

Remember, it's pointless for all those comforting promises to be in the Bible if we don't know them!

Thank God today for His promises and comfort! Bring to him the things that are robbing you of peace, and claim His promises right now for those circumstances!

Friday

Read Psalm 119: 97-101. According to this verse, what benefits are there from meditating daily on God's word (as you are doing right now!)?

Read the following verses and answer: What is the fundamental mistake Jesus is pointing out here? Matthew 22:29; Mark 12:24; Matthew 21:42.

What do these verses tell you about the importance of knowing the Word?

Thank God again today for His word! Spend some extra time meditating on a passage today — just thinking about it, praying about it — perhaps the Psalm 119 passage above.!

Saturday

Please look over the devotions and finish any you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse, and pray for us this weekend as we cover the topic "Why does a loving, all-powerful God allow suffering?"

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Clara Turner — testing, possible surgery
Connie Upton (Kim Breuninger's sister-in-law) — pancreatic cancer metastasized to her liver
Elva Jacobsen — RCU, TIA recovery
Gerry Zapata — RCU, quadruple bypass recovery
Helen Ellis — gall bladder surgery
Irvin Smith — RCU, pedestrian in auto accident recovery
Karla Bogard — long term recovery from major, experimental cancer surgery
Leslie Nelson — knee surgery, 5/1
Roberly Bedayan — cancer complications
Recent hospitalizations / surgeries: Kristen Carlton, Betty Dodson, Don Syres, Paul Bacon, Ritchie Smith, Rod Mowbray

HOME WITH THE LORD

Love and prayer are extended to Kevin Miller and family in the loss of his dear mother, **Barbara Miller**, who peacefully passed into the presence of her Lord after an extended illness. Barbara was a precious lady with a gentle spirit through all of her suffering.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

WHY BELIEVE

"Why Believe the Bible?"

May 5 & 6, 2007 • René Schlaepfer

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."
1 Peter 3:15b,16

A MAP showing the Bible's reliability:

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"The scrolls have shown that our traditional Bible has been amazingly well preserved for over 2,000 years."
—Eugene Ulrich, Notre Dame professor and chief editor of the Dead Sea texts for Oxford University

"The remaining interval between the date of writing and the earliest manuscript evidence is so small as to be negligible. The last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed." —Sir Frederick Kenyon, former director, British Library

- The Bible has better manuscript evidence than _____ ancient book
- Only about _____ of the text is in doubt.
- _____ doctrinal teaching is affected.

A

Among the examples of amazing discoveries:

JERICHO: "Reexamination of the evidence shows the destruction did occur in uncanny detail just as the Bible describes it." —Herschel Shanks, editor, *Biblical Archaeology Review*

TEL DAN INSCRIPTION OF "DAVID": "A tremendously important find that will certainly cause anxiety for skeptics." —Professor of archaeology James K. Hoffmeier

SOLOMON'S CITIES: "Here is a dramatic instance of archaeology turning up actual structures mentioned specifically in the Bible." —William Dever, prof. of archaeology, University of Arizona

SHISHAK'S WAR: "This remarkable convergence of evidence bears strong witness to this chapter of biblical history. It also strikes a powerful blow against the argument that the history of ancient Israel is a later invention." —Jeffrey L. Sheler, *U. S. News and World Report*

STELA OF SHALMANESER III (Shows King Jehu; 2 Kings 9-10)

KING SARGON'S MONUMENT (Confirms Isaiah 20)

RECORDS OF SENNACHERIB (Confirms 2 Kings 18-19, Isaiah 36-37)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PALACE (Confirms 2 Kings 24)

DECREE OF KING CYRUS (Confirms Ezra 1)

PONTIUS PILATE INSCRIPTION (Confirms Matt. 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19)

"It can be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference." —Nelson Glueck, famed Israeli archaeologist

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Among many examples:

TYRE (Ezekiel 26)

Prophecy: To be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, many nations will attack, made like a bare rock, fishermen will spread nets, debris thrown into water. All this is exactly fulfilled.

NINEVEH (Book of Nahum)

Prophecy: To be destroyed in floods, inhabitants drunk, gates dissolved, burned down, never to be rebuilt. All this is exactly fulfilled.

JESUS

Over 300 references to the Messiah in Hebrew Scriptures were fulfilled in Jesus. "We find that the chance that any man might have fulfilled all 48 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 157th power." —Peter Stoner

So What?

The Bible

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

The Bible

Jesus said: "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."
John 5:39-40

"There is no magic in . . . the mechanical reading of the Bible. The written Word points to the Living Word and says to us, 'go to Jesus'. If we do not go to the Jesus to whom it points, we miss the whole purpose of Bible reading. We do not worship the Bible; we worship the Christ of the Bible. We love it only because we love him of whom it speaks." —John Stott

Resources

Is The New Testament Reliable? A Look at the Historical Evidence, Paul Barnett

The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?, F.F. Bruce

A General Introduction to the Bible, Geisler and Nix

Hidden Gospels: How the Search for Jesus Lost Its Way, Philip Jenkins

The Real Jesus, Luke Timothy Johnson

Evidence That Demands A Verdict, Josh McDowell

Is the Bible True?, Jeffery L. Sheler

Rocks, Relics, and Biblical Reliability, Clifford A. Wilson

Also see: *Biblical Archaeology Review journal*

Monday

According to the following verses, what is Scripture good for?

Hebrews 4:12:

Acts 18:28:

Romans 15:4:

2 Timothy 3:15:

If Scripture is so profitable, why then do you suppose more Christians don't know it well?

Thank God today for the priceless gift of the Bible! Ask Him to help you discipline yourself so you may know it better.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 119:105. According to this verse, the Bible gives me guidelines for life, as well as a goal to live for. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3 and 5:18, and 1 Peter 2:15. What is the revealed will of God for your life in these passages?

Why do we sometimes we live as if we don't believe God has revealed His will for us in Scripture?

Thank God for the grace and mercy we see in Scripture, as well as the clear principles for life. Ask God to help you live by His revealed purpose for your life!

Wednesday

The Bible gives me power: Power to resist temptation and live a Christ-like life! Read Psalm 119:9-11. What does this passage say is the key to resisting temptation?

Read Matthew 4:1-10. How does Jesus practice Psalm 119:9-11? What does this teach you about resisting sin?

Ask God to help you memorize Scripture so you can stand strong!

Thursday

The Bible gives me peace when I go through trials. Read Psalms 85:8; 119:114, 148.

How is God's word a refuge and shield when I meditate on its promises in times of trouble?

Have you ever had an experience when God's promises in Scripture helped you through a tough time? What happened? What specific promise helped?

over 



*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:105*