January 1, 2023

Happy New Year to you and your love ones. Another year and we are closer to His Second Coming. Personally, I feel 2023 we will see more events than ever before that we are closer to His return which seen to be a good topic for our December 2023 **BSL** issue. I will keep that in mind but don't let these events as bad as they might be get you worried because at the end, we will be with Our Savior Jesus Christ.

For this month **BSL**, our topic will be "**Interesting Facts on the Bible”.** This **BSL** is rather long - 8 pages, but it has plenty good information that you were possibility not unaware of as I was. Here are but a few examples:

* Stephen Langton first divided the Bible into chapters in 1228.
* The Bible contains 1189 chapters. The Old Testament has 929 chapters and the New Testament 260
* The Israelites returned from exile three times.

I don’t expect for you to read all 8 pages at one sitting but just keep it nearby and refer to it at your leisure.

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

*1 Peter 3:15*

*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

**Interesting Facts on the Bible**

**Bible Scripture Letter #33**

* The word "Bible" simply means books.
* The Bible was originally made up of books written in three languages; Hebrew, Aramic, and Koine Greek.
* The entire Bible was written over a 1500-year span from around 1450 B.C. (the time of Moses) to about 100 A.D. (following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ).
* The Bible contains 66 books written by over 40 different authors.
* The Bible contains 1189 chapters and over 31,00 verses.
* It takes about 70 hours to read the entire Bible.
* The longest book of the Bible is Psalms.
* The shortest book is John.
* The longest verse is Esther 8:9.
* The shortest verse is John 11:35.
* The shortest chapter is Psalm 117.
* Psalm 118:8 is the Bible's center verse. "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man." (Psalm 118:8)
* The longest chapter is Psalm 119.
* The Bible has been translated into over 1,200 languages.
* The Bible is the best-selling book of all time.
* The Bible was the first book ever printed. In 1454, Johannes Gutenberg invented the "type mold" print press and began to print the Bible.
* Stephen Langton first divided the Bible into chapters in 1228.
* The Old Testament was first divided by verses in 1448 and the New Testament in 1551.
* The first English Bible translation was initiated by John Wycliff in 1382 and completed by John Purvey in 1388.
* About 170,000 Bibles are distributed each day in the United States.
* The Old Testament has 17 Historical, 5 Poetical, & 17 Prophetic books in it.
* The 17 Historical books are:
  + *Genesis*
  + *Exodus*
  + *Leviticus*
  + *Numbers*
  + *Deuteronomy*
  + *Joshua*
  + *Judges*
  + *Ruth*
  + *1 Samuel*
  + *2 Samuel*
  + *1 Kings*
  + *2 Kings*
  + *1 Chronicles*
  + *2 Chronicles*
  + *Ezra*
  + *Nehemiah*
  + *Esther*
* The 5 Poetical books are:
  + *Job*
  + *Psalms*
  + *Proverbs*
  + *Ecclesiastes*
  + *Song of Solomon*
* The 17 Prophetic books are:
  + *Isaiah*
  + *Jeremiah*
  + *Lamentations*
  + *Ezekiel*
  + *Daniel*
  + *Hosea*
  + *Joel*
  + *Amos*
  + *Obadiah*
  + *Jonah*
  + *Micah*
  + *Nahum*
  + *Habakkuk*
  + *Zephaniah*
  + *Haggai*
  + *Zechariah*
  + *Malachi*

**The New Testament has 4 Gospels, Acts, 21 Epistles, & Revelation in it. The 4 Gospels are:**

* *Matthew*
* *Mark*
* *Luke*
* *John*

**The 21 Epistles are:**

* *Romans*
* *1 Corinthians*
* *2 Corinthians*
* *Galatians*
* *Ephesians*
* *Philippians*
* *Colossians*
* *1 Thessalonians*
* *2 Thessalonians*
* *1 Timothy*
* *2 Timothy*
* *Titus*
* *Philemon*
* *Hebrews*
* *James*
* *1 Peter*
* *2 Peter*
* *1 John*
* *2 John*
* *3 John*
* *Jude*

The Hebrew Old Testament includes the same books as our English Old Testament, but in a different order.

**The Hebrew Old Testament also had some of its books combined to become one book, that is why there is 24 instead of 39 in the Hebrew Old Testament.**

The Bible contains 1189 chapters.

The Old Tesament has 929 chapters and the New Testament 260.

**Old Testament Sequence of Events:**

* *Adam...............................about 4000 B.C.*
* *The Flood.........................about 2400 B.C.*
* *Abraham..........................about 2000 B.C.*
* *Jacob..............................about 1900 B.C.*
* *Joseph.............................about 1800 B.C.*
* *Moses..............................about 1400 B.C.*
* *The Exodus......................about 1400 B.C.*
* *Ruth.................................about 1150 B.C.*
* *Samuel.............................about 1100 B.C.*
* *Saul.................................about 1053 B.C.*
* *David................................about 1013 B.C.*
* *Solomon............................about 973 B.C.*
* *Division of the Kingdom.....about 933 B.C.*
* *Galilee Captivity................about 734 B.C.*
* *Captivity of Israel..............about 721 B.C.*
* *Judah Conquered by Babylon..about 606 B.C.*
* *Jehoiachin's Captivity...........about 597 B.C.*
* *Destruction of Jerusalem......about 586 B.C.*
* *Return from Captivity............about 536 B.C.*
* *Temple Rebuilt....................about 520 B.C.*
* *Esther becomes Queen of Persia...about 478 B.C.*
* *Ezra Goes to Jerusalem........about 457 B.C.*
* *Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall...about 444 B.C.*

The traditional viewpoint is that Moses wrote the Pentateuch.

The Garden of Eden was located near the top of the Persian Gulf.

**The stages of development of the New Testament Canon:**

* Irenaeus quoted all of our New Testament minus the books Hebrews, 2 Peter, & 3 John within his work Against Heresies. (ca. A.D. 130-200)
* Within the Muratorian Canon the New Testament was listed minus Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, & 3 John. (ca. A.D. 170-210)
* Eusebius quoted all of our New Testament within his work [Ecclesiastical History](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/2566/hist.html). (ca. A.D. 260-340)
* Athanasius quoted all of our New Testament within his thirty-ninth Paschal Letter. (ca. A.D. 367)
* The List of the Canon was closed by the Council of Carthage. (A.D. 397)

The apocryphal books are 1 Esdras, Judith, Tobit, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, 3 Maccabees, 4 Maccabees, Odes, Wisdom, Sirach, Psalms of Solomon, Baruch, & Letter of Jeremiah.

**Between 300 B.C. and A.D. 700 biblical text was written into nine various languages.**

Various passages which relate Jesus to the Old Testament ~ Matt. 4:4, Matt. 5:17, Luke 24:27, John 5:39, John 5:46, & John 10:35.

**The Ten Plagues of Egypt:**

* *Water to Blood - The waters of the Nile turned to blood.*
* *Frogs - Frogs infested the land of Egypt.*
* *Gnats - Small stinging insects infested in the land of Egypt.*
* *Flies - Swarms of flies, possibly a biting variety, infested the land of Egypt.*
* *Plague on the Cattle - A serious disease, possibly anthrax, infested the cattle belonging to Egyptians.*
* *Boils - A skin disease infected the Egyptians.*
* *Hail - A storm that destroyed the grain fields of Egypt by spared the land of Goshen inhabited by the Israelites.*
* *Locusts - An infestation of locusts stripped the land of Egypt of plant life.*
* *Darkness - A deep darkness covered the land of Egypt for three days.*
* *Death of the Firstborn - The firstborn of every Egyptian family died.*

**The Sacrificial System was comprised of five different offerings. They are:**

* *The Burnt Offering ~ Lev 1;6:8-13*
* *The Grain Offering ~ Lev 2;6:14-23*
* *The Fellowship Offering ~ Lev 3;7:11-36*
* *The Sin Offering ~ Lev 4:1-5:13;6:24-30;12:6-8*
* *The Guilt Offering ~ Lev 5:14-6:7;7:1-6;14:12-18*

**The Jewish Feasts and Festivals are:**

* Passover ~ March/April
* Feast of Unleavened Bread ~ March/April
* Feast of Weeks, or Harvest (Pentecost) ~ May/June
* Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) ~ September/October
* Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) ~ September/October
* Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles ~ September/October
* Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) ~ Kislev (Nov/Dec)-Tebeth (Dec/Jan)
* Feast of Purim, or Esther ~ February/March

**The Judges of the Old Testament are:**

* Othniel ~ Judg 1:12-13;3:7-11
* Ehud ~ Judg 3:12-30
* Shamgar ~ Judg 3:31
* Deborah ~ Judg 4-5
* Gideon ~ Judg 6-8
* Tola ~ Judg 10:1-2
* Jair ~ Judg 10:3-5
* Jephthah ~ Judg 11:1-12:7
* Ibzan ~ Judg 12:8-10
* Elon ~ Judg 12:11-12
* Abdon ~ Judg 12:13-15
* Samson ~ Judg 13-16
* Samuel ~ 1 & 2 Samuel

**The Musical Instruments of the Old Testament are:**

* Percussion: bagpipe, bells, cymbals, sistrum, & tambourine.
* String: harp, harplike instrument, lyre, & zither.
* Wind: double pipe, horn, cornet, pipe, reed, ram's horn, trumpet, & vertical flute.

**The Israelites returned from exile three times. They are:**

* 1. 538 B.C. Ezra 1-6 Leaders ~ Zerubbabel & Jeshua
* 2. 458 B.C. Ezra 7-10 Leader ~ Ezra
* 3. 444 B.C. Nehemiah 1-13 Leader ~ Nehemiah

**Types of Biblical Prayers:**

* Confession = Ps 51/ Luke 18:10-24
* Praise = 1 Chr 29:10-13/ Luke 1:46-55
* Thanksgiving = Ps 105:1-7/ 1 Thess 5:16-18
* Petition = Gen 24:12-14/ Acts 1:24-26
* Intercession = Exod 32:11-13/ Phil 1:9-11
* Commitment = 1 Kgs 8:56-61/ Acts 4:24-30
* Forgiveness = Dan 9:4-19/ Acts 7:60
* Confidence = Ps 23/ Luke 2:29-32
* Benediction = Num 6:24-26/ Jude 24

**The Characteristics of God Presented in Psalms are:**

* Anger / 5:6; 6:1; 27:9; 30:5; 73:20; etc.
* Avenger / 9:12; 24:5; 26:1; 53:5; 58:6; etc.
* Creator / 8:3; 22:9; 24:2; 78:69; 86:9; etc.
* Deliverer(Savior) / 7:1,10; 9:14; 24:5; etc.
* Faithful / 40:10; 54:5; 91:4; 92:2; 94:14; etc.
* Forgiving / 25:11; 32:5; 65:3; 78:38; 79:9; etc.
* Glory / 8:1; 24:7; 26:8; 29:1l; 63:2; etc.
* Good / 13:6; 25:7; 27:13; 31:19; 34:8; etc.
* Gracious / 67:1; 86:15; 103:8; 111:4; etc.
* Healer / 6:2; 30:2; 103:3; 107:20; & 147:3
* Holy / 16:10; 19:1; 20:6; 22:3; 29:2; 30:4; etc.
* Jealous / 78:58; & 79:5
* Judge / 7:8,11; 9:4,7-8; 50:4,6; 52:5; 75:2,7; etc.
* Justice / 7:6; 9:8,16; 11:7; 33:5; 36:6; etc.
* King / 5:2; 9:7; 11:4; 44:4; 47:2-9; 66:7; etc.
* Living / 18:46; 42:2; & 84:2
* Love / 6:4; 21:7; 25:6; 47:4; 48:9; 52:8; 60:5; etc.
* Majesty / 8:1; 68:34; 76:4; 93:1; 96:6; 104:1; 111:3; 145:5
* Mercy / 4:1; 5:7; 9:13; 26:11; 30:10; 31:9; etc.
* Only God / 18:31; 35:10; 73:25; 95:3; 96:4-5; etc.
* Perfect / 18:30; 92:15; 115:3; 135:6
* Present / 16:11; 22:19; 23:4; 35:22; 38:21; etc.
* Protector / 3:3; 5:11; 7:10; 16:5; 33:20; 66:9; etc.
* Provider / 67:6; 68:9; 78:23-29; 81:16; 85:12; etc.
* Redeemer / 19:14; 25:22; 55:18; 106:10; 107:2; etc.
* Refuge, Rock / 7:1; 14:6; 19:14; 27:1; 28:1; etc.
* Repent / 7:12; 90:13; & 106:45
* Righteousness / 4:1; 11:7; 22:31; 36:6; 50:6; 65:5; 72:1; etc.
* Shepherd / 23:1; 28:9; 74:1; 77:20; 78:52; 79:13; etc.
* Spirit / 51:11; 104:30; 106:33; 139:7; & 143:10
* Universal / 24:1; 50:1,12; 59:13; 65:2,5; 66:4; etc.
* Wisdom / 104:24
* Wonder Worker / 40:5; 46:8; 65:5; 66:3,5; 68:7; etc.

**The Prophets in History (9th-5th century B.C.) :**

* Elijah ~ 875-850
* Micaiah ~ 856
* Elisha ~ 855-800
* Jonah ~ 775
* Amos ~ 765
* Hosea ~ 750
* Isaiah ~ 740-698
* Micah ~ 735-710
* Oded ~ 733
* Zephaniah ~ 630
* Nahum ~ 625
* Habakkuk ~ 625
* Jeremiah ~ 626-584
* Huldah(the prophetess) ~ 621
* Ezekiel ~ 593-571
* Joel ~ 588
* Obadiah ~ 580
* Haggai ~ 520
* Zechariah ~ 520-514
* Malachi ~ 433

**Jesus' Ministry as Fulfillment of Scripture in Matthew:**

* Prophecy ~ Isa 7:14 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 1:18,22-23
* Prophecy ~ Mic 5:2 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 2:4-6
* Prophecy ~ Hos 11:1 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 2:14-15
* Prophecy ~ Isa 11:1 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 2:23
* Prophecy ~ Isa 9:1-2 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 4:12-16
* Prophecy ~ Isa 53:4 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 8:16-17
* Prophecy ~ Isa 42:1-4 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 12:16-21
* Prophecy ~ Ps 78:2 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 13:34-35
* Prophecy ~ Zech 9:9 / Fulfillment ~ Matt 21:1-5

**Fifty-one parables Jesus spoke are within the New Testament.**

**Most people reject Christ for one or more of the following reasons:**

* Ignorance - Romans 1:18-23 (often self-imposed), Matthew 22:29
* Pride - John 5:40-44
* Moral problem - John 3:19,20

There are now more than 5300 known Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament.   
We have more than 24000 Manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence today.

*Source* http://www.indefenseofthecross.com/Bible\_facts.htm