the word thanks appears

twice in one sentence makes it intense and dramatic. But we should not be surprised. We are to thank God not only for His wondrous works but because He is near! God Himself, our God Who created everything and is in everything and sustains everything is close by.

Jesus once commanded Peter to cast his net into the water to catch some fish. He did and was amazed at the results. The disciple falls at His feet in fear and wonder. What a miracle! Jesus spoke and things happened. God's presence and power came to life instantly.

The same is true for us today. While we may not see many extreme displays of His power, nonetheless He is at work. The little gifts in our lives as well as the immense miracles in our lives prove that He is near us and caring for us. We must always be aware of His presence.

**Sower Ministries.org**

## Stickeler's Puzzle



Starting at the north with Idaho and moving clockwise, can you name the other U.S. states that touch Utah?

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**Stickeler's Answer on Page 12**



**by Dawn Reed Eastern Ky. Columnist**

Airport security always makes me nervous. I want everybody else to go through it; I just don't like being in the thick of it. A rule follower to the core, I always do my best to adhere to all restrictions and signage. Still my knees are practically knocking as I go through each zone. I look very guilty of something.

Years ago, we had just finished a glorious week of Vacation Bible School in Bielsk Podlaski, Poland and were heading home. From Warsaw, we flew to Paris for a day of sightseeing. After 24 hours, a quick tour and enjoying the Eiffel Tower at midnight, we dashed off to the airport for a long trip back to KY. At the time, American and French relations were not optimum. Employees at the airport seemed to be in a bad mood-at least when we were around. Still giddy about VBS and the tour of Paris, we lined up to go through security.

After scanning my backpack, a thin man spoke sternly to me through tight lips, "Ma'am, you have scissors in your bag." I im-

mediately began to explain, "Oh, no, sir. I put them in my checked baggage!" (I was the preschool teacher in VBS and had safely stored all the scissors in my suitcase.)

My not-friend in security repeated his statement a little sharper, "Ma'am you have scissors in your bag!" I dug through my backpack to find absolutely nothing resembling scissors.

A third time, he informed me that I had scissors in my bag and would not be permitted to go on to my plane unless they were surrendered. He held out his hand ready to receive them.

"I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING!" I exclaimed, trying not to cry.

The angry Frenchman helped me unload everything from my backpack. After searching again and shaking it, we found that a pair of children's scissors, which were barely sharp enough to cut paper, had gotten stuck between layers in my backpack. For the love! He smirked and then deposited the 'weapon' in a Plexiglas container for all to see. Everyone behind me was THRILLED that I was finally through security.

Because of that scary airport situation, I'm extremely cautious about what I do and do not carry through an airport. Things I have hidden can affect everyone around me.

David also knew about hidden things. In Psalm 139:23-24, he prayed for God to do a full examination to reveal anything detrimental in his life. "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Shew! Tough words to pray! Do I have the courage to pray them? Do you?

"Search me." What is deep down that needs to be brought into the light? Grudges that are being nursed, hurt feelings, jealousy, etc. that fester under my public smile. Search me, God, better than a French security employee.

"Test me and know my anxious thoughts." What keeps me up at night, or distracted during the day? What is my greatest fear? What future or possible scary circumstance is secretly stealing my joy?

"See if there is an offensive way in me." Do I have habits in my life that are un-Christlike? Pride, seeking the approval of others, laziness, etc.

"Lead me." This is a wonderful and scary part of the prayer. If I fully surrender to His leading, where would that take me? Not necessarily to Africa or China, but it could be just as important. He might lead me to help in the nursery, children's church, or VBS.

While some prayers take years to be answered, God will answer this one with ninja quickness. And, let's be honest, that's what we want. Right? We won't be perfect this side of heaven, but don't we want to be as much like Jesus as we possibly can?

Craig Groeschel wrote in Dangerous Prayers, "Don't pray it if you don't mean it. Be forewarned, this prayer has the potential to convict you. To correct you. To redirect your life."

## Arguing With the Lord?

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

Would you ever intentionally attempt to argue with the Lord? It might surprise you if I said that many do so almost on a weekly basis. As far as I am aware of, the term 'to argue' or 'to make argument' is used only twice in the Scriptures. In Job, it is written, "How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?"<sup>6:25</sup> also, "I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me."<sup>23:4</sup>

This Job said in his defense before his friends that didn't know that it was God himself that had plotted this episode in Job's life.

To rightly understand the concept of arguing, we can look to the many things that describe it. **First of all, 'to give reasons for or against something.'** This is the very basis of all arguments. Then, like men today as well as Job's friends, it means **to contend in words.** Also, **to assert by stating positive, to wrangle,** and them many times leads to **bickering, dispute, quarreling,** many times in conflict. These are just a few of the many descriptions of and the results of, arguing.

But, in my present knowledge, there is no greater use of arguing than when it is used in the study of the Bible. What do we suppose is the reason for this? Simply, in my humble understanding, it is brought about by, **not simply accepting the word of the Lord just as it is written.** Now, I have heard many argue over hard to understand passages in the Bible, but when our Lord **said or did something** for our learning, we should not argue over it at all! When one fails to accept the plain words of Jesus or his Apostles, we are treading in dark waters where there are grave dangers.

Some may want to know, 'where are the passages that I may be attempting to argue with the Lord?'

**First of all,** the plan that God our Father through his Son Jesus Christ has given **to save us from our sins.** In the latest poll, it has been stated that in America there are approximately 2,400 different religious groups all claiming to be different and more accurate in obedience than all the rest. These are to be found in many different names, many different plans of salvation, many different forms of worship.

Now, if I had the occasion to debate all these things before men, I would present my argument this way, "**How many Saviours do we have?**" "**How many plans did he give to save sinners?**" and "**How many churches did he build?**" There are many others, but this would be my strong points within my

presentation in defense of the truth.

For my proof, I would submit that we only have one Saviour, validated by such passages as **John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** Then, I would submit **John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."** Then, I would add **Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

Now, when one considers **the plan of God** that was manifested through Christ, **we can only find one plan to save all mankind** from their sins. First of all, I would use the very words of our Saviour to validate this claim found in **Matthew 3:13-17.** This is when Jesus came to Jordan to be publicly baptized by John. The Apostle John, knowing who Jesus was, said "**I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?**"<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus said, "**Suffer (or permit) it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.**"<sup>15</sup> Then God said, "**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"<sup>17</sup> So, our Lord set the plan into action by being baptized himself. Then, in John 3:26, Jesus was teaching baptism to all that come unto him.

Then, after 3 1/2 years of proving he was the Son of God, he was crucified, buried, raised from the dead. But, before his ascension back to Heaven, he instructed the Apostles to "**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**"<sup>16</sup> **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**"<sup>Mark 16:16-17</sup> And in Acts 2:14-49, we see clearly that they obeyed them just what he told them. So, they preached the Gospel to the multitude, and they were convicted and cried out "**Men and brethren, what shall we do?**"<sup>38</sup> **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**"<sup>Acts 2:37-38</sup> And 3,000 did just that.

Now, Friends, space will not permit me to go into all the details of God's plan, but if you wish, I will send to you free the complete story and every detail conceiving it. Just call 1-859-369-4165.

To close, concerning the one Church, I submit this for argument's sake: A quick reading of Matthew 16:13-18 and Ephesians 2:22-32, and all the saved will be given membership in it by God himself. Acts 2:47 There are many more Scriptures, but these are enough to substantiate my argument.

Now Friends, you may argue with the Lord if you desire to, but you will lose the argument every time.

**Sincerely, Bob Casey**