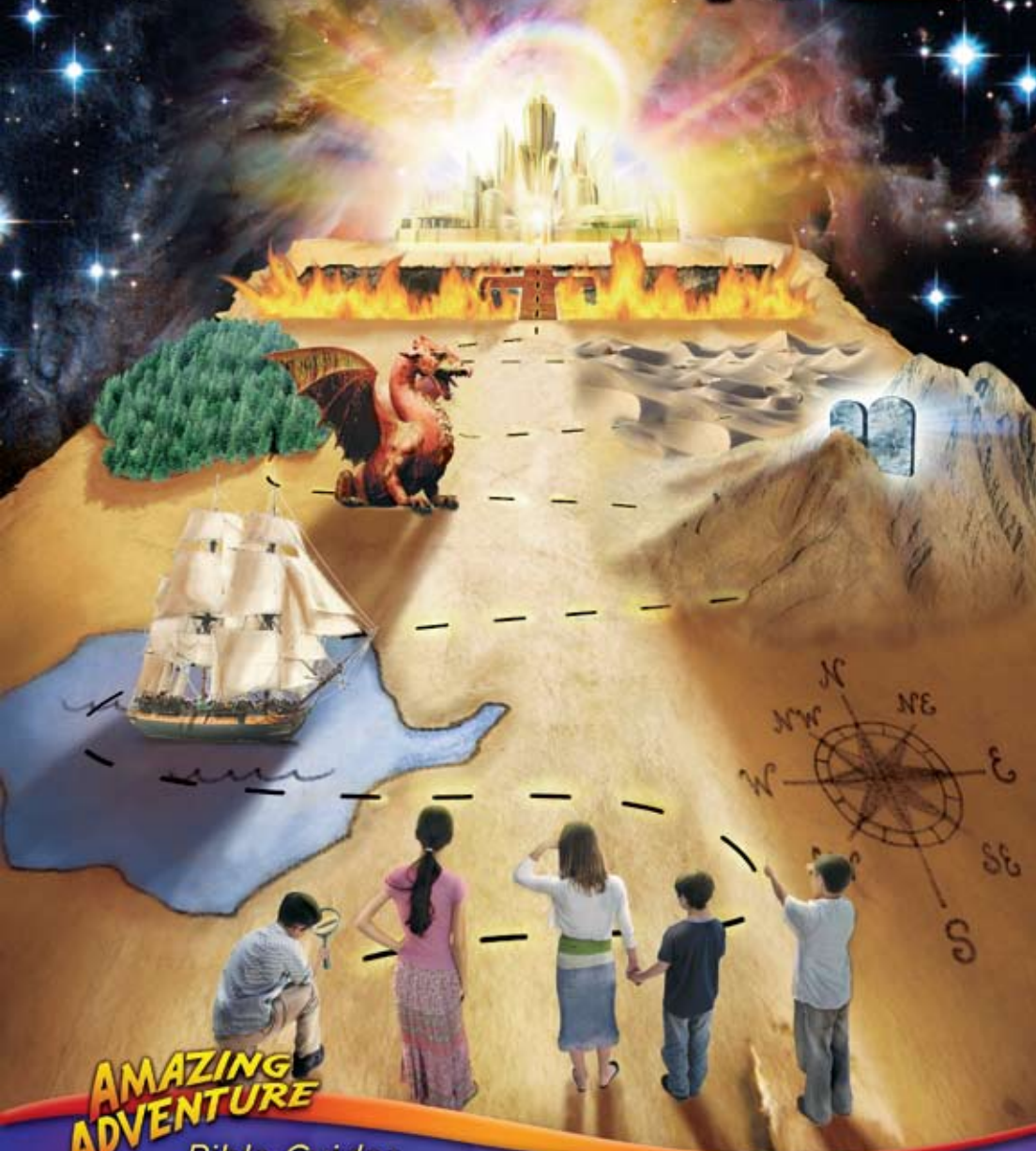




THE TREASURE MAP



**AMAZING
ADVENTURE**

Bible Guides

In 1799, a 12-year-old boy in North Carolina named Conrad Reed went fishing in a creek on his father's farm. While exploring the water, he spotted an interesting heavy black rock in the creek and lugged it home. It was so heavy, the family used the huge nugget as a doorstep for three years. Then in 1802, the Reeds sold the rock to a jeweler for \$3.50. They later discovered the 17-pound rock was actually a solid gold nugget worth a thousand times more!

How sad Conrad must have felt when he discovered he had been tripping over a treasure for three years.

The Bible teaches that millions of other people are still walking by a priceless treasure every day, unaware of the riches within their reach. Did you know the Bible contains a fortune of wisdom worth more than silver, gold, and rubies? (Proverbs 3:13–15). The Bible is a treasure map leading to a whole city of gold and jewels. Really!

Some people have crossed blazing deserts or deep jungles looking for treasure.

Others have explored the deep blue sea in search of long-lost sunken ships loaded with gold, jewels, and precious antiques.

Are you ready to begin an amazing adventure? In this Bible lesson series, we will be hunting for treasures of truth as we discover the way to the City of Gold. And we will meet the King who has the keys to the city.

We need serious explorers in this lesson series, not ones who will give up when their feet get a little tired or when the map seems hard to follow. We will search to uncover wonderful new things — and precious old things that have been lost for hundreds of years. Our adventure begins by exploring the pages of the Bible, God's Word.

ARE YOU READY?

Let's get started with the greatest discovery in our lives!

Before we read the Bible, let's always say a prayer for God to help us understand it. You might say,

"Dear God, please help me to understand your Word. In Jesus' name, amen."



1

Someone might have told you that the Bible is just a fairytale. But can we trust the Bible is true?

ANSWER: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).*

Who does the Bible say inspired the Scriptures?

And who moved on the hearts of the men of God who wrote the Bible prophecies?

The _____

People didn't just make up the Bible. It's not a "fairytale" or "legend." It is a holy message from God delivered to us through holy people.

2

How can you know for yourself that the Bible is true?

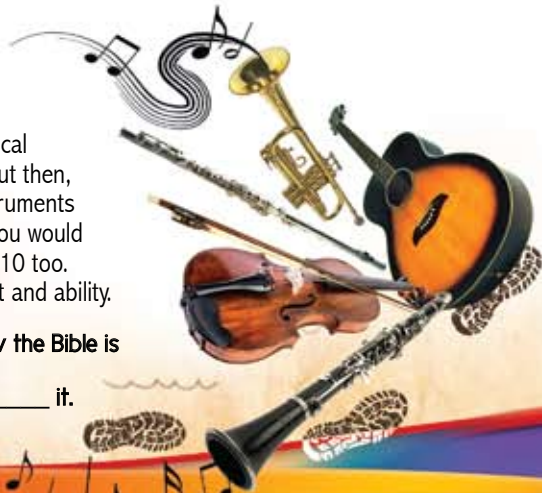
ANSWER: *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalms 34:8).*

If one day at school, during lunchtime, a friend tells you their mother packed them the sweetest and juiciest orange in the world, how would you know if it was true?

Of course, the best way would be for your friend to share a piece of the orange with you so you could taste it. Right?

If someone tells you they can play 15 musical instruments, it would be hard to believe. But then, if while you are watching they pull five instruments from their closet and play them perfectly, you would probably believe they could play the other 10 too. Why? Because they have shown their talent and ability.

The best way to know the Bible is true is to _____ it.



The Bible is a collection of 66 holy books. You might be surprised to learn the word "Bible" is not found in the Bible. The Bible uses several other names for itself. Find the hidden names for the Word of God in the puzzle above. (There are several bonus words too.)

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| LAMP | ORACLES | TESTIMONY | TRUMPET |
| SWORD | LAW | PROPHECY | LIGHT |
| SCRIPTURES | TRUTH | BREAD OF LIFE | WORD |

In the next few pages, we will explore the amazing evidence that the Bible is true and can be trusted as a map to the kingdom of God!

Let's see if we can discover some PROOF.

PROPHECY
Proves the Bible Is True!

THINK

How would it feel to be Cyrus, reading about yourself in a holy book that told exactly what you were going to do even before you were born?



Does God foretell the future in the Bible?

ANSWER: The Bible says, *"I am God ... declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done"* (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

FACT 1

2,500 years ago, when Babylon was a mighty kingdom, God told the prophet Daniel that Babylon would soon be conquered. He also said which three world kingdoms would follow after Babylon was destroyed. Wow! We couldn't even guess who the next three leaders of our country would be, could we? Yet God told Daniel ahead of time what the next three world kingdoms would be — and it is written in the Bible for all to see.

God said that after Babylon there would be a pair of kingdoms ruled by the Medes and Persians, called Medo-Persia. Next, Greece would conquer them, and then the strong, "iron kingdom" we know as Rome would rule the world. Was God's prophecy right? Yes! It came true, and now it is even in our school history books.

Circle the right word to finish the sentence.
In the Bible, God often reveals the _____.

Clouds Idols Future Soldiers



FAST FACT

When Pony Express riders galloped alone across the Wild West delivering mail, they were not allowed to carry a gun because it would be too heavy. But they all carried Bibles!

FACT 2

God not only told what kingdoms would rule after Babylon, He told in the Bible who would lead the army that would defeat Babylon. More than 100 years before it happened, He said it would be a general named Cyrus (Isaiah 45:1-3). Guess who it really was? History books say it was Cyrus. God knew years before it happened and had it written in the Bible so we could know that God really does know the future. We can trust what the Bible says and know that God has a plan for our lives too.



FACT 3

What God says in His Word always comes true! Do you know that no one now lives in ancient Babylon or on the spot where Babylon was? The Bible foretold (told before it happened) that no one would "inhabit" or live there again. (Read Isaiah 13:19, 20 & Jeremiah 51:37.) Amazing!!



BEFORE Christ's birth

AFTER Christ's birth

The Bible is divided into two major sections: the Old Testament, which has the history and prophecies written before Jesus was born, and the New Testament, that tells about Jesus' birth and the work of the early Christians. Some people think only the New Testament is true for us today and that we can't trust the Old Testament. But we have just read

a prophecy from the Old Testament about all those world kingdoms that came true. And Psalm 119:160 says, "The entirety of Your word is truth." The whole Bible is true! There are many more amazing prophecies in the Bible that we will study later. The Bible is truly inspired by God. He is the only One who knows what will happen in the future.

The Bible tells your future too!

Find the path to the heavenly kingdom.



Start Here

FACT 4

There are more than 125 prophecies that tell various things that would happen in Jesus' life when He came down to the earth. That's a lot! Do you know how many came true?
ALL of them!



Does the Bible teach about scientific things that would help to prove it is true?

Let's explore some more facts:

SCIENCE
Proves the Bible Is True!

FACT 5

Many ancient nations taught that the earth rested on the back of a giant tortoise or the shoulders of a man. But God's Word says, "He hangs the earth on nothing" (Job 26:7). The Bible made this statement about 3,000 years before scientists finally realized, after years of study and research, that the earth is circling the sun ... and not resting on anything!

He had a hard time finding a ship and sailors willing to follow him on his amazing adventure! He also had a hard time finding anyone who would help pay for his voyage, but finally he convinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to believe in him.



FACT 6

For thousands of years, people thought the earth was flat.

In the 1400s, Christopher Columbus believed the earth was round, and he wanted to go explore it. But most people were afraid and said he was out of his mind. They thought that if he went too far out on the ocean, he would reach the edge and just fall off the earth.

Of course, we know Columbus didn't fall off the edge of the earth. And all scientists now know that the earth is round. But could they have known it earlier? Hundreds of years before Columbus was born, God said in the Bible, "**He ... sits above the circle of the earth**" (Isaiah 40:22).

The earth is a circle, isn't it?! God sits above it and cares for it and each one of us. The Bible is true, and the men who God inspired to write it wrote words of truth.

While in the West Indies in 1493, Christopher Columbus tossed a bottle overboard that contained a message for Queen Isabella I of Spain. More than 350 years later, that bottle was found by the captain of an American ship. He delivered it to Queen Isabella II of Spain.



These prophecies are written in the Old Testament (before Jesus came), and it tells how and when they were fulfilled (happened) in the New Testament. Here are just a few, written in a cryptogram. For a hint, look up the verses ...

Code:

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

1. **Pawy ey Pomrdorot** _____
(Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1)
2. **Zewqey tamrow** _____
(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23)
3. **Udtagm tiwfowof!** _____
(Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
4. **Gadf law tayos** _____
(Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-16)
5. **Kwikeleof** _____
(Zechariah 12:10; John 19:16-18, 37)
6. **Ya pwaboy payog** _____
(Psalm 34:20 & Exodus 12:46; John 19:31-36)
7. **Tatoym al fourm** _____
(Daniel 9:26, 27 & Exodus 12:6; Matthew 27:45-50)
8. **Wuegof uqey!** _____
(Hosea 6:2; Acts 10:38-40)

ANSWERS: 1. Born in Bethlehem 2. Virgin mother 3. Almost murdered 4. Sold for money 5. Crucified 6. No broken bones 7. Moment of death 8. Raised again!

All of God's prophecies come true.

"Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants, the prophets" (Amos 3:7).



Did you know it is amazing how the Bible all fits together?

Imagine that 40 of your classmates went on a school field trip one day and were asked to give a report about it. Do you think all of those reports would sound the same? Some of them might even sound like they were from a different trip completely! Do you know why? Because people see and remember things differently. Sometimes the reports might even contradict each other — and all that confusion would be from just one day's outing with your class!

FACT 7

The Bible, on the other hand, is one of the most miraculous books: It was written over a period of 1,500 years, by 40 different people, and in 3 different languages! The Bible has 66 different books in it, and yet the books all fit together. They do not contradict each other. What each one says about God and history fits with what the other authors say, even though some were well-educated people and some were not. Sometimes they differ a little in how they tell the same event, with each one filling in unique details.

Can you guess which group of books is the **OLD Testament** and which is the **NEW Testament**?



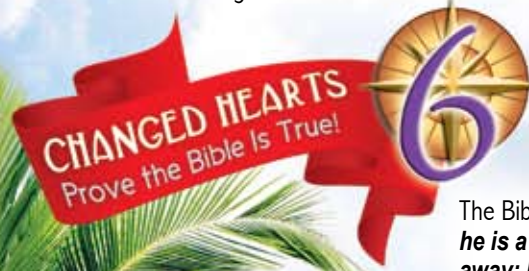
1,500 years + 40 people + 3 languages + 66 books + 3 continents = 1 Holy Bible

Think of it: If a group of shepherds, fishermen, priests, theologians, kings, an army general, and a doctor wrote books — do you think they would agree or fit together in any way? Many of the Bible writers never met each other because they lived on three different continents. They also lived at different time periods — remember, it was written over a time span of 1,500 years! Yet the Bible fits together perfectly, and one part explains another part.

How could this happen? For a clue, let's look at a Scripture verse that we read at the beginning of our study: **"Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"** (2 Peter 1:21).

Wow! That's not just a clue. *It's the answer!*

The Bible fits together because God's Holy Spirit worked with each of these men who loved God and taught them what to write! They didn't just make things up. In fact, many of them didn't even understand some of the prophecies they wrote or see how they could happen. But God knew, and He wanted us to know. The Bible is a special message from God to us. No wonder it fits together!



Do you know what one of the greatest things about the Bible is?

The Bible says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"** (2 Corinthians 5:17).

ANSWER: What it can do for people! — and what it can do for you!

Yes, it's a proof that the Bible is true. A person's life changes when he or she learns of Jesus' love and chooses to obey what God says in the Bible. This is what really shows that God's Word is inspired — the power it has to change rough, mean, sad people into kind, loving, happy people. It has the power to make us new creatures, like the Bible text above says. It can do this for you too!

A man who didn't believe in the Bible or God's power was once visiting an island that used to be inhabited by cannibals. The man saw an old native man reading a Bible and made fun of him for reading a book "that was full of untrue things." The native man just smiled at him, and said, "My friend, be grateful we do believe this Book. Otherwise, we would be serving you for dinner."

The power of God's love, shown in the Bible, is the most convincing thing yet that the Bible is true.

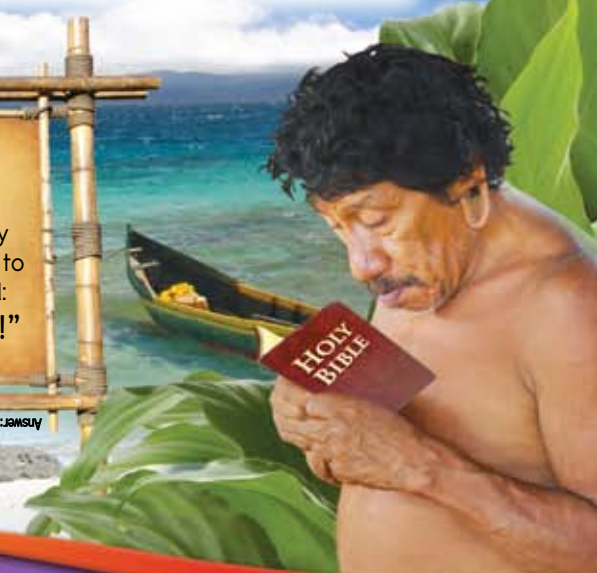
An atheist once challenged a large audience to "give one piece of evidence that the Bible is true that can't be disproven." A little old lady cleared her throat as she stood up to answer; then, in a feeble voice, said:

"1 3 8 1 14 7 5 4 12 9 6 5!"

Hint: Match the numbers with alphabet letters.

“ _____ ! ”

ANSWER: "I changed my life!"



7

When we accept the Bible as God's Word, can we know things that others are still searching for?

ANSWER: Yes! A lot! King David said, **"I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts" (Psalm 119:100)**. We can understand more than older, very educated people in some things if we just believe and obey God's precepts, which are His laws.

What things can we know?

a) God created the world and all the living things in it in just six days. **"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day" (Exodus 20:11)**. God made everything in the earth — the plants, the birds, the animals. They didn't evolve over millions of years, the Bible says.

b) It didn't take millions of years for man to evolve either. Our great-great-great-great grandfather was not an ape. God created the first man. Listen: **"Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image ... in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26, 27)**. Amazing discovery, isn't it? God made the first man and the first woman — and He made them in His image! Wow! Thousands of people don't know that awesome secret! But we can, because God told the prophet.

c) There was once a worldwide flood that destroyed everything on land. Only the boat that Noah built, his family, and all the animals inside were saved. (Read Genesis chapters 6, 7, 8.) The Bible says that **"all the fountains of the great deep were broken up,"** so it was not only raining water from above, but also volcanoes and geysers and earthquakes came from below and the whole earth was broken up. Can you see how so many of the fossils were made, with animals being buried suddenly with food still in their mouths and stomachs? And **"the waters prevailed exceedingly ... and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered" (Genesis 7:19)**.

Scientists cannot understand how some of the fossils they find in the same layer of earth — like tiny sea animals and large elephants — could be the same age, when they believe some of those animals didn't evolve until millions of years later. But we know, if we accept the Bible as truth. Those who study the layers of the Grand Canyon have

changed their measuring methods, so now they think it is not as old as they used to think. Some of their past theories are now shown to be false. They really don't know how old the earth is, and change their figuring as they discover more evidence in fossils that tell them it is not as old as they thought.

The greatest discoveries ever are that the entire Bible is true and that God loves us and wants to save us.

The Bible tell us, **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)**.

The Bible also says, **"Your word is a ... light to my path" (Psalm 119:105)**. The Bible can show us the way to believe in God and how to follow Him.

Throughout history, people influenced by Satan have tried to burn and ban God's Word. Today many people try to destroy it by saying it is not true. But the harder people work to destroy the influence of the Bible, the brighter it shines. People die, and are forgotten, **but what will last forever?**

ANSWER: **"The word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8)**.
What a great discovery!

God loves us and can answer all our questions. If we ask Him, His Spirit will teach us and help us discover more new treasures and precious old treasures in our journey through the Bible. (Read 1 Corinthians 2:12, 13 and John 14:26.) Isn't that exciting?

8

Are you willing for God to teach you? _____

We can know secrets about the world that non-Christian scientists have been puzzling over for years! Secrets that without God, they may never discover. Yet we can know these things for sure! Why? Because God told the secrets to His prophets, and they wrote them in the Bible.

FACT 8

God wants us to know He made us like Himself and that He loves us very much. We are important because we are His precious children.

One day on the porch, Nick was watching his grandfather read the Bible. "Grandpa," he said, "I see you reading the Bible every day. Haven't you read it all by now?"

"Yes — many times!" Grandpa answered.

Curious, Nick asked, "Why do you keep reading it? Don't you remember what you read?"

"Not all of it," Grandpa explained. "Besides, we still need to read the Bible every day!"

"I don't see why," Nick said.

That's when Grandpa asked something very strange indeed. "You see that coal basket? Take it to the well and fill it with water. Then bring it back here as fast as you can!" It was the basket Grandpa always used to carry coal for the heating stove inside the house. Nick saw that the inside of the basket was filthy from coal dust.

Nick picked up the basket, ran to the well, pumped water into it, and then quickly carried it back to Grandpa. But by the time he got back, it was nearly empty! Most of the water had spilled out through small cracks in the basket.

"Try it again, Nick!" Grandpa urged. Determined, Nick ran back to the pump, filled the basket with water, and ran back. But once again, the water had escaped by the time he returned.

Frustrated, Nick said, "Grandpa, this is a waste of time! The water just runs out!"

"That's true!" Grandpa said. "But look at the basket again."

Nick gazed into the coal basket and realized that the inside was now sparkling clean! Grandpa explained, "You see, when we fill our minds with God's Word, we don't always remember everything we read. But it will cleanse our hearts as it runs through us."

The Bible says, "**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word**" (Psalms 119:9).

Did you enjoy this lesson? We hope so!

Now do the questions on the **SUMMARY SHEET**.

Notes

SUMMARY SHEET

Please read the Bible Guide before answering the questions. Fill in the circle of the correct answer for the multiple choice questions. Pick the best one:

1. How much of the Bible is true?

- a) Just the Old Testament
 b) Just the New Testament
 c) The whole Bible

2. Thousands of years ago, God's Word said the earth is:

- a) Flat
 b) Square
 c) Round

3. We can trust the prophecies in God's Word:

- a) Most of the time
 b) All of the time
 c) Never
 d) Sometimes

4. The greatest discovery ever is that:

- a) The world is round.
 b) The ship Ochoa was found near Florida.
 c) The Grand Canyon took millions of years to form.
 d) God's Word is true, and He loves us.

5. If I believe God's Word, which things do I know are true?

Which things are false? (Mark **T** or **F**.)

- a) God created the world in just six days.

- b) We evolved into people over millions of years.
 c) No one knew when Jesus would be born.
 d) The Bible prophets told when Jesus would be born.
 e) God tells us His secrets through the prophets.
 f) We can never know whether there was really a flood.
 g) From God's Word, we know there was a flood.
 h) The greatest proof that the Bible is true is that it changes people's lives.
 i) The Word of God will stand forever, and we can trust it.

6. The Bible has _____ books in it.

- a) 5
 b) 15
 c) 66

7. The Bible was written by _____ different writers.

- a) 3
 b) 40
 c) 5,000

8. All of the _____ prophecies in the Bible about Jesus came true.

- a) 3
- b) 125
- c) 80

YOUR COMMENTS:

9. What new things have you discovered in this lesson?

10. Do you choose to believe God's Word, the Bible? _____

- Answer:**
1. How much of the Bible is true? **c** The whole Bible
 2. Thousands of years ago, God's Word said the earth is: **c** Round
 3. We can trust the prophecies in God's Word: **b** All of the time
 4. The greatest discovery ever is that: **d** God's Word is true, and He loves us.
 5. If I believe God's Word, which things do I know are true? **d** Which things are false? (Mark T or F)
 - T - a** God created the world in just six days.
 - F - b** We evolved into people over millions of years.
 - F - c** No one knew when Jesus would be born.
 - T - d** The Bible prophets told when Jesus would be born.
 - T - e** God tells us His secrets through the prophets.
 - F - f** We can never know whether there was really a flood.
 - T - g** From God's Word, we know there was a flood.
 - T - h** The greatest proof that the Bible is true is that it changes people's lives.
 - T - i** The Word of God will stand forever, and we can trust it.
 6. The Bible has _____ books in it. **c** 66
 7. The Bible was written by _____ different writers. **b** 40
 8. All of the _____ prophecies in the Bible about Jesus came true. **b** 125



P.O. Box 909
Roseville, CA 95678-0909

www.AmazingFacts.org

Amazing Facts, Inc. © 2008 Printed in the USA.