

The Advocate of Truth



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"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." Judges 13: 2-5. Ordinary women are chosen by God to do His work. Here, we see Manoah's wife was chosen to bear Samson; Hannah was chosen to mother Samuel; and later, Mary was chosen to help raise the Lord Jesus." May God bless our faithful Mothers!

Fasting & Prayer

by David Royer



While researching the internet for this article, I discovered various types and procedures for Fasting, including those related to dietary and health programs. Instead of reviewing all these Fasting practices, I have concentrated my remarks on Biblical Fasting.

DEFINITION (Source: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-exactly-is-fasting-all-about.html>)

Biblical Fasting is essentially giving up food for a period of time to focus your thoughts on God. While fasting, many people read the Bible, pray, or worship. Fasting and its various forms are found throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible over fifty times!

Fasting serves as a powerful means of connecting with God. In the Old Testament, people frequently fasted during times of profound sorrow or when they sought to humble themselves before God. In the New Testament, Fasting becomes a way to draw closer to God, centering one's heart and mind on Him. Jesus exemplifies this in Matthew 4:1-2, where He fasted for 40 days in the wilderness to prepare for His ministry.

We are encouraged to keep our Fasting between God and us; as Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:16-18, we shouldn't appear somber to signal that we're fasting. It's a private practice designed to foster a quiet, deep relationship with God. Fasting often goes hand in hand with prayer, creating an intentional time of worship, like in Acts 13:2-3, where early Christians fasted and prayed together, or in Luke 2:37, where a widow faithfully fasted and prayed day and night.

Following the example of Jesus and the Early Church believers, we too, can draw near to God while Fasting. Here are several other benefits we gain from Fasting:

- Fasting is a biblical way to submit yourself to God humbly. King David said, "... I humbled my soul with fasting..." (Psalm 35:13).
- Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life.
- Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened. You will feel mentally, spiritually, and physically refreshed.

SUMMARY: It's important to understand that Fasting is not a way to get a better response to prayer. Instead, true Fasting is a means of fostering a better, humbler approach to prayer.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV) BIBLE

By David Royer

According to the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, the New International Version (NIV) Bible is the best-selling Bible translation in the United States.

Sales Rankings 2020

1. New International Version (NIV)
2. King James Version (KJV)
3. New Living Translation (NLT)
4. English Standard Version (ESV)
5. New King James Version (NKJV)

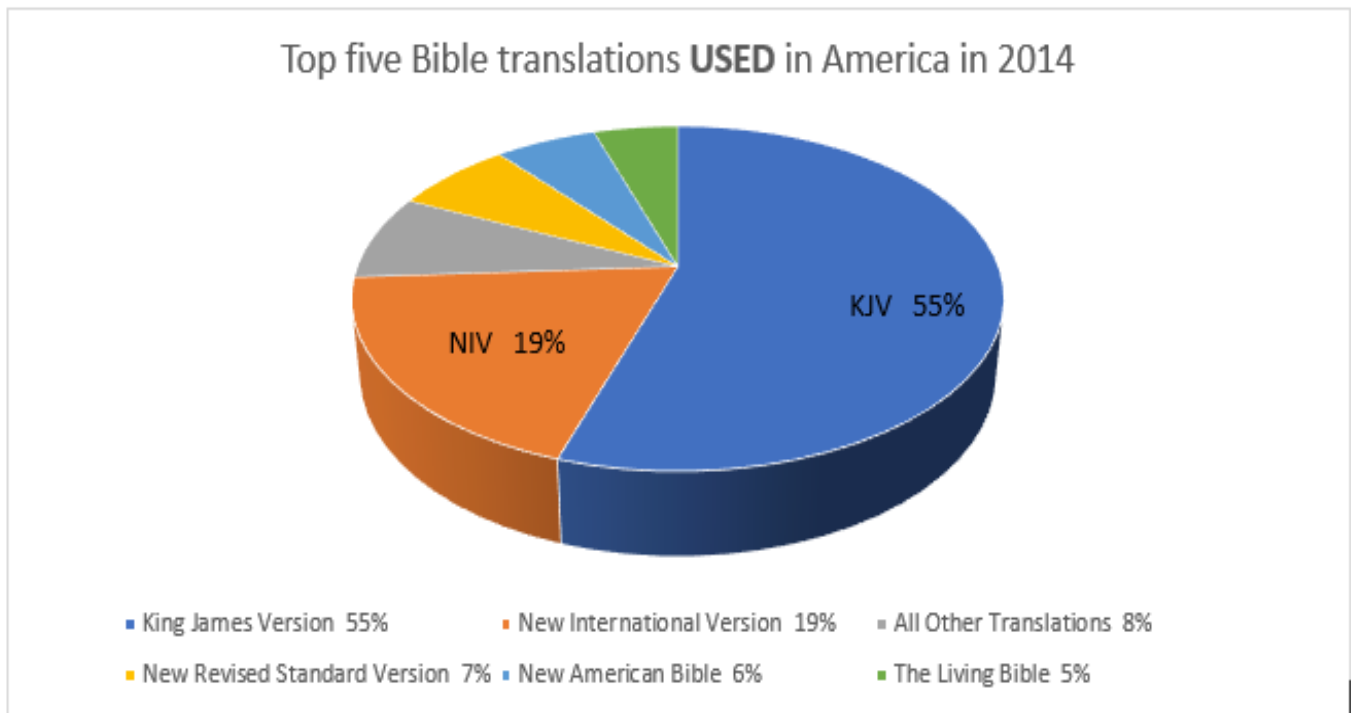
Sales Ranking 2011

- 1
- 2
- 4
- 5
- 3

Observations:

- NIV and KJV rankings have remained stable since 2011.
- NKJV is trending lower, while ESV and NLT are trending higher in sales.

While the NIV is the best-selling Bible today, the KJV is still the most widely used Bible, with NIV being second. The chart below was sourced from the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE NIV BIBLE

(Source: <https://www.christianbook.com/blog/exploring-the-strengths-and-weaknesses-of-the-esv-and-niv-translations-of-the-bible/>)

Strengths:

Accessibility & Flow: The NIV is highly regarded for its readability and ease of understanding. Its translation philosophy prioritizes contemporary language usage, making it suitable for many readers, including those new to the Bible. The NIV presents the biblical text in a clear and flowing manner. The translation team has taken great care to ensure that the ideas and concepts are conveyed smoothly, which enhances comprehension and engagement.

Gender-Inclusive Language: One of the reported strengths of the NIV is its deliberate effort to use gender-inclusive language where appropriate. This approach strives to promote inclusivity and reflect a more balanced representation of both genders in the text.

Weaknesses:

Gender-Inclusive Language: This new translation includes more gender-neutral language and draws criticism from some conservatives who argue the changes can alter the theological message.

Sacrifice of Literal Precision: To achieve readability and contemporary language usage, the NIV may occasionally sacrifice strict adherence to the original wording or phrasing. While this makes the text more accessible, it can lead to a potential loss of nuanced meanings or cultural context found in the original languages.

Potential for Interpretive Bias: Critics argue that the NIV sometimes exhibits a degree of interpretive bias in its translation choices. While it aims to make the text more accessible, some believe that certain theological or cultural perspectives may influence the rendering of specific passages. (I found a discussion of these discrepancies at <https://isthatinthebible.wordpress.com/articles-and-resources/deliberate-mistranslation-in-the-new-international-version-niv/>)

Conclusion:

It can be beneficial for readers to consult multiple translations and engage in a comparative study to gain a well-rounded understanding and clarification of biblical text. By doing so, readers can appreciate the strengths of each translation while remaining aware of their limitations and developing a deeper connection with the Word of God.

Our Church, The Church of God (7th Day), uses the King James Version of the Bible because we believe it to be the most accurate translation of God's word from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. The Bible is the inspired, unique word of God. It contains the commandments that we live by, examples we pattern our lives by, and stories we tell our children. It includes the teachings of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the explanation of our Christian faith. It is the unique expression of God's will toward man. It is the very foundation of the Church of God (7th Day)'s religious beliefs.

Mothers' Day, 2026

By David DeLong

Originally Mother's Day was a time used to celebrate a pagan goddess, known in the Bible as the queen of heaven (see Jeremiah 44:15-19). However, today we are now simply setting aside a time to honor our mothers and the godly mothers in the Bible, as well.

God be praised for our godly mothers who have set our feet upon the path of the Bible, and have instructed us in the way of righteousness. The Apostle Paul basically wrote of this same thing to Timothy in II Timothy 1:5-6: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

Eve has taken a bad "rap" by probably millions who call themselves by the name of Christ. However, even though she fell to the temptation of the serpent, the Lord apparently accepted her repentance by clothing her in an animal's skin (presumably from a sacrificial animal). She apparently became a very good mother because of the way that Abel and Seth turned out. Let us, rather, remember her for being an apparently godly mother instead of the first woman to sin against God.

Noah's wife also was an apparently godly mother. We hear of no complaint by her against her husband, Noah, in the pages of Scripture, when Noah built the ark over a Also, her sons Shem and Japheth were godly men by span of perhaps a hundred years.

their actions toward God and their father, Noah.

Sarah, most definitely, was a godly woman. Of course she made her share of mistakes by going along with her husband, Abraham's, half-lies about being his sister. But God blessed her richly through her offspring and the promises He made to her husband and to her.

Rebekah was a true example for all godly women, today. She was a humble servant, she exhibited true faith in the Lord's guiding hand, and she was a godly example to the mothers of Israel. But, like all mothers today, she was not perfect. She helped deceive her husband, Isaac, by tricking him to give Esau's blessing to Jacob.

We often think of Rachel as being a godly mother, and she most definitely was. However, I would like to spend some time and thought about her sister, Leah. Leah was not as attractive as was Rachel, to Jacob. I can imagine her feelings of inferiority that she probably had. We turn to Genesis 29:31-35 to gain some insight here. "And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband



be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing." Leah eventually ended up having six sons. And by the names given to most of them, we can see that she was a very godly mother, indeed.

Moses' mother was also a very godly woman. She did everything she could to keep her son, Moses, alive by placing him in an ark of bulrushes, and sending it out into the Nile River so that Pharaoh would not kill the boy. She eventually ended up nursing him and apparently giving him a good background in the ways of the Lord.

We know nothing, or almost nothing, about David's mother, Daniel's mother, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abe-nego's mothers, but they too must have been very godly women to raise and influence David, Daniel, and the three young men who were sent into the fiery furnace for their faith.

On page two of this Advocate we have already mentioned Samson's mother, Samuel's mother, and Jesus' mother. They were all outstanding mothers to their children, directing them in the way of the Lord. But we also know nothing, or nearly so, about the twelve disciples' mothers, who almost certainly directed their children's attention to Scriptures that, (at least as much as they knew), pointed toward the coming of the Messiah. Admittedly, the disciples' knowledge of the coming of Jesus was quite limited, and had to await until God (and the Lord Jesus) instructed them personally from God's Word. But, they were at least looking for Him to some limited degree, as we can discern from John 1:40-45: "One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Again, we wish to thank the Lord for giving many of us mothers who instructed us in the way of God. And we wish to honor them as much as we honor the godly mothers who are given in the Scriptures. The poem, below, is dedicated to all of our mothers.

The Commandment of God

The fifth Command honors our mothers
As well as our fathers, we know;
But to fully obey the commandment of God,
We must go beyond status quo.

It is not just to say that I love you,
Or to bring our dear mothers a rose;
It is not enough just to smile at her,
Nor to be in her picture, to pose.

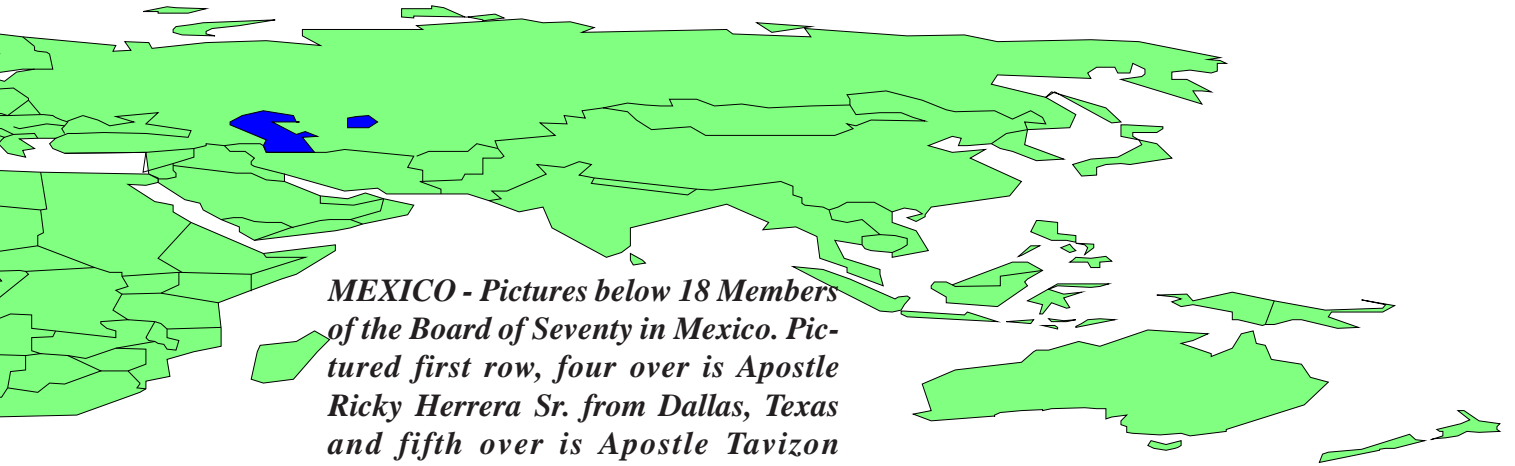
We must show her our love in the valleys,
As well as upon mountain tops;
And then for the win, through all thick and thin,
We go with her, until our time stops.





THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD





MEXICO - Pictures below 18 Members of the Board of Seventy in Mexico. Pictured first row, four over is Apostle Ricky Herrera Sr. from Dallas, Texas and fifth over is Apostle Tavizon Pascacio of Mexico.



WHO SAID THAT?

By David Royer
Answers on page 13

Try your memory skills. Identify, from the list below, “who said that” in the King James Bible.

1. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Said by: _____
2. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? _____
3.said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee. _____
4. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. _____
5. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. _____
6. Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: _____
7. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. _____
8. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD. _____
9. And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. _____
10.Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. _____
11. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. _____
12.staves?..... Come to me, and I will give thy flesh into the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. _____
13.Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. _____
14.Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. _____

Select “Who Said That” from this list: David, Angel, Samson, Goliath, Mrs. Job, Saul, Delilah, Paul, Abigail, Boaz, Timothy, John, Solomon and Jesus. (Two names are used twice.)



STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

THE BABY WHO HAD TWO MOTHERS

King Solomon was so wise that people for miles around came to him with their troubles and asked his advice.

One day, two women appeared before the King, one of them carried in her arms a baby, who she said was her little son.

"Oh King," cried the second woman, she is not telling you the truth. We live in the same house, and we had babies the same age, but hers died in the night, and she has stolen mine. The child you see is my son, not hers." But the other woman held the baby tighter and shook her head. "No, no! It was her child who died. The living child is mine."

This was a hard problem to solve, because both women were so sure they were right. Solomon thought a moment. Then he called to his servant.

"Bring me a sword. Divide the living child in two and give half to one woman and half to the other."

One woman thought this was a fair way to settle their quarrel, but the other woman cried out quickly, "Oh, my

Lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it." But the other woman said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it."

Then King Solomon knew that he had found the right mother who loved her child so very much that she would rather give him to another woman than see him killed. So, he put the baby in her arms, and she went home happy.

A MOTHER'S FAITH

When Jesus was still on earth, He went about doing many wonderful things. Everyone around knew of his fame, and when they heard that He was near, they would all want to see Him. Jesus never turned anyone down when they asked to be healed or when they asked Him to heal some of their loved ones.

One time when Jesus was near the cities of Tyre and Sidon, where He had come to be alone, a woman came to ask His help. This woman as a Gentile woman, and the disciples wanted to send her away, but she cried and fell down and worshipped Jesus and said, "Lord help me, for my daughter is very ill and is grievously vexed with a devil." The tender heart of Jesus was touched as it always was when he would hear the cries of those who were in need. He could see that this woman had faith, but He decided to test her faith further. He said to her, "I am not sent but of the lost sheep of Israel, therefore it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs." She answered Him by saying, "you are right dear Master, but the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table." Jesus knew then that she had great faith, and he said to her, "Truly you have great faith, and your prayer is answered this very hour. Go home now, and you will find your daughter every bit whole, for the wicked spirit is now gone from her."

At these words, the woman jumped to her feet and quickly obeyed Jesus for she believed that her little girl was well. When she arrived home, she found her lying upon the bed resting quietly, for the evil spirit had left when Jesus spoke the word.

Jesus still hears today. We must have faith in Him and do His will, and He will heal us too when we are sick.

LESSON I

THE FIRSTBORN THREATENED

Scripture Reading: Exodus 11:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 11:1 (first part).

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt:"

1. The Lord told Moses that there will be one more plague upon Egypt. What will Pharaoh do after this final plague? Exodus 11:1.
2. What are the children of Israel to do, and what did the Egyptians think of them and of Moses? Exodus 11:2-3.
3. What was God going to do to the Egyptians? Exodus 11:4-6.
4. Would any of the children of Israel be harmed, and why did God do this? Exodus 11:7.

NOTE: God wanted everyone to know that the children of Israel were special to Him.

5. What did the Lord tell Moses about Pharaoh? Exodus 11:9.
6. Did Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh of what would happen? Exodus 11:10 (first part).
7. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go? Exodus 11:10 (last part).

LESSON II

THE PASSOVER INSTITUTED

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:2.

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."

1. The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron. What did He

tell them? Exodus 12:1-2.

2. In the tenth day of this month, what were the people of Israel to do? Exodus 12:3.
3. If the household was too little for the lamb, what were they to do? Exodus 12:4.
4. What kind of lamb were they to choose? Exodus 12:5.
5. How long were they to keep the lamb up, and when were they to kill it? Exodus 12:6.
6. What were they to do with the blood? Exodus 12:7.
7. How were they instructed to roast the lamb, and what were they to eat with the flesh? Exodus 12:8-9.
8. Were they to eat it all? What were they to do with that which remained? Exodus 12:10.

LESSON III

THE PASSOVER

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:11-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:13 (last part).

"..and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

1. How were the children of Israel instructed to dress when they ate the Passover? Exodus 12:11.
2. When the Lord would pass over the land of Egypt that night, what would happen to the firstborn of the land? Exodus 12:12.
3. What would happen in the houses where the blood had been applied to the door posts? Exodus 12:13.
4. This day was to be a day of memorial to the children of Israel. How long were they told to keep it? Exodus 12:14.

- 5. For how many days were they to eat unleavened bread? Exodus 12:15.
- 6. What two days of the week were to be a holy convocation? Exodus 12:16.
- 7. In what month and on what day of the month were they to eat unleavened bread? Exodus 12:18.
- 8. Was there to be any leaven found in their houses? Exodus 12:19-20.

LESSON IV

THE FIRSTBORN OF EGYPT SLAIN

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:21-36.
Golden Text: Exodus 12:29 (first part).
"And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...."

- 1. What did Moses instruct the elders of Israel to do? Exodus 12:21.
- 2. What did he tell them to do with the blood? Why was it so important they do this? Exodus 12:22-23.
- 3. How long were they to keep or observe this ordinance? What were they to tell their children when they asked why they should keep this service? Exodus 12:24-27.
- 4. Did the children of Israel obey Moses and Aaron? Exodus 12:28.
- 5. What terrible thing happened at midnight? Exodus 12:29-30.
- 6. Was Pharaoh willing to let the children of Israel go this time? Were the Egyptians also anxious to see them leave? Exodus 12:31-33.
- 7. What did the Israelites take with them? What had they

taken from the Egyptians? Exodus 12:34-36.

NOTE: The meaning of Exodus is "departure." The Children of Israel departed or left Egypt.

Answers to "Who Said That" page 10

- 1. Paul, I Timothy 1:15
- 2. Paul, Romans 8:31
- 3. Boaz, Ruth 2:4
- 4. John, I John 2:15
- 5. David, Psalms 122:6
- 6. Solomon, Proverbs 2:11
- 7. Jesus, Matthew 7:27
- 8. David, Psalms 25:7
- 9. Abigail, I Samuel 25:24
- 10. Delilah, Judges 16:6
- 11. Angel, Matthew 28:6
- 12. Goliath, I Samuel 17:43-44
- 13. Mrs. Job, Job 2:9
- 14. Saul, I Samuel 24:17

Answers to Trivia Question page 14

- 1. Giant Goliath
- 2. John the Baptist
- 3. Samson
- 4. Nehemiah
- 5. Joseph

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these words about how Jesus grew.
 (For help look in Luke 2:40-52).

IDMOSW _ _ _ _ _

RATESUT _ _ _ _ _

OVFRA _ _ _ _ _

GROSTN _ _ _ _ _

GERINDTUNDASN
 _ _ _ _ _

Answers on page 14

There are many famous women mentioned in the Bible. Here is a list of some of them. Can you fit all the names in the list into the diagram? You should be able to if you put them in the right spaces. The first one is filled in to give you a start.

- | | |
|-------|-----------|
| EVE | DORCAS |
| ANNA | ESTHER |
| LEAH | HANNAH |
| LOIS | SALOME |
| MARY | VASHTI |
| RUTH | DELILAH |
| NAOMI | REBEKAH |
| RAHAB | ELISABETH |
| SARAH | PRISCILLA |

BIBLE QUIZ 1

From the following sentence descriptions, name the person. Answers on page 13.

1. He was big and was killed by a stone.
2. He wore raiment of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey.
3. He was strong, and his eyes were put out.
4. He was the king's cupbearer and helped to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
5. He had a coat of many colors.





prayer

REQUESTS


We would ask you to pray for a greater subscription list and circulation of "The Advocate of Truth." You may do a wonderful missionary work by subscribing for your friends or by distributing them to those with whom you come in contact. Many of you write in and tell us how much you appreciate the paper, and for this we are thankful. However, if you enjoy the paper then there is no question that others will enjoy it as much as you. Please solicit subscriptions whenever it is possible for you to do so.

Pray for more members to be added to the Church. This should always be upon our hearts, that God will add to the Church daily such as should be saved.

Pray that the Church will grow spiritually, and that the Spirit of God may take complete possession of our hearts and lives. Also, that we may build a spiritual church, a spiritual house in the nurture and admonition of God.

Finally pray for those in authority in the Church, that they may always be led by the will of the Spirit, and that nothing may be done for self-glory, but for the advancement of God's Church in the earth.

Thank you and God bless all of you is our prayer.



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MOTHER IS THERE

by Bertie I. Adams

*As mother has been there for us to depend on,
As mother has been that special one
Who holds our hands as we learn to walk,
Who can be a leader in the Word of our Lord,
Who can keep her family in one accord,
A mother is there when we skin our knee,
She can help at night those bad dreams to flee,
She is always there as the long days go by,
She helps dry those tears when we cry,
As we grow older our mother is still there,
She can still be a leader and how that she cares,
She still gives direction as each day goes by,
As on her wisdom and strength we learn to rely,
For all of the years God has blessed her to share,
With all of her family her special care.*