

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

1. Noah's Ark

So were there two of every kind of animal on the Ark?

Most artwork feature two giraffes, two elephants, two deer, two sheep, two lions, walking into the Ark. However a careful reading of Genesis 7: 1-3 makes it clear that while unclean animals went in two by two, clean animals went in groups of seven. There would have been 14 sheep, 14 deer, 7 roosters and 7 hens... According to God's Law, there were far more clean animals than unclean.

2. How Many Children did Adam and Eve Have?

Most people only seem aware that Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Some have noticed that a third son, Seth was also born. However, Genesis 5:4 tells us that Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters. Hebrew tradition claims that 33 sons and 23 daughters were born to Adam and Eve.

3. Was Abraham a Jew?

Abraham was the father of the Hebrew people, but not all Hebrews were Jews. Neither Isaac, nor Jacob were Jews, nor were Joseph, or Moses. We often hear people speak of Moses leading the Jews out of Egypt, but that is not accurate. The 12 tribes of Israel were all Hebrews, but only the tribe of Judah could, correctly speaking, be called Jews. The word Jews does not appear anywhere in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth... in fact the first time that the Jews are mentioned is in 2 Kings 16:6. When the Kingdom of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom of Israel, with Samaria as its capital, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah with Jerusalem as its capital, the term Jew came to be used in reference to the tribe of Judah.

4. Delilah Didn't Cut Samson's Hair

The story that Delilah cut Sampson's hair has been repeated so many times that many assume that it is in the Bible. However, Judges 16:19 says that Delilah called for a man to shave off Sampson's hair after she had lulled him to sleep.

5. "God helps those who help themselves."

This phrase has been quoted so many times that many believe that it comes from the Bible. In fact, God helps those who help themselves was a saying of Benjamin Franklin. You won't find it anywhere in the Bible.

6. "God loves everybody – equally!"

The Bible is quite clear that there are actually men (like Esau), whom God hates: *"These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him; a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord amongst brethren."* Proverbs 6:16-19

7. Inequality in the Bible

In the Scriptures we read that Enoch walked with God, that Abraham was chosen to be the father of God's people. Abraham is described as the friend of God. Moses spoke to God face to face. David is described as *"a man after God's own heart."* Our Lord Jesus described John the Baptist as the greatest man born of woman. John the Apostle is described as *"the disciple whom Jesus loved."*

8. But Aren't All Sins the Same?

The Lord made it clear that there would be different degrees of Judgement. He warned that it would be better for the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, than for Capernaum on the Day of

Judgment. The Apostle James warned: *"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."* James 3:1

9. Different Rewards in Heaven

We will be judged by the light that we have received. To whom much is given, much is required. To whom much more is given, much more is required. This Scripture makes clear that there will be different degrees of rewards in Heaven. *"Each one's work will become clear for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire and fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss..."* 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

10. Don't We Become Angels?

Many labour under the illusion that people become angels when they die. Popular art has frequently depicted angels as feminine, or as chubby babies. The Bible describes angels as ministering spirits, frequently terrifying to the people who encountered them. Some Angels took the form of men with drawn swords. Other angels are described in the Scriptures as in the form of a lion, a bull and an eagle (Ezekiel 1).

11. Signs of the End

Wars, rumours of wars, natural disasters, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, persecution and false prophets are frequently referred to as signs of the end. However, the Lord Jesus, in Matthew 24:1-14, makes it clear that these are not signs of the end. *"See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."* Matthew 24:6. The definitive sign of the end is the fulfilment of the Great Commission: *"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* Matthew 24:14

12. Turn the Other Cheek

Many claim that the Bible advocates pacifism on the basis of our Lord's teaching to turn the other cheek. However the context is plainly, if someone slaps you on the one cheek, turn to him the other. The Lord did not say if someone stabs you in the one cheek you should allow him to stab you in the other. Nor did he suggest that if someone attacks your mother, you should allow him to attack your sister as well. Turn the other cheek is a teaching against allowing pride to lead us into fighting over an insult. A slap cannot be interpreted as a threat to life or property.

13. Do Not Commit Murder

Those who claim that the sixth Commandment prohibits self-defence, or military service, have missed the point that God's Law requires the execution of murderers and the protection of the defenceless against unprovoked aggression. There are six different words in Hebrew for kill. The Scripture plainly distinguished between murder, which is forbidden in the sixth Commandment, self-defence which is commanded (Exodus 22:2), killing in battle, which was commanded to Joshua, execution of a condemned murderer, manslaughter (accidental death) and killing animals for food. *"Do not be afraid of them, remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."* Nehemiah 4:14

14. All You Need Do to Be Saved is Accept Jesus

How often have we heard: *"It's easy to be a Christian, all you need to do is accept Jesus!"* However, you won't find that phrase anywhere in the Scriptures. Jesus actually taught that it is difficult to be saved. That it is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. *"How hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God!"* Mark 10:23-24. Jesus said: *"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."* Jesus called people to give up everything they had, to forsake the world, to take up their cross, to deny themselves and to follow Him. He emphasised the need for sacrifice, endurance and persecution. Rather than asking people to *accept Jesus*, we need to call people to Repentance and Faith,

lifelong discipleship, *"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* It is not for us to accept Jesus. He is the Creator and the Eternal Judge. We need to surrender to Him. We need Him to graciously accept us.

15. Jesus Never Claimed to Be the Son of God!

Well, actually, He did! *"Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, you are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, although you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me and I in Him."* John 10:36-38

The Scripture makes clear that Jesus Christ is God in human form, Emmanuel, God with us. The Bible makes clear that Yahweh is the only Saviour (Isaiah 43:11; 45:21) and that Jesus Christ is *"Our Great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."* Titus 2:13. The Bible makes clear that Yahweh alone is the Eternal Judge (Daniel 7:9-10), yet Jesus Christ is revealed as the Eternal Judge (2 Corinthians 5:10). Yahweh alone is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1), and the Scripture makes clear that Jesus is the Creator (John 1:1-3). Yahweh alone is worthy of worship and the Scripture makes clear: *"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"* Revelation 5:12

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