

AMAZING FACTS

INTERNATIONAL

INSIDE
REPORT

3RD QUARTER
2024

Seeing the

INVISIBLE WORLD

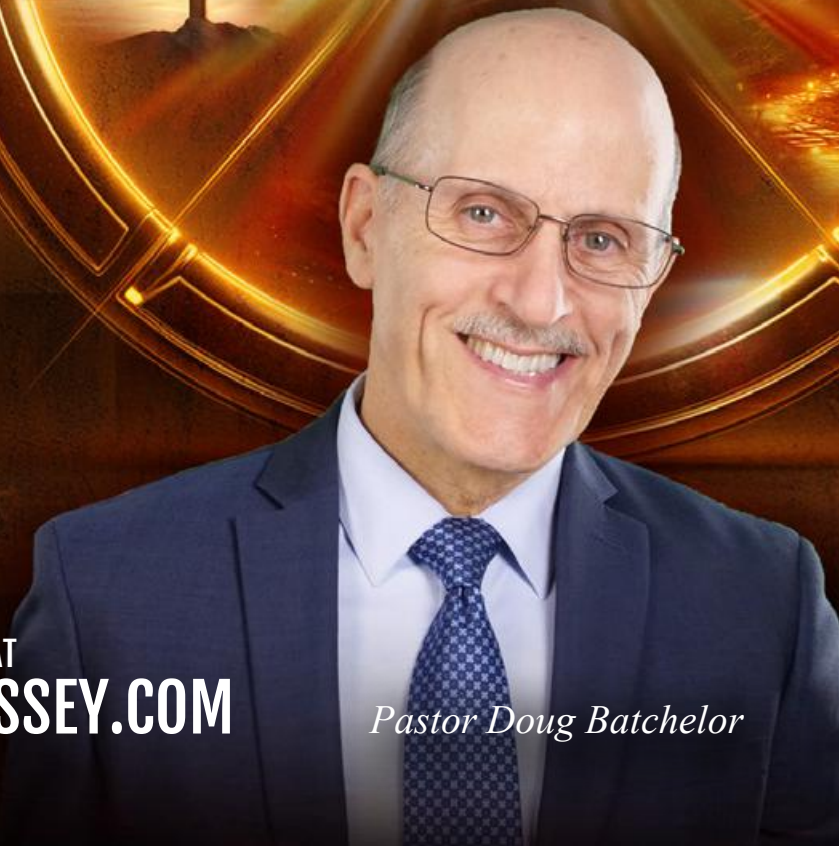


AMAZING FACTS IS GOING TO NEW YORK CITY!

I'm inviting you to partner with me, Amazing Facts, and the worldwide church in winning souls this coming fall by hosting *Prophecy Odyssey* in your church or home! This exciting evangelistic series will be broadcast **live from the Manhattan Center in New York beginning September 20.**

Here are just a few ways you can host *Prophecy Odyssey*:


- Advertise the series in your community and show it in your church sanctuary.
- Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy the series in your home.
- Watch a rebroadcast of the series with co-workers during a lunch break.
- Host the meetings for church youth in a member's home.
- View the series with a remote group on Zoom and discuss what you learned.



AMAZING FACTS
INTERNATIONAL

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT
PROPHECYODYSSEY.COM

Pastor Doug Batchelor



Hide God's Word in Your Heart

Memorize:

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

This passage, penned by the apostle Paul around AD 62, addresses the terrible struggle God's people face in a world being wrecked exponentially by sin. While it's clear that his theme here is about the invisible world, which is Pastor Doug's intriguing topic for this issue, it's also important not to skim over the part that says, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood."

Here, Paul is talking about our fellow human beings (see Matthew 16:17; 1 Corinthians 15:50; Galatians 1:16)—in this case, those who are still slaves to the devil's lies. In the last days, these are the deceived and the blind who will use politics, economics, lies, and threats of violence to coerce you to go against God's will.

It's noteworthy that in our current climate of political turmoil, Paul uses a word that conveys intense hand-to-hand combat. In part, he means to tell us that such a thing is not the work of a converted Christian. But if we aren't to "wrestle" against those humans who persecute us, what are we to do?



[Do not return] evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this (1 Peter 3:9).

Why are we called to this? Proverbs 25:21, 22, says, "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; *for so you will heap coals of fire on his head*" (emphasis added). Just as Isaiah was purified by the burning coal that touched his lips, so our acts of love toward our ideological enemies may yet purify them—drawing them to Jesus in a time when fear-driven politics overwhelm our culture (Isaiah 6:1–7). So, while voting your conscience, don't forget to be like Jesus!


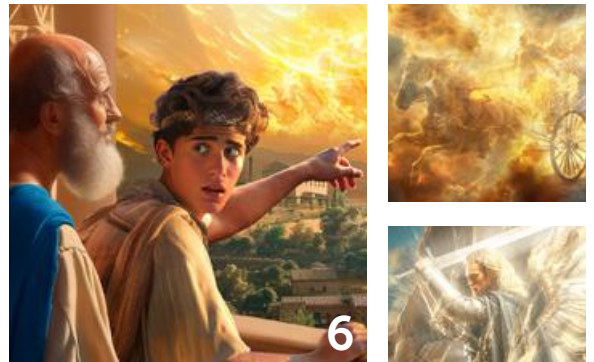
Ephesians 6:12 is especially powerful counsel in these end times, when spiritual forces will soon become more open and pronounced. We are to be ready for it. How? By filling our lamps with the oil of the Holy Spirit and the words of Scripture, the Light of the world may shine brighter against the darkness of this age (Matthew 25:1–13). 

Table of Contents

FEATURE

6 Seeing the Invisible World

The worldly often struggle to believe in the spiritual realm. But today, even faithful churchgoers are more prone to deny that the angels and demons so often mentioned in God's Word are real. Are they really just metaphors? What's the Bible truth? Join Pastor Batchelor as he investigates the unseen dimension!



11 Bible Answers

Did the "war in heaven" take place before or after the time of Adam and Eve?



18 The 2024 AFY Conference Draws Record Crowd!

God truly blessed thousands of young people at this year's AFY Conference, "Stand: Unshakeable Faith." See how the Holy Spirit moved!



19 AFY: The Amazing Facts Youth Ministry

Kickstarted during the pandemic, our youth ministry has been growing by leaps and bounds. Discover how God is leading and how to join us!



20 Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Elita, a volunteer in our publishing department—a role that has led to special meaning and redemption for her family.

21 News to Note

The *Prophecy Odyssey* evangelistic series begins September 20—are you ready for it? You can play a role in saving souls for God's kingdom!

23 Health Bite

We spend less time outdoors than ever—and we're paying a huge price. Learn the benefits of going outside and get tips for making the most of it.

- 3 Editorial
- 5 Mail Bag
- 12 Broadcast Schedule

Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report* e-newsletter at subscribe.amazingfacts.org!

Connect with Amazing Facts

From the Mail Bag



All in the Family

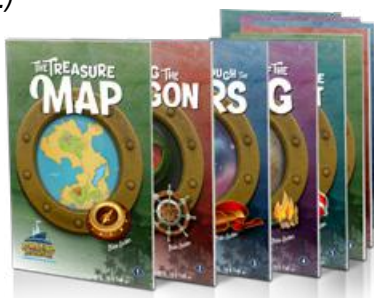
When I was a baby, I was adopted by my grandparents. I was diagnosed with Leukemia at the age of 2 and was in and out of the hospital until I was 5. I first got into trouble with the law at age 11 when I ran away from home. Between the ages of 11 and 16, I had multiple charges on my record—including possession and obstruction. I was so lost. When I met

my husband, my life changed. He loves Jesus and sent me to rehab. I fell in love with Christ and have been sober ever since. Today, I am 19 years old and have four children. What has helped me the most in my walk with Jesus is Amazing Facts. I did your free Bible Study Guides, which opened my eyes to so much truth. I keep them so when my children get older, I will teach them from these lessons so they will have a knowledge of God. Anne can sing “Jesus Loves Me” and shares Jesus in school by praying over her meals. May is so cute when she prays. My two boys are still young and can’t talk much, but I know they will soon talk about Jesus. Please pray for my daily walk with Jesus and that I raise these children the way they should be. Thank you, Pastor Doug, for all you have done! *Wendy**

*Editor Note: Did you know that Amazing Facts has a mail-based Bible school for children? It’s called Amazing Adventure. Scan the QR code to learn more! (*Names have been changed for privacy.)*



<https://amazingbiblestudies.com/by-mail>



FIND US ON

- facebook.com/amazingfacts
- x.com/amazingfacts
- youtube.com/user/amazingfacts
- instagram.com/amazingfactsministry
- pinterest.com/afacts

OUR WEBSITES

- amazingfacts.org
- afbookstore.com
- afcoe.org
- amazingbiblestudies.com
- bibleuniverse.com
- bibleprophecytruth.com
- ghosttruth.com
- helltruth.com
- prophecyseminars.com
- rapturetruth.com
- sabbathtruth.com
- biblehistory.com
- truthaboutdeath.com
- sabadobiblico.com
- universobiblico.com

FREE BIBLE STUDIES

To enroll in our free Bible School, visit amazingbiblestudies.com. Or to take the 27-lesson course by mail, send us your name and address and specify that you would like to begin the course.

ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Visit afbookstore.com to discover all the great Christian resources available through Amazing Facts, including books, DVDs, and other products to help you in your walk with Christ and share the good news with others.

If Amazing Facts has helped change your life for Christ, please write us at testimonies@amazingfacts.org.

Sign up for our email specials, *The Facts* e-newsletter, and more at subscribe.amazingfacts.org/



P.O. Box 1058
Roseville, CA 95678-8058
916-434-3880
amazingfacts.org

INSIDE REPORT
VOL. 42, NO. 3

PRESIDENT
Doug Batchelor

MANAGING EDITOR
Anthony Lester
editor@amazingfacts.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Milo Jones

COPY EDITOR
Laurie Lyon

ART DESIGN/LAYOUT
Haley Trimmer

Inside Report is a publication of Amazing Facts International. Contributors to the ministry receive the *Inside Report* for a year from the date of their most recent gift.

Amazing Facts, a nonprofit ministry, shares the saving truths of Jesus Christ around the world through literature, radio, television, the Internet, public evangelism, and more. For operation, we depend on the gifts and prayers of caring Christians who believe in our mission.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Seeing the **INVISIBLE** WORLD



By Doug Batchelor

An Amazing Fact: *During World War II, radar engineer Percy Spencer discovered something new while working with a magnetron. He noticed that a chocolate bar in his pocket had melted unexpectedly. On a hunch, Spencer then placed popcorn kernels near the magnetron, and the kernels promptly popped. This experiment confirmed that invisible microwaves produced by the magnetron were causing water molecules in the food to vibrate rapidly, generating heat. Recognizing the potential for cooking food, Spencer and his employer, Raytheon, developed the first microwave oven, initially called the "Radarange." It stood six feet tall and weighed approximately 750 pounds!*



Today, we take for granted that a potato, which would typically take 55 minutes to cook in an oven, takes just five minutes to bake in a microwave. That is invisible power at work—something most of us in this modern world of technology accept without a second thought.

But beyond radiation, there are other kinds of invisible realities with just as real an impact on our physical dimension. This spiritual realm is as real as microwaves, yet it often goes unnoticed or is completely disregarded by our modern world.

First, what do I mean by "invisible realities"? The word "invisible" describes something that cannot be seen with the naked eye or detected by the usual means of perception. It can refer to entities, like angels or the Holy Spirit, or phenomena

that are hidden from humanity's five physical senses. In light of this brief definition, the apostle Paul asserts:

For since the creation of the world His [God's] invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead (Romans 1:20).

Of course, most people today struggle to believe in the spiritual realm. But what concerns me is that even faithful churchgoers are more prone than ever to believe that the angels and demons so often mentioned in the Bible aren't real—that they are nothing more than metaphors.

I don't believe this was always the case. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they had the spiritual equipment necessary to perceive and communicate with angels. Their spiritual receivers were fully functional, allowing them to interact with the supernatural dimension. However, after sin entered the world, humanity lost this ability. We became spiritually blind, losing our capacity to tune into the unseen realm surrounding us.

However, don't miss this—Paul says that those who don't believe in the spiritual realm are actually "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). But why is this so important to address in our everyday world?

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

The Bible really does want us to believe that angels and demons are actual realities because belief or unbelief in them will affect how we act in our physical realm. So let's take a brief look at some examples of these invisible realities and what it all means for you today.

The Invisible World

One of the most thrilling examples of seeing the invisible is found in 2 Kings 6, a story featuring Elisha, the prophet who asked for and received a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

This story begins with the king of Syria making war against God's people. He devises a plan to ambush Israel's army and discusses it with his council. However, we're told how his plans are foiled:

The man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice (vv. 9, 10).

Elisha, "the man of God," often warned the king of Israel about an enemy ambush,

allowing the Israeli army to evade the trap. This happened multiple times, deeply frustrating the king of Syria, who began to suspect that there was a spy among his servants. But one of the king's advisors, perhaps someone who knew what happened to the leper Naman a few chapters previously, explained,

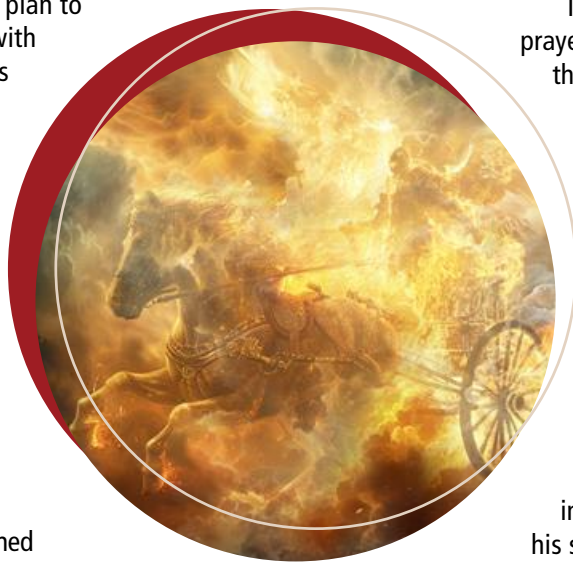
"Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." So he [the king of Syria] said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him" (vv. 12, 13).

Determined to capture Elisha, the king of Syria sends a massive army to Dothan, the small village where Elisha is staying and where only a tiny regiment of Israeli soldiers would have been stationed. The Syrian army surrounds the city at night, intending to seize the prophet the next day.

Early in the morning, Elisha's servant wakes up and, upon seeing the Syrian army surrounding the city, panics. He rushes to Elisha, exclaiming, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" (v. 15). Isn't that what we do? We see overwhelming obstacles in the gospel work and believe that the devil has already won!

But notice how Elisha responds. He says calmly, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (v. 16). Doesn't this remind you of what the New Testament says?

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).



I believe that's why Elisha prayed, "LORD, ... open his eyes that he may see" (2 Kings 6:17). At that time in history, God's people needed a special revelation so that they could rely on Him. Thus, God immediately answered Elisha's prayer, and the servant's eyes were spiritually opened to see the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding them.

This heavenly army was invisible to the servant until his spiritual eyes were opened. The same thing must happen to us,

especially as we navigate the reality of the last days of Earth's history.

Modern-Day Encounters With the Invisible

The reality of the invisible affecting the visible is not limited to biblical times. God's people today are still experiencing the impact of these unseen spiritual forces.

For instance, the book *God's Smuggler* tells the story of "Brother Andrew," a Dutchman who became known for smuggling Bibles into communist countries until his death in 2022. When attempting to transport Bibles into Soviet-bloc nations, he would pray for God to blind the eyes of border guards to the Scriptures hidden in his vehicle. His prayers were answered in astonishing ways, allowing him to continue his soul-saving outreach without detection.

Notice that in spiritual warfare, God will open some eyes *and* close other eyes to fulfill His will.

Just about every time I speak in a new city, I hear stories from believers who attest to the reality of the spiritual warfare in their lives. Whether it is feeling a sudden urge to pray for protection, experiencing an unexplained sense of peace during a crisis, or sensing a warning, these encounters with the invisible realm remind us of the active role it plays in our daily lives.

Let's take a look at Daniel chapter 10, where we find another dramatic account of spiritual warfare. Daniel, while fasting and praying for understanding, receives a vision. An angel appears to him, explaining that he had been delayed by the prince of Persia, a demonic force, for 21 days until Michael, the chief prince, came to help (v. 13). Again, the Bible doesn't hesitate to highlight the reality of spiritual battles occurring behind the scenes of our visible world.

Why would God stop doing this for His people today? But notice that Daniel prepared his body (fasting) and

his heart (praying) before God could unveil the otherwise invisible world to him!

To be clear, God uses the invisible world for more than just His people's physical protection. Another amazing account of the invisible world influencing human actions is found in Numbers 22. Balaam, a prophet for hire, had been summoned by Balak, the king of Moab, to curse the Israelites. Despite God's warning not to go, Balaam stubbornly set out on his journey. Along the way, however, Balaam's donkey

saw an angel of the Lord standing in the path with a drawn sword.

The donkey turned aside, but Balaam, unable to see the angel, beat the donkey for its disobedience.

So God opened the donkey's mouth, speaking through it, and then opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel. The angel warned Balaam of his dangerous greed and instructed him to speak only what God told him. God will use the invisible world to deter His wayward prodigals from taking the wrong path. Are you listening for God's correction?



The Need for Prophetic Insight

In our modern age of Balaam-like religion, the gift of prophecy, a gift unseen by the vast majority of people, is essential for God's church. It provides guidance and insight into spiritual realities and the plans of the enemy. In the story of Elisha, the prophet's ability to foresee the enemy's plans and warn the king of Israel was crucial for the nation's survival. Prophecy helps us navigate the challenges of our faith journey by revealing God's plans and the enemy's strategies.

However, many Christians today give little regard to prophecy, viewing it as irrelevant to their daily reality. Yet the Bible teaches that without prophetic vision, people are in danger. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). Prophecy equips us to avoid invisible spiritual pitfalls and align ourselves with God's will, which is revealed in His

law. The rest of the text says, “Happy is he who keeps the law.”

Indeed, ignoring these prophetic insights can lead to spiritual blindness, making us vulnerable to the deceptions and attacks of the enemy. Just as the king of Israel heeded Elisha’s warnings to avoid ambushes, we must pay attention to the prophetic messages given to us through Scripture and God’s last-day messages. Remember, you will know the truth of a prophet by the fruits of their work.

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them (Matthew 7:18–20).

For What Purpose?

We’ve seen that the story of Elisha and the Syrian army demonstrates the power of God to protect and deliver His people. But there is a purpose in God’s course of action—to reveal His character in a world that can perceive Him only “dimly” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Back to our story ...

When the Syrian army approaches Elisha, the prophet prays for God to strike them with blindness. God answers, and the army becomes confused and disoriented. Elisha then leads them into the heart of Samaria, where they find themselves surrounded by Israeli forces.

But notice what happens: Rather than ordering their execution, Elisha instructs the king of Israel to feed them and send them back home! This act of incredible mercy magnificently reflects the teachings of Jesus, who said,

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head” (Romans 12:20).

Elisha’s actions demonstrate the principle of overcoming evil with good. And get this—by blinding the army physically, God opened their spiritual eyes so that they could see the utter power of His goodness and be transformed!

God’s power is not limited to dramatic interventions; it is also manifested in His still small voice, guiding us through everyday decisions. Many believers, and even former non-believers, speak of God’s guidance in making crucial life decisions or discerning the right course of action in challenging situations. This guidance often comes through an inner conviction or a sense of peace, but this must always be confirmed from Scripture and, hopefully, through the trustworthy counsel of fellow believers.

Understanding the Invisible Kingdom

Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is not something that comes with visible observation:

“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:20, 21).

This invisible kingdom of God is real and present here and now, influencing our lives and actions by His Holy Spirit. As believers, we are called to live and participate daily in

(Continued on page 16.)





YOU Shine Like Stars Winning Souls for Christ!

CHAMPIONS OF TRUTH

Champions of Truth are ...

- **Committed partners** who play a winning role in the worldwide evangelism work of Amazing Facts through generous monthly support
- **Spiritual warriors** who pray regularly for the ministry and for Christ's truth to penetrate hearts
- **Active defenders** of the faith, equipped with exclusive access to Amazing Facts magazines, books, and more that help them share their faith



"Our world needs consistent, valiant light-bearers for Jesus. As millions around the world are held captive in sin and darkness, *you* carry the light of truth that can set them free."

—Pastor Doug Batchelor



Learn how you can become a Champion!

afchampions.org

Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



Q

Did the “war in heaven” take place before or after the time of Adam and Eve?


A

The Bible teaches us about a real, universe-wide conflict: “War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan ... and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:7–9).

I believe this war began *before* our world was created; however, Scripture doesn’t specify how long this went on before Jesus made the earth. We do know from the Bible that the devil was once a sinless angel named Lucifer. He rebelled against God and became the fallen angel now known as Satan, which means “adversary.” (In other words, the Lord did not make a devil.)

But when did God cast Satan out of heaven? Did this war between good and evil start before or after Adam and Eve? The Bible tells us, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned *from the beginning*” (1 John 3:8, emphasis mine).

God created the garden of Eden and, in order to secure people’s freewill, placed a tree designed to test Adam’s and Eve’s loyalty. He warned the couple about this tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So, obviously, somebody was going to be tempting them to turn away from the Lord right from the beginning. It certainly was not God tempting them. “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone” (James 1:13).

Thus, in order for Satan to tempt Adam and Eve, he must have rebelled before the creation of our world. Because angels do not procreate, it might have added to the devil’s jealous rebellion when God created our first parents. The devil does not have creative power, but Adam and Eve could procreate in their own image through the union of love. Because God made man in His own image and the devil hates God, it might have inspired Satan to especially focus his anger on the first couple. 

Would you like to learn more about Scripture?
Scan these QR codes to get started!

**Bible
Answers
Live**

Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts’ live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area or to listen to answers online, visit amazingfacts.org.

Are ghosts real? ▶










◀ Did God create the devil?



◀ Get more answers to your Bible questions here!

TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE

▶ Amazing Facts With Doug Batchelor

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	10:30 AM PT 10:30 PM PT	2:30 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT		10:00 AM PT 10:00 PM PT	2:00 PM PT 6:00 PM PT	7:00 AM PT 7:00 PM PT
	8:00 AM ET/PT 7:00 AM CT 6:00 AM MT						
		3:30 PM ET					
		5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	
		6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	
	10:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT				6:00 AM PT	12:30 PM PT	
	11:30 AM PT 8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT



**Powerful, life-changing, 24/7
Christ-centered television!**








AFTV.org

Watch Bible programming you can trust at AFTV.org. Streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on your computer, iPhone, iPad, ROKU, and more!

- *Amazing Facts With Doug Batchelor*
- *Sabbath School Study Hour*
- ... and so much more!

AMAZING FACTS INTERNATIONAL



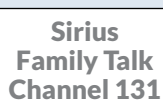

▶ Amazing Facts With Doug Batchelor *(continued)*

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						6:30 AM ET/PT 5:30 AM CT 4:30 AM MT	
	8:00 AM (All Time Zones)						
	10:30 AM ET						
					10:00 PM PT		
	9:00 PM CT		10:00 PM CT		1:30 PM CT		
	11:00 AM ET						
		9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	

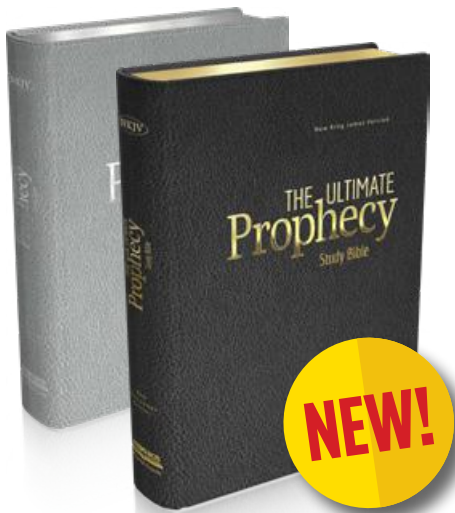


Bible Answers Live airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM PT. It is a live call-in radio program during which you can ask Pastor Doug a Bible question and get a biblical answer. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate. You can also watch live on AFTV!



	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	7:00 PM PT LIVE			2:00 PM PT	7:00 AM PT 7:00 PM PT	9:00 AM PT	
					7:00 PM CT		
	7:00 PM PT						8:00 PM PT
	7:00 PM PT LIVE						

All-New Bible From Amazing Facts!



Leather ... \$99.95
 Black, BK-UPSBL
 Gray, BK-UPSBLG

BULK PRICING:
 16+ \$95.95 ea.
 32+ \$89.95 ea.

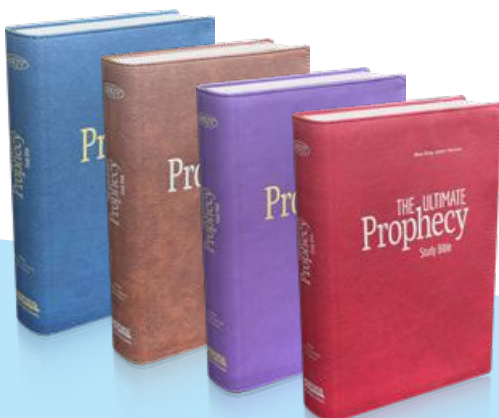
The Ultimate Prophecy Study Bible

New for 2024—you'll treasure this brand-new and extensive New King James study Bible! It's packed with powerful tools specially designed to help you dig deeper than ever into prophecy and God's Word, including these amazing features ...

- **NEW** 28 Topical Chain Reference Studies
- **NEW** *Answers to Difficult Bible Texts*
- **NEW** *Amazing Facts Study Guides* chain references and expanded notes
- **NEW** QR code links to the 27 *Amazing Facts Study Guides*
- **NEW** 14 beautifully illustrated charts
- **NEW** **Words of God in blue** (Old Testament)
- **Words of Christ in red** (New Testament)
- Dictionary & Concordance
- The Bible Cyclopedic Index
- Scripture cross-references
- Chain references in the margins
- 8 pages of colorful maps
- Single-column format with wide margins
- Doug Batchelor's "How to Study the Bible"
- "Chronology of the Old Testament"
- "Harmony of the Gospels"
- "The Parables and Miracles of Jesus"
- "The Symbols and Numbers of Bible Prophecy"
- and more!

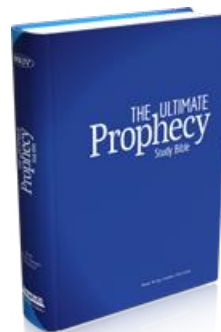


This inspiring Bible edition is perfect for personal/group Bible studies, witnessing, and as a gift!



Leathersoft ... \$79.95
 Brown, BK-UPSBB
 Blue, BK-UPSBL
 Maroon, BK-UPSMB
 Lavender, BK-UPSBP

BULK PRICING:
 16+ \$69.95 ea.
 32+ \$59.95 ea.



Hardcover ... \$29.95
 BK-UPSBH

BULK PRICING:
 12+ \$21.98 ea.

New Resources for Youth

Answering the Most Important Questions 12-Lesson Set

The youth are the future of the church! These Bible lessons tackle some of the biggest questions on their hearts, such as Does God Really Exist? Can I Really Trust the Bible? What About My Body? How Do I Discover God's Will for My Life? Can I Break the Cycle of Sin? Who Needs the Church? and more! Each 16-page, colorfully illustrated guide gets teens into God's Word to guide them toward a strong, meaningful relationship with Jesus.

SG-AMIQ ... \$11.95



Most Amazing Bible Stories 5-Volume Set

Get ready for an adventure! This new Bible story set explores the courageous heroes of faith found throughout God's Word, plus many historical role models. Designed especially for kids ages 8+, it features hundreds of character-building stories that will broaden knowledge of Scripture and the plan of salvation, while inspiring a deeper love for God. Beautifully designed and illustrated hardcover set contains more than 1,100 pages and includes a listing of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy passages covered in each chapter.

BK-MABS ... \$149.95

The Amazing Bible Story | 6-Volume Set

Safeliz Publishing. This brand-new set makes the Scriptures more accessible to children ages 2 to 12! Features more than 400 character-building Bible stories, colorful illustrations that help bring the exciting narratives to life, and a clear, engaging, and fun style that guides kids into a deeper understanding of Bible truth from the Creation to the New Earth.

BK-ABS6 ... \$129.95



Visit **AFBOOKSTORE.COM**
or call **800-538-7275** to order or learn more.

Shipping Information: Please add **15%** of sales value or **\$5.50** (whichever is higher) for shipping & handling. California residents, please add 7.25% sales tax. For orders shipped outside the U.S. and Canada, add 25% or \$10 (whichever is higher) for foreign postage. Some items may require additional shipping costs and delivery time due to weight.

(Continued from page 9.)

this kingdom, guided by Bible truths and the presence of Christ within us.

The spiritual realm is as real as the physical world we see. Just because we cannot perceive it with our physical senses does not mean it does not exist. Our part is to faithfully embrace the reality of this invisible world, understanding that it shapes us and our relationship with God.

Understanding the invisible kingdom requires living with an eternal perspective. This means prioritizing spiritual growth, seeking God's will, and investing in eternal values over temporal gains. By focusing on the unseen, we align our lives with God's purposes and prepare ourselves for the eternal life promised to us—indeed, the eternal life we already have.

Faith is the key to perceiving and engaging with the invisible world. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith isn't believing that God exists—remember, for Paul, that's a given. Rather, faith is trusting in God's promises and the reality of the spiritual realm even when we cannot see it with our eyes. This faith is built through studying God's Word, prayer, and experiencing God's presence in our lives.


By developing a deeper understanding of the spiritual realities around us, we can navigate the challenges of this physical dimension

with confidence and faith. Discernment is essential in distinguishing between the influence of the Holy Spirit and the deceptive tactics of the enemy (and our own hearts). By seeking God's wisdom and testing spiritual experiences against Scripture, we can ensure that our engagement with the spiritual realm aligns with God's truth.

Recognizing the reality of spiritual warfare calls us to actively engage in it through prayer, worship, and living a godly life. Ephesians 6 outlines the armor of God, which equips us to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. By putting on this armor and relying on God's strength, we can resist spiritual attacks and advance God's kingdom.

Embrace God's Reality for Your Life

The invisible world is a reality that the Bible calls us to acknowledge and embrace. Like the microwave's invisible power, the spiritual realm profoundly impacts our lives, even though we cannot see it. By recognizing the reality of angels and demons, spiritual warfare, and prophecy, we can navigate life with a deeper sense of purpose and confidence in God's will.

Elisha's story reminds us to pray for spiritual insight, to see beyond the visible, and to trust in the unseen forces of God's kingdom. As we live by faith and not by sight, we become more attuned to the spiritual realities that shape our lives and our relationship with God. May we, like Elisha's servant, have our eyes opened to see the chariots of fire that surround us. 





It's Time to Invest in the Bank of Heaven!

**Make the Most of Your Investments:
Save Money and Avoid Taxes With
Gifts of Appreciated Securities!**

Did you know that making a charitable gift of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds can save you on taxes?

Giving these investment assets is easier than you may think—and it is one of the most tax-effective ways to make a gift to support the cause that matters most to you!

Making a donation of appreciated stock also enables you to support the Lord's work with gifts significantly higher than what you could give from your checkbook.

Call us if you would like to become a Heroes of Faith partner or would like more information about the following estate-planning options:

- ➔ **Stocks**
- ➔ **Bonds**
- ➔ **Mutual Funds**
- ➔ **Revocable Cash Trust**
- ➔ **Donor Advised Funds**

Start Benefiting Through the Giving of Your Investments
Call or email us today! 800-436-2695

Amazing Facts International
Estate and Gift Planning Department
P. O. Box 1058, Roseville, CA 95678
800-436-2695 | mylegacy.amazingfacts.org

All inquiries are treated with complete confidentiality. This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. We can work with your advisor for information specific to your situation.



The 2024 AFY Conference Draws Record Crowd!

From June 12 to 15, a record number of youth attended *Stand: Unshakeable Faith*, the 2024 Amazing Facts Youth Conference hosted at the W.O.R.D. Center—including setting a record one-day gathering of 1,500 people on Sabbath!

Many young people traveled long distances to participate in the event, which was designed to help them develop a resilient faith in the face of secular culture and peer pressure. They were joined by thousands more online! Said Pastor Doug, “This conference gave me such hope for the future of our church. It was thrilling to see so many young people come to hear the Word.”

Throughout the weekend, speakers explored what it means to stand firm for Jesus in these last days. Their messages focused on being filled with the Holy Spirit, watching and praying with Christ, being a part of the remnant, and the role of trials in our growth. Along with Pastor Doug, speakers included Anil Kanda, Carlos Muñoz, Diamond Garcia, Anella Poljak, and Darcee Christensen.

Attendees came from as far away as Honduras and New York to enjoy engaging presentations, united prayer, and fellowship with like-minded individuals. Evening sessions, free meals served by local church members, and an outing to an adventure park provided opportunities for fun and friendship.

“This was a wonderful weekend for our family,” reflects Tamara from Dayton, Ohio. “As a mom, I’m always looking for ways to get my boys involved in things that will grow their faith.” For the first time, this year’s conference included presentations designed for younger kids. Presented by Amazing Facts evangelist Daniel Hudgens, *Amazing Adventures* introduced younger children at the conference to the importance of the Bible, standing against sin, and walking with Jesus. The kids also enjoyed music and rousing Bible games.


By Shenalyn Page

Sharing the gospel is also an essential part of every AFY conference. On Friday afternoon, after specialized AFYCOE training with Carlos Muñoz, AFYCOE director, and other staff, over 200 energetic youth went into the community to give out literature and pray with people. An hour later, they were eager to share what God had done. “This was my first time going door-to-door,” said Shivani. “I was nervous, but we gave out all our books and prayed for many people. So many people were hurting, so I’m thankful God gave me the courage to go out. It was a good experience.”

On the final night, Pastor Anil urged the youth not to let the enthusiasm they experienced at the conference end with the event. He said, “God is going to need another generation to rise up and stand in the gap. I’m getting a lot of gray hairs, [and] Pastor Doug isn’t always going to be here. God is calling you to share His love with the world.”

Marissa, a young adult attendee, was blessed by the many biblical messages, saying, “They have been really helpful to me. The speakers have shown me how necessary it is to spend time with God each day and how to make it a priority.”

Says Pastor Doug, “I believe in the message of Joel 2:28, which reveals that our sons and daughters will play a vital role in the gospel in the last days. That’s why I’m so thrilled to see our Amazing Facts Youth team training up the youth, these men and women who will be part of the generation to fulfill this amazing promise.”

Thank you for making the 2024 Amazing Facts Youth Conference possible! 

AFY

The Amazing Facts Youth Ministry

By Shenalyn Page

In 2020, worried about the church losing its youth to the isolation of COVID restrictions and social distancing, Tony Scarpino, a youth leader at the Granite Bay Hilltop Church, took Sabbath School programs online. Those initial social media broadcasts became the seed of Amazing Facts Youth (AFY), a worldwide ministry that meets online twice weekly, prays earnestly for one another, and leads out in the yearly Amazing Facts Youth Conference. From those humble beginnings, God has worked mightily to grow and prosper the movement.

Over the past four years, Tony and others have helped mentor a team of dedicated youth who now run AFY's weekly meetings. The youth team also chose the theme *Stand: Unshakeable Faith* for the 2024 conference and organized several aspects of the event. "The youth have a voice here," says Tony. "We don't move forward until we have agreement among our leadership team."



Edward, a psychology student, is a leader in AFY who joined the very first AFY Zoom meeting and has been an active member ever since. Smiling brightly, he shares, "We've built relationships with each other and with God here. I want people to know that regardless of who you are or what is going on in your life, you are welcome in the AFY family."

Like many other AFY members, Kyle wanted to follow God but had little practical experience. All that has changed through his participation in AFY. Today, he is strong in faith and active in ministry. He adds, "Being a part of AFY has definitely changed me for the better. I wouldn't be the person I am today without it. The community, the fellowship, the likemindedness—these people are my family."

That's precisely what the team at Amazing Facts Youth has been striving for. "We've invested years into these kids," Tony says. "To see them grow as individuals and leaders is wonderful. And now to see AFY expanding to reach so many more youth. God is doing something really exciting!"

Visit afyouth.com to keep up to date.

Don't wait to get involved! Check out these weekly events:

Hey, Let's Pray: Mondays at 6:00 PM ET

AFY Live: Fridays at 6:00 PM ET

Volunteer Spotlight



By Shenalyn Page

Shipping department volunteer Elita Johnston doesn't like to talk about herself. Still, if you take time to get acquainted, you will quickly discover that she has seen God work in beautiful ways.

Attending church on Sabbath, reading the Bible, and hearing her parents pray were normal for young Elita. "I always knew the truth, even when I walked away from God," she says. "I always knew I would return someday."

That someday came when a Sabbath-keeping co-worker invited her to attend a women's retreat in 1999. "The speaker made an appeal, and I just started crying. I knew it was time."

Coming back to God meant huge, painful changes for Elita. "I knew I couldn't marry my boyfriend, so I moved out," she explains. "That was hard. I could never have done it without God."

Elita's career as a nurse supervisor was all-absorbing, so she looked forward to retiring so that she could devote herself to sharing Jesus. A volunteer position opened up at Amazing Facts shortly after her retirement, and she has been volunteering twice a week ever since. For the past five years, she has sent out the free offers that seekers request after watching our TV programming.

"Elita is positive, friendly, and always willing to chip in wherever needed to help catch up on our orders," says Brandon Tygret, publishing director.

"These orders are so important. Most of the time, these are first contacts from people seeking deeper truth."

"I love volunteering here," Elita says, smiling. "It is a wonderful way to share the gospel without knocking on doors. People can read the materials when they have time."

Volunteering at Amazing Facts has given Elita more than just a way to share hope. It has also brought healing to her family. "My son Shad is a total miracle," she says. Drugs and other poor choices had nearly destroyed his



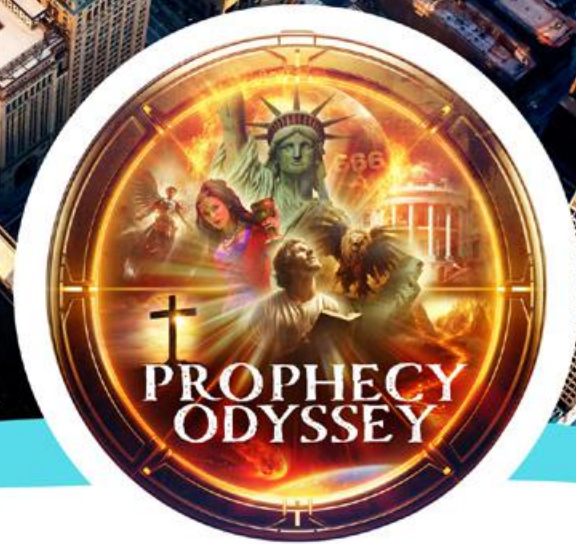
life, but when he saw his mom volunteering at the ministry, he wanted to help. "He wanted to do something worthwhile for a change. I wasn't sure he would be reliable, but Amazing Facts was willing to give him a chance."

God was clearly working in Shad's life, and it wasn't long before he was baptized. Then Amazing Facts offered him a full-time job in shipping. "He absolutely loves working here!" Elita says.

Then Shad started sharing his re-discovered faith with his dad. "I never thought my ex would come back to God," Elita says, shaking her head in disbelief. "He had wandered so far from the faith. Now, he's back in church. That could only happen by the grace of God."

Brandon adds, "It is amazing how God can take a broken family and, in the end, find a way to bring them all back around to Him and back home to His remnant church."

Would you like to volunteer at Amazing Facts to help share the gospel? Please call 916-209-7201 to discover what volunteer positions are available.



Prophecy Odyssey Begins September 20

This is it! We're dedicating this issue's News Notes to all things *Prophecy Odyssey*, a 15-part Bible series presented by Pastor Doug in NYC. Because you're a friend of Amazing Facts, we're inviting you to join us as an active participant and prayer warrior so that God might unleash His Holy Spirit for this global event. Sound exiting? Visit prophecyodyssey.com to learn more—or scan the code with your phone!



Host a Prophecy Odyssey Watch Party!

Did you know that your church, small group, or in-home Bible study can register as a host site for *Prophecy Odyssey*? Get involved in sharing the three angels' messages in a big way—host a screening event for your friends, family, or community!



Scan the QR code to register and get access to FREE downloadable resources you can use to advertise your event, then ask God to do big things through you!

What's the Easiest Way to Invite Someone to Prophecy Odyssey?

Do you want to invite your friends to watch *Prophecy Odyssey* but don't know how to bring it up? We've made it easy. Scan the QR code, fill out the short form, and send a beautiful e-vite to everyone you know. It's an effective way to start sharing your faith!



Is God Calling You to Manhattan This Fall?

Do you have a sense of adventure and a passion for sharing Jesus with secular people or the religiously curious? Then God may be calling you to join scores of likeminded believers for Mission Manhattan! Come to NYC for a day or the full two weeks of *Prophecy Odyssey*. Try real street preaching, do music and medical ministry, distribute literature, and get free AFCOE training. If you are willing, God can use you to reach people in Manhattan for Jesus! Scan the QR code to learn more and register!



Hey, Pathfinders! Did you see Pastor Doug at Camporee? For the first time, Amazing Facts attended the huge event and even offered a new honor badge called "Preach It!" Pastor Doug also presented an impromptu worship service and a *Bible Answers Live* session on the last Sabbath.

See more Amazing Facts speakers by visiting prophecyseminars.com!



WHERE IN THE
WORLD IS
PASTOR DOUG?

Invisible But Real

By Laurie Lyon



Have you ever spent a day at the beach and ended up with a bad sunburn? Maybe you forgot to wear sunscreen—or it got washed off when you went swimming. The hours went by, you had lots of fun, and you felt fine. But later, you noticed part of your skin was red. If the burn was bad enough, maybe you even had some blisters. Ouch!

So, what made your skin burn? You didn't see or feel anything while it was happening. Of course, we can't see the ultraviolet rays that cause sunburn. They're invisible. So, how do we know they're real? Because we can see the results!

The Bible talks about non-human persons who are as real as we are—yet they're invisible to us. For example, there are angels, both good and evil, and the Holy Spirit.

Holy angels, the ones loyal to God, work to help and protect God's people. Evil angels, including the devil, work to tempt and harm as many humans as possible.

Just as we can see the results of too much ultraviolet light on our skin, we can see the results of sin and the evil angels, can't we? People are constantly tempted to do bad things. There are accidents, destructive storms, and wars. People get hurt or sick. There's so much sadness and pain.

The war that started in heaven long ago continues on our planet today. But God has a plan to wipe out all the evil and suffering and make our world happy again.

One way is by sending His Holy Spirit into our hearts. This Helper works within us and changes us to be more like Jesus. We can't see Him, but we can know He is working in our lives as we get to know and love Jesus more and more.

God also wants us to put on His armor to protect us against the temptations and lies of the devil and his angels. Ephesians chapter 6 lists six pieces of God's armor that we all need. Here are five of them:

- ▶ Belt of Truth
- ▶ Breastplate of Righteousness
- ▶ Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
- ▶ Shield of Faith
- ▶ Helmet of Salvation

Use the code below the soldier to solve the puzzle and discover the last piece of God's armor and what it means. You can even draw the item in his empty hand!



& # 7 9 1 7 3 * 5 2 & 8 6 9 6 *

It is the " # 7 9 1 7 3 4 7 1 " (Ephesians 6:17).

When we trust in Jesus, He will give us His armor to protect us. His Spirit will help us understand the Bible, give us strength to do what's right, and help us become more like Him every day so we can be ready to go home with Him soon when He returns!

Code:
D E F G H I O P R S T W
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 & * #

Take It Outside!

By Laurie Lyon

It's a sad fact: Americans spend around 90 percent of their time indoors—far more than our ancestors did even 100 years ago. But separating ourselves from the natural world too often and for too long has come at a tremendous cost to our physical, mental, and emotional health. Recognizing this, astute physicians in developed countries have begun to write “green prescriptions” for patients who could benefit from regular exposure to natural environments.

For many, the prescription has paid off in improved health.¹

An idea that originated in Japan in the 1980s to reconnect people with their natural surroundings and enhance their physical and mental health has become popular in many parts of the world as “forest bathing”—immersing oneself in heavily foliated areas and drinking in the health-promoting atmosphere that only trees and plants can provide.

Evergreens and oak trees are especially good at emitting phytoncides—essential oils that form part of the trees’ immune system—into the air. Inhaling these can boost our own immune system by spiking the activity of the cells that help ward off disease and producing antioxidant effects in the body. Many of these beneficial chemicals can reduce cortisol, a stress hormone, and can alleviate inflammation, anxiety, depression, and pain. They can even calm the nervous system and improve sleep quality.²


Encountering phytoncides is only one of the positive effects of being immersed in nature. Contact with the outdoor microbiome, improved air quality, exposure to health-promoting wavelengths of light, and simply absorbing nature’s sights and sounds can help round



out the benefits of being outdoors. These elements can work in symphony to leave you feeling happier and more relaxed, focused, and energetic.

Here are a few tips to upgrade your connection with the natural world:

1. Set aside time each day to get outdoors in a natural setting with trees and plants. Make it a habit. If you work in an urban setting, seek out a green space—even a small one—in which to take a walk or sit and enjoy your lunch. While exercising surrounded by evergreen trees produces a greater boost to your immune system, relaxing in the shade in your own backyard can result in improved health also.
2. Hike in forests or other heavily treed areas as often as possible. Rally a friend or family member to accompany you and enjoy the boost in health together.
3. As you experience the natural world, commune with your Creator. Praise Him for the beauty surrounding you. Contemplate Bible passages that relate to nature—such as many of the psalms and parables of Jesus.

Remember our original occupation? At the beginning of our world, “the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it” (Genesis 2:15). Even before mankind fell, the perfect environment for us was to be immersed in the soothing tranquility of nature. In our frantic, peace-eclipsing, fallen world, how much more do we need it now? 

1 World Economic Forum, “Health: What are green prescriptions and which countries offer them?” <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/green-prescriptions-health-wellbeing/>

2 USDA Forest Service, “Walk in the woods for wellness: Health benefits of forests,” <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/out-and-about/walk-woods-wellness-health-benefits-forests>





INTERNATIONAL

amazingfacts.org
916-434-3880



AMAZING FACTS INVITES YOU TO BECOME A MANHATTAN MISSIONARY!

COME FOR AS LONG OR AS LITTLE AS YOU WANT!

- Receive AFCOE training
- Distribute literature
- Try some REAL street preaching
- Do music and health ministry on the streets of Manhattan!

In the evening, you'll attend the *Prophecy Odyssey* evangelistic programs, which will be broadcast from the Manhattan Center to the entire world.

VISIT SOME OF THE NATION'S MOST FASCINATING SITES:

- Statue of Liberty
- *Intrepid* Battleship
- American Museum of Natural History
- 9/11 Memorial
- Times Square
- ... and more!

TRAINING AND LITERATURE FOR OUTREACH ARE FREE FOR THIS EVENT

You cover your own travel, lodging, and meals (group hotel rates coming soon).

SIGN UP AT PROPHECYODYSSEY.COM



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!