

# THE EDIFIER

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## *Glorious Jesus*

From time to time, it's great for us to hear a sermon about the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ alone, with no need to hear *do this* or *do that* from any preacher. When we are presented with the greatness and glory of Christ we don't need any preacher saying *do this* or *do that* because when we are in the presence of true greatness we just humbly bow and stand in awe. Inside our hearts, we are simply inspired to cry out *what shall I do* or *how shall I honour you, my God!*

In Hebrews chapter one, we see one of the greatest descriptions of the greatness of Jesus Christ in the entire Bible. Hebrews 1:1-2 says:

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets (v1), has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds (v2).*

What four awesome things in verse two does the writer of Hebrews reveal about Jesus? Firstly, Jesus is God's Son. Verse five adds, He was *begotten*, not created. There is a difference between our children and things we create. We have an equality in substance with our children. We're both human. However, with things we create there is no equality in substance.

Jesus was nearly stoned for blasphemy for the unique way he called God his father. John 5:18 says the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He said God was His father. They saw this as Him making himself equal with God, since a

father and son are equal in substance. The Jews and the Muslims today also don't believe Jesus is the Son of God. They are offended at such a suggestion.

The second awesome thing we learn about Jesus from verse two is God has appointed Him heir of all things. You might think you are doing great if you inherit \$20,000 from your long lost uncle or if you inherit your favourite aunt's Toyota Corolla. Then again, you might just inherit her pet poodle which survived her. Compare that however with what Jesus is heir of – all things. He has the right to all things! How great. How great is our lord!

The third awesome thing said of Jesus in this verse is, through him, God made the worlds. The use of the word 'worlds' may be in agreement with the Hebrew idea there were three worlds, the upper world where God lives, the middle world – the air, and the lower world, where we live. So Jesus is here glorified as our very Creator. You may have heard me share many times before how Jesus when He walked this earth actually did everything we could possibly expect of our Creator.

The fourth awesome thing about Jesus in verse two is He is the one God has chosen to speak to us through. Previously, as verse one says, it was the prophets through whom God spoke to the fathers of the faith, but in these last days God has chosen to speak to us through his Son. Therefore, the Bible, did not anticipate there would be any prophets of God after Jesus whose word to us would be superior to Jesus' words. All teachers and preachers and

Christians blessed with the gift of prophecy after Jesus must bring a message consistent with Jesus' final words or they are to be rejected as false teachers or false prophets.

If these four things aren't enough to cause us to stand in awe of Jesus Christ, then verse three has five more awe inspiring things about Christ. Firstly, verse three says Jesus is the brightness of God's glory. As rays are the light of the sun, so Jesus is the bright glow of God's glory. Brightness coming from the sun is of the same nature as the sun. It can't be separated from it. Therefore, the Son shares the Father's glory. 2 Corinthians 4:6 confirms we can see the glory of God in the face of Jesus.



Secondly, verse three says Jesus is the express image of God's person or exact representation or copy. The Greek word here for express image is used for the design of a stamp being reproduced – a perfect copy. Colossians 1:15 says, *Jesus is the image of the invisible god, the firstborn over all creation.*

Thirdly verse three says Jesus, upholds all things by the word of his power. Jesus supports and maintains all things. He keeps the sun up and shining so we can

live. He keeps the earth spinning and gravity in operation so we don't fall off the planet.

Fourthly, verse three says, Jesus by Himself purged our sins. This is about our purification from sin by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our high priest. Does this phrase, *He purged our sins* sound a bit strange in the middle of these glorious truths about the deity or divinity of Jesus? Perhaps, but it's not strange at all, because what Jesus did for us was absolutely glorious. The price for all of the sins of the world was far too high for humankind alone to pay. It could only be paid by the God-man. I think we can understand why a price had to be paid for wrongdoing. Is any reasonable person happy with a murderer getting off scot-free? No, definitely not!

Yes, we as humans had to pay something, but praise God it was our human representative, Jesus, who paid it all for us. If He was only a human though, could we really be certain His sacrifice was enough to pay the price for every sin? The fact He was also the only begotten Son of God should blow our minds about the incredible value of Jesus' sacrifice for us, about God's love and kindness toward us, and about how expensive sinning against a holy God is.

Jesus can truly be our human representative in offering an effective sacrifice for the terrible sins of the human race. Just think about it! Let's say John's family members killed all of Brian's family, except Brian. So one day, John says to Brian, *we are very sorry we destroyed your family. To make up for what we've done,*

*we're going to sacrifice all of our pets to show you just how truly sorry we are. We will sacrifice our dogs, cats, pet fish, guinea pigs and even our pet rat.*

What do you think Brian's reaction will be? Probably, *nup, forget it! I can't accept that. What!* If, however, John instead said, *you can take my life and my children's lives for what we did to your family. We're really sorry. Forgive us Brian.* Might Brian see this as a better offer than the pets? Of course! I'm not saying he'll accept it, but it is a better show of true remorse. So can you see, because Jesus was one of us, His death could begin to pay for our terrible sins against God? And the fact he was the only innocent or sinless human, and the greatest human who ever lived makes His sacrifice for us as our representative even greater. There's more though. The fact Jesus was also the Son of God should give us certainty our sins indeed are fully paid for in God's eyes if we accept God's terms of reconciliation and truly believe. He forgives us if we will only have faith in His Son sacrificed for us and if we turn from our sins to Him and His righteousness.

So, we see firstly in verse three, Jesus is the brightness of God's Glory. Secondly, Jesus is the express image of God's person. Thirdly, He upholds all things by the word of His power. Fourthly, He purges our sins, and lastly in verse three it says *He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on High.* This is about Jesus' exaltation, his glorification. Notice, it says Jesus, who later in Hebrews is described as the perfect high priest, *sat down.* Do you know there were no seats in the Old

Testament Temple for the priests? They had to offer sacrifices day after day over and over again.

Jesus, by stark contrast, finished the atoning work, the work of sacrifice. His sitting down represents completion. Indeed, on the cross he exclaimed, *it is finished*. What is the significance in verse three of Jesus sitting at the right hand of the majesty on high – God? This indicates His honour, authority and power. He's God's right-hand man, as the expression goes.

Oh there's so much in Hebrews chapter one about the greatness of our Lord. Aren't you just in awe of Him? There's so much more said about Him in verses 5-14 that should bring us to our knees before Him if we truly believe. Verses 5-14 are all about showing how much greater Jesus is than the angels. Here are some of the highlights for you.

In verse four Jesus has a more excellent name than the angels.

Verse five asks, *For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?*

The answer is – none of the angels. Jesus therefore has a more excellent relationship with God than the angels.

In verse six, the angels are to worship Him. Since the Bible clearly tells us only God is to be worshipped, this is indicating indirectly Jesus is God. The word *firstborn* in verse six is interesting. It is to do with Jesus' legal inheritance rights as

heir. The first born son culturally had superior or preeminent inheritance rights (Deuteronomy 21:17) so the use of the word *firstborn* for Jesus is saying He is heir of all things and He is preeminent. Therefore, the angels worship Him. Colossians 1:15 says the same - *He is image of the invisible God the firstborn over all creation*.

In verse six, it's only implied Jesus is God, but in v7-8 it's said directly:

*And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."*

**But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever ...**



Verse eight is therefore saying Jesus also has a superior nature to the angels and a superior dominion or rule.

In verse nine, we see Jesus has a greater anointing than the angels.

Verse 10 repeats that Jesus is the Creator – the heavens and the earth are the work of His hands. Hence, Jesus has also done greater works than the angels.

In verses 11-13 we see Jesus has a greater destiny than the angels. He is to rule at God's right hand

forever.

Having set out all of the great things about Jesus in verses 2-4, did you ever wonder why the writer of Hebrews even bothered to expound why Jesus is so much better than angels? It hardly seems necessary does it? However, some needed and still need to hear it today. The Jews had come up with some very strange ideas about angels, such as there being an angel who wrote down every word humans spoke. Some heretics worshipped angels. Colossians 2:18 warned of this. Some Jews were even confused between Jesus and Michael the archangel, believing Jesus was Michael the archangel.

These, though, are probably not the main reasons why Jesus was being praised here as being so much greater than the angels. I believe the reason why is seen in the next chapter in verses 2-4 which sets the foundation for much of what follows in the book of Hebrews.

Acts 7:53 refers to the reception of the law by the direction of angels. Galatians 3:19 says the law *was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator*. These verses help us understand Hebrews 2:2-3 which says in part:

*For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation ...*

The writer to the Hebrews especially wanted the Hebrews to see the superiority of the New

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## LOVE CAN WAX COLD

It's easy to understand how faith can collapse in a time of overwhelming grief following the death of a loved one in tragic circumstances. Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world and even though we know that there is no trial in life that isn't common to all mankind, every trial does test the strength of our faith.

Worryingly, we see another danger to our faith creeping into everyday life by way of cultural change brought about by the so-called progressive thinkers who have influenced our lawmakers.

The Judeo/Christian morality on which our western society was built is quickly vanishing and we seem powerless to do much about it. Marriage and traditional families are scoffed at and "gender identity" confusion appears to be encouraged among our young people. It even seems frowned upon to label a new baby specifically a boy or a girl on its birth certificate. All this new thinking is to accommodate a very small minority of people. Of course such people deserve compassion but that doesn't mean the vast majority has a problem with their identity.

Increasingly, it seems that large business corporations are enforcing their version of morality by withdrawing sponsorships from various sporting groups; news media etc. if some individual doesn't toe the line in their private life. This threat to employment and ability to earn a living has shades of the mark of the beast, in my mind, where no one can buy or sell without having a corporate mark of compliance.

Nowadays caution needs to be taken before speaking one's mind in case another person is offended and one ends up before some tribunal. It becomes easier not to try

and stand up for Christian values but to just keep silent and refrain from expressing a different opinion to those around us, let alone dare to criticize the WOKE ideology. \*

Our western democracy and freedom to peacefully go about our daily lives is coming under threat by endless demonstrations by extremist groups behaving in an irrational and frankly, lunatic manner. Sometimes one wonders if God has given our nations up to such things (Romans 1.24-32) and we suffer the consequences of the denial of His existence.

How easy it is for our love to wax cold when lawlessness abounds.



*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. Matthew 24:12*

Christians are called to "watch" and that doesn't just mean watching world news waiting for prophecy to be fulfilled (although that's part of it). More importantly we are

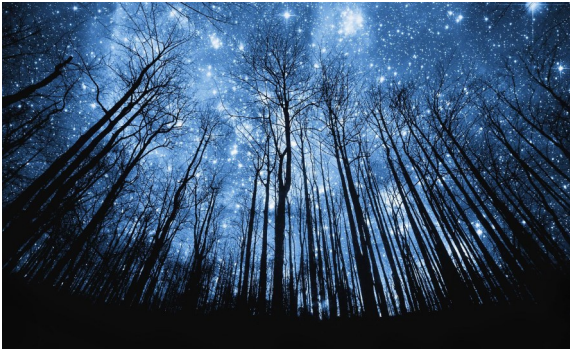
admonished to be *awake* and watchful, watching that our own clothing remains unspotted, to be keeping our lamps trimmed and burning and to be found "so doing" when the master returns.

We need to walk circumspectly, discerning the times as society changes around us, girded by faith and truth - not compromising our own standards and beliefs. We were forewarned about such times of change so we would be actively watching, using the tools of study and prayer, ensuring that our love of the truth does not wax cold in a changing world.

***Treena Tier, New South Wales.***

\*A perceived awareness of issues concerning social justice and racial justice.





## Glory

Almighty God, how laudable,  
Is Your eternal name!  
In every place recordable,  
Forevermore the same.

For You have set Your eminence,  
So far above the skies;  
The stars in their magnificence,  
Shine forth like watching eyes.

Out from the mouths of little folk,  
You have perfected praise;  
That You may silence every yoke,  
Imposed upon Your ways.

When I consider all the host;  
The stars which You have made;  
What then is man's allotted post,  
In every role displayed?

You made him lord of land and sea;  
Of birds and fish and beast;  
You gave him all-sufficiency,  
With grace that never ceased.

Almighty God, how laudable,  
Is Your eternal name!  
By every means accordable,  
Your glory meets acclaim.

*O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name  
in all the earth!*

**Psalm 8:1**

**Continued from page three**

### *'Glorious Jesus'*

Covenant mediated, established and directed by the Son of God (not angels, as was the Mosaic covenant) so the Hebrews would not reject the salvation they were blessed with and turn from the better covenant to the inferior and obsolete Mosaic covenant. As we journey through the book of Hebrews together I pray you will see this, but for now, let's just see Glorious Jesus, Creator, Son of God Heir of all things etc. Let's see Him and bow down and worship Him. Let's ascribe to Him the glory due His name and worship his majesty.

Glorious Jesus! If anyone has not yet given their heart and life to this Glorious One it's time to do it right now! Don't delay!

*Written by Pastor David Kidd, New Zealand*



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### *'Why Are There Stories In The Bible?'*

In the Old Testament there are stories preparing the way to Jesus in the New Testament. It may not explicitly speak of Jesus, but it may speak of the Messiah or point to who He will be, such as the Suffering Servant or the Son of Man who will have dominion, described in Daniel 7:13-14.

*"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed."*

Purpose of the stories, "Remember His marvelous works which He has done.." 1 Chronicles 6:12a

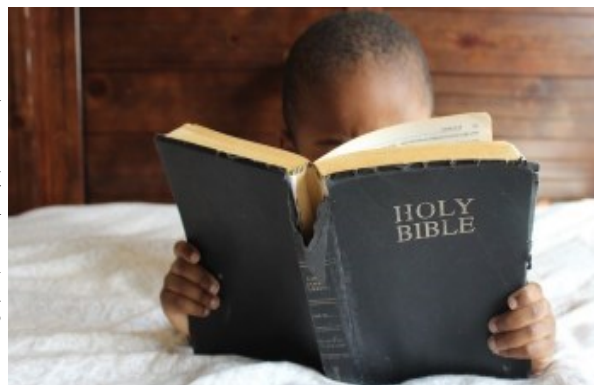
*Written by Pastor Phil Kordahi*

## *Why Are There Stories In The Bible?*

Human beings have always been intrigued by a good story. Storytelling has earned its place as one of the most important traditions humans possess. Over the many centuries, stories have influenced, taught and inspired people and nations to unite through culture, history and values. Storytelling forges a bond between the story teller and the listener.

In the same way the Bible is full of stories, from Genesis to Revelation.

God's Word tells us about stories of good triumphing over evil, while others are about courage and bravery against great odds and some are heart-rending stories that tell of sadness and death.



These real-life stories have a purpose, to guide us in how we should act and react to situations in our lives. We can also draw comfort, strength and reliance from them, because imperfect people (like ourselves) struggled through a wide range of trials, knowing that when they called upon God, His steadfast love and unfailing support make them secure through their troubles.

I read recently that 75% of the Bible was written in a story format.

As children, we were entertained by these biblical stories; as adults we have discovered

their greater power through the Holy Spirit. They encourage us to think about important matters in our life, even urgent matters!

The creation story, Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, Exodus, the birth of Christ and Jesus' crucifixion just to name a few, direct our attention and awareness to how our Sovereign God communicates and deals with His creation.

Teaching our children the stories of the Bible will strengthen their reality of what is true, against the fables and tales of this world, which is foisted upon them daily.

In Deuteronomy chapter 6, God instructs Israel to teach their children about His statutes and commandments. I believe it is a good example to use when it comes to biblical stories!

*"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."* Deuteronomy 6:7

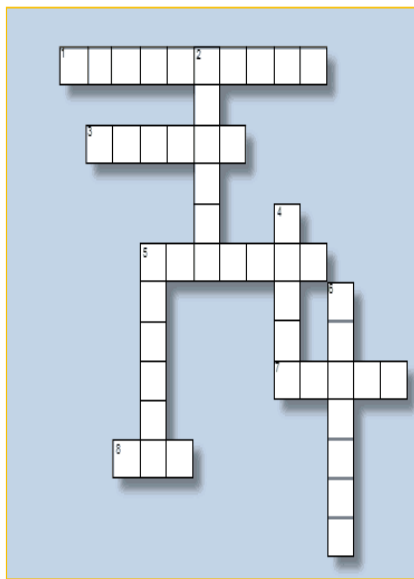
Have you ever experienced the situation when you try to share the gospel message, and you come up against a resistance to the name of Jesus?

In that situation hopefully you can catch the person's interest through biblical stories which will eventually lead to Jesus.

*Continued on page five*

# Youth Corner

## God Led His People Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Land with no towns or cities
3. God made the waters \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ancient ruler of Egypt
7. A long stick used for walking
8. Not wet

### DOWN

2. Moses and the Israelites went to this body of water.
4. Leader the Israelites
5. \_\_\_\_\_ of cloud and \_\_\_\_\_ of fire
6. The Egyptians rode in this vehicle pulled by a horse.

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH OLD TESTAMENT 1

NUMBERS  
DEUTERONOMY  
JOSHUA

EZRA  
NEHEMIAH  
ESTHER  
JOB

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

3 SAMUEL  
2 KINGS  
1 CHRONICLES

**WORDS TO FIND**  
Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Joshua  
Judges

Ruth  
Samuel  
Kings  
Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

GENESIS  
EXODUS  
LEVITICUS

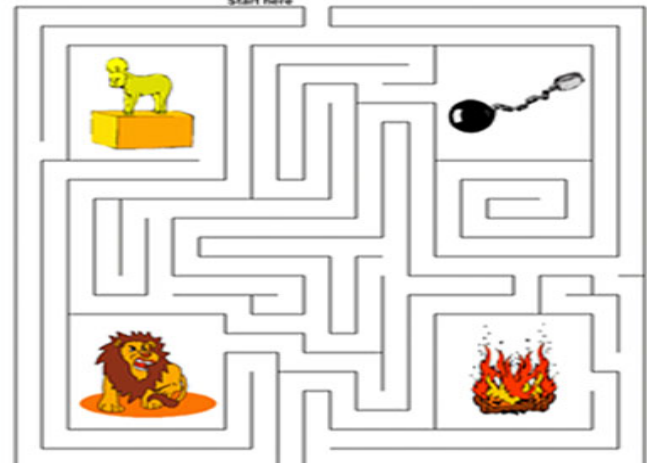
JUDGES  
RUTH

## FIRE ESCAPE

Help Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego find their way to safety.  
Daniel 3:12-30



Start here



Finish





## The Law of the Lord

### A Blessing to the People of God

The Bible takes place across three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117, with just 2 verses.

The longest word in the Bible is "Mahershalahashbaz (Isaiah 8:3).

The Geneva Bible is the first Bible to use numbered verses.

There are 93 women who speak in the Bible, 49 of whom are named. They speak a total of 14,056 words, or about 1.1% of the Bible. There are a total of 188 named women in the Bible.

In 1631, a publishing company published 1000 Bibles with the typo "*Thou Shalt Commit Adultery.*" Only 7 of these Bibles, known as the "Sinners' Bible" exist today.



Let's take a look at the law of God in both Old and New Testaments. Let's understand its relevance, if any, for Christians who are saved by God's grace, not by His law. Let's see what meaning the law yet has for those redeemed by Christ's blood and clothed with His righteousness by faith alone.

Please send for the free booklet

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