

AMAZING FACTS

INTERNATIONAL

INSIDE
REPORT

3RD QUARTER
2023



The
Seal of God
in the **LAST DAYS**

What does it mean, why does it matter, and how do you get it?



CHAMPIONS OF TRUTH



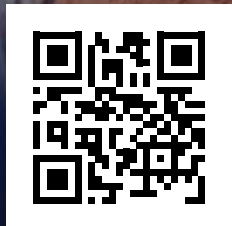
"Our world needs consistent, valiant light-bearers for Jesus. As millions around the world are held captive in sin and darkness, *you* carry the light of truth that can set them free."

—Pastor Doug Batchelor

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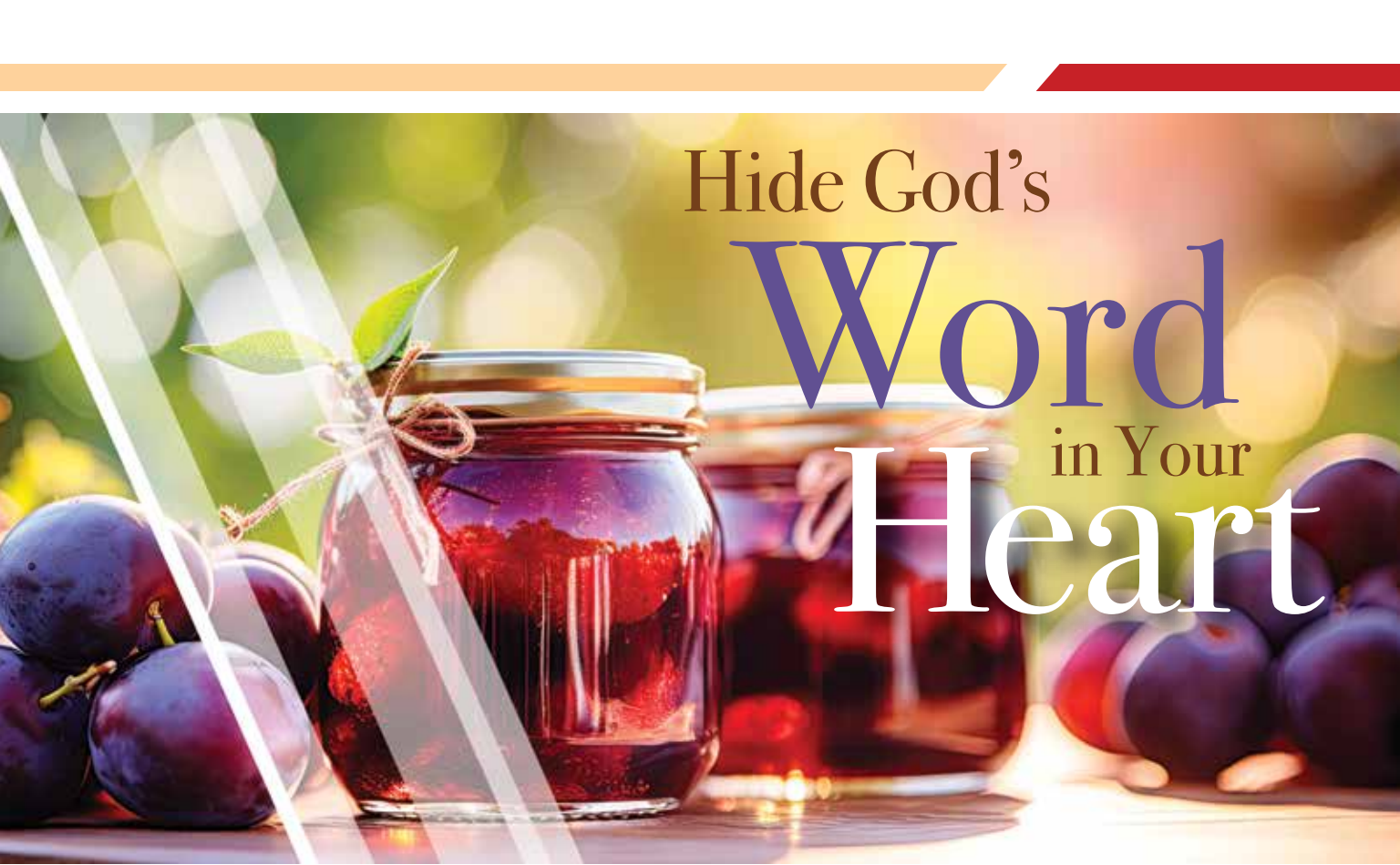
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Hide God's Word in Your Heart

Memorize:

You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

People typically use two foolproof methods to can foods. Water-bath canning involves submersion in boiling water; pressure canning uses a piece of equipment to maintain extremely high pressure and temperature. What is crucial in both is the sealing of the lids on the jars, which guarantees that your food will be preserved and safe to consume for months to come.

We can apply this concept to this quarter's memory verses, which identify the Holy Spirit as the member of the Godhead who seals an individual for preservation from eternal death and guarantees that he is safe to admit into the heavenly kingdom.

He is also a guarantee for the one who is sealed. "The Holy Spirit of promise" is so called because He was promised to believers multiple times (Isaiah 32:15; Ezekiel 36:26; Joel 2:28), most succinctly by Jesus Christ: "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16, 17), "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name" (v. 26). Notice the indwelling of the

Spirit. Unlike the canning process, the Holy Spirit doesn't just finish the job and move on; He must be able to live continually within you.

As promised, the Holy Spirit was indeed sent to believers after Christ's ascension into heaven (Acts 2:2–4, 32, 33). That God fulfilled the promise of the Holy Spirit is the down payment to the future fulfillments of our salvation: the Second Coming (Matthew 26:64), the resurrection of the dead in Christ (John 11:24), a new world without sin (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:4), and life everlasting, never again being separated from God (John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17). All this is "our inheritance," "the redemption of the purchased possession," as adopted children of God (Romans 8:16, 17; Galatians 4:4–7; Revelation 21:7). All this is made possible because "of His glory"—the character of God, which is love (1 John 4:8).


And there is a special sealing that happens at the end of time. We'll learn all about it in our main feature, "The Seal of God in the Last Days." 

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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



Never Stop Preaching This Word

Thank you for existing! I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the words He has put in your mouth. I celebrated my first Sabbath on Saturday, not in a denomination but as a follower

of Christ. Never stop preaching this Word. One day we will not have access to the truth. I would like to become a member and support your ministry. I notice that you are under attack, and every day I pray that Jesus protects the ministry He put in your heart. Your words are for everyone because they are the Word of God! *Jennifer*

The Glorious Kingdom

I would like to thank Doug Batchelor for his sermon on heaven. My husband drives for work and listens to Amazing Facts in the car. Tonight he heard Pastor Doug describing heaven—the tall walls, the gold, the river, the tree, the magnificence of it all. When he got home, he had tears in his eyes. He told me, “I have been a Christian all my life, but for the first time in 26 years, I have had heaven described to me and it was amazing. I want to see heaven. I want to go there!”
Carolyn, Minnesota



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The Seal of God in the LAST DAYS

By Pastor Doug Batchelor


An Amazing Fact: In 1971, infamous cult leader Charles Manson was found guilty as the mastermind behind multiple murders in Los Angeles. At his sentencing, he showed up with a swastika tattooed between his eyes, what he called his "devil sign." To his death at age 83, Manson remained unrepentant of his crimes, bearing the mark of his allegiance on his forehead.

Most people know that the mark of the beast is something they must not get, even though many have no idea what the mark is. Some think it's a tattoo, a microchip implant, or something else out of the latest sci-fi film. Yet even fewer have heard of its counterpart: the seal of God. Before the coming of Christ, every human will be identified with one of these two marks—how and by whom we are marked will have direct implications on our eternal destiny.

The more you read about the Second Coming in Scripture, the more clearly you realize there will be only two kinds of people at the end of time. When Jesus told a parable about "the end of the age" (Matthew 13:39), the two kinds were represented as "wheat" and "tares" (v. 25). In another parable, they are labeled "sheep" and "goats" (25:32). Every person will ultimately belong to one of these two groups, entering through either the wide or the narrow gates. There is no neutral zone—no Switzerland.

In the last book of the Bible, this concept comes into sharp focus through the following angelic warning:

If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God (Revelation 14:9, 10, my emphasis).



What does
it mean, why
does it matter,
and how do
you get it?

And Revelation 7:3 reads:

Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have **sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads** (my emphasis).

The mark you receive indicates to which of the final two groups you belong. We are solemnly told that those with the mark of the beast will be subject to God's unmitigated wrath, which includes "the seven last plagues" (15:1) and, ultimately, eternal death (14:10; 20:10–15). On the other hand, those with the seal of God will be divinely protected (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1) and, ultimately, receive everlasting life (Revelation 7:15–17; 21:3, 4; 22:3–5).

In which group would you like to be? The Bible reveals that it is your free choice as to which mark you receive. Let's prayerfully study this out.

The Hand and the Forehead

First, notice where people will be marked: foreheads and hands. While some view this literally, the Bible often uses these body parts as symbols. And don't forget that Revelation draws most of its symbols from the Old Testament. In Exodus 13:9, we read:

It shall be as **a sign to you on your hand** and as **a memorial between your eyes**, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth (my emphasis).

In Deuteronomy 6:6, 8, God says:

These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ... You shall bind them as **a sign on your hand**, and they shall be as **frontlets between your eyes** (my emphasis).

What's between your eyes? It's your forehead—your brain. Right behind your forehead is the frontal lobe, which manages your decision-making. In Scripture, the forehead represents not what's *on* but what's *in* your head—your thoughts and beliefs. "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws *into* their hearts, and *in* their minds I will write them" (Hebrews 10:16, my emphasis). Notice here that the heart and mind are interchangeable.

The hand represents action: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). "Their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands" (Isaiah 59:6).

What you do comes from how you think and who you are, that is, your mind and heart (Proverbs 23:7; Matthew 15:18, 19). Thought and action typically harmonize.

Notice that the mark of the beast can be in the hand or the forehead, whereas the seal of God is only in the forehead. Why? Some will receive the mark of the beast in the forehead, meaning they fully believe in and worship the beast. Those who receive the mark in the hand represent those who likely do not believe in the beast but who



cooperate from fear or seek some personal advantage. The seal of God is found only in the forehead because it springs from worship and faith as opposed to works.

These marks are not some external, visible symbol, such as a tattoo; they identify whom your heart worships, obeys, and serves. They denote what kind of character—or name—you have (Revelation 14:1, 11). One thing is certain: Even though the marks will be invisible, God will know who has which mark (2 Timothy 2:19).

Understanding the Marks

Did you catch what God wants in our minds and hearts? The Bible states over and over that it is God's law, the Ten Commandments, His Word. Yes, God's seal is found in obeying His commandments in heart, mind, and action. The Lord says, "Seal the law among my disciples"

(Isaiah 8:16). “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

How is keeping God’s law a seal? A seal guarantees authenticity, an official stamp of approval. Seals have been used throughout history and are still used today. For instance, Great Britain updated its seal when King Charles III ascended the throne in 2022. Seals typically have three main components:

1. The name of the official
2. The official’s title of authority
3. The official’s territory

Such a seal was placed on Daniel’s lion’s den by King Darius of Medo-Persia (Daniel 6:17). A seal was also placed on Jesus’ tomb in the name of Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea (Matthew 27:66). God’s seal authenticates an individual as a citizen of His heavenly kingdom.

You might be surprised to learn that all three components of a seal are found in a single commandment—indeed, at the very heart of the Ten Commandments. It’s the fourth commandment, the Sabbath, which governs our worship of God. It is also the only commandment where you find the word “holy”:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God [His name]. In it you shall do

no work. . . . For in six days the LORD made [His title, Creator] the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them [His territory], and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it (Exodus 20:8–11).

The Sabbath command authenticates God as the creator of the universe. It is also a sign of His sanctifying power because He made this day holy and also wants to make us holy. No wonder the Sabbath is targeted by Satan! His rebellion is based on overthrowing God’s authority and seating himself on heaven’s throne. (See Isaiah 14:12–14; Ezekiel 28:2, 6.) It is Satan, symbolized by a dragon (Revelation 12:9), “who gave authority to the beast” (13:4). The power behind the beast and his mark is the devil. Now, notice how concerned this beast power, a symbol for a nation (Daniel 7:17, 23), is with worship (Revelation 13:4–8). This is Satan’s rebellion in action. In order to eclipse God, the devil is exalting *his* own laws, *his* own authority, *his* own character:

He [a second beast also given authority by Satan] was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (vv. 15–17).

Through these two beast powers, the devil fabricates a counterfeit system of worship, one based on the principles he cherishes. Following Satan’s system will mark you as one of his. And he will place front and center in his worldwide mandate a counterfeit “holy day”—his so-called “Sabbath” on which he, “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV), will be worshiped.

In these last days, when obedience to God will be threatened with certain death throughout every nation, one’s allegiance will be signaled by which day one keeps holy. By keeping the Sabbath, you confirm your allegiance to your Creator’s law of love, life, and liberty (Matthew 22:37–40; Romans 8:2; James 1:25). By obeying the laws



A. The Great Seal of Queen Elizabeth II
Photo by Mo McRoberts

B. The Great Seal of Canada—King George V

C. The Great Seal of King John
Photo by smallcurio



of the beast, Satan's counterfeit, you will confirm your allegiance to the world's archvillain and his reign of terror, selfishness, and sin (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8).

You will choose which mark you receive.

Sealed by the Spirit

You now might be asking, "How can I be sure to be marked by God?" We certainly know that it's not by outward works. Merely wearing a cross around your neck or having a Bible on your bookshelf—even going to church on Saturday—doesn't make you God's. Motives matter.

The Bible says, "Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:9). When we

ask Him, the Holy Spirit "dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:17). It is the Holy Spirit who convicts individuals of their sins (16:8), which leads them to repentance (1 John 1:9), which, in turn, allows God to transform their characters into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). In other words, it is the Holy Spirit who writes God's law—exemplified in Christ, the Word made flesh (John 1:14)—in our hearts. David wrote, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ... Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10, 11). It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live in obedience to the Ten Commandments, to live the same life that Christ lived (Matthew 5:17).

Furthermore, we learn in 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22, that it is God "who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." Ephesians 1:13, 14, adds,

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory (my emphasis).

Let's briefly consider Jesus' Parable of the Ten Virgins, an illustration of the Second Coming (Matthew 25:13). The 10 virgins are split into two groups (sound familiar?)—those with enough oil for their lamps and those without (vv. 3, 4). In Scripture, oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (1 Samuel 16:13; Zechariah 4:2–6). The virgins who didn't have enough oil did not enter with the bridegroom into the wedding

(Continued on page 16.)



PROPHECY

WATCH

- *"The world languishes and fades away. ... Therefore the curse has devoured the earth" (Isaiah 24:4, 6).* There is growing unrest in the natural world. "So far, this summer has brought the hottest day, week, and month in recorded history,"¹ reported *Insider*, referencing the record-breaking heat waves across the globe. Exceptionally devastating wildfires torched the islands of Maui, Hawaii; Tenerife, Canary Islands; and in Greece, with the former being the United States' deadliest this century.² An above-average number of storms, hurricanes, and cyclones have been churning out of the Atlantic Ocean.³ And in less than 24 hours, Southern California experienced a tropical storm that broke rainfall records, caused widespread flooding as well as weathered a 5.1-magnitude earthquake near Ojai.⁴



As political and religious leaders alike march to the beat of the "climate change" anathema and God's angels loosen their hold on the four winds (Revelation 7:1), will an overwhelming salvo of natural disasters further drive Earth's inhabitants to desperate measures?

- *"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (Daniel 12:4).* Artificial intelligence is touted as one of the fastest-growing industries in the world⁵—no doubt because there is hardly an industry out there that has escaped its influence, from transportation to finance, from art to medicine. AI has given us the likes of "AI Jesus," which can both rap and quote Scripture;⁶ chatbots built to resemble dead people;⁷ and deepfakes.⁸



Yes, anyone toying with ChatGPT is well aware that knowledge has increased exponentially in this generation. Information, as well as misinformation, is almost effortless, accessible with a few keystrokes.



Is AI playing a role in Satan's last-day strategy to "[deceive] the whole world" (Revelation 12:9)? What influence will it have on your knowledge of—and your desire to know—the truth as it is revealed in the Bible?

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- 3 "NOAA Releases Updated 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook," *National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service*, August 11, 2023, <https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/news/noaa-releases-updated-2023-atlantic-hurricane-season-outlook>.
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AMAZING ADVENTURE

A Bible Study Series Just for Kids!

By Shenalyn Page

Would you like to help your children or grandchildren understand the Bible for themselves?

You can! Our *Amazing Adventure* Bible guides are designed to help kids ages 8 to 12 understand the essential truths of God's Word and apply them in their daily lives. These colorful guides feature engaging stories, easy-to-understand explanations of Bible passages, and fun graphics and activities that help kids process the truths they are learning.

Randy Horning loved using the lessons to help his two grandkids prepare for baptism. "I chose *Amazing Adventure* for its biblical approach and engaging format," he says. "I especially liked how the studies give context to the Bible verse with stories and facts. Seeing my grandsons choose to follow Jesus has been one of the highlights of my life."

The *Amazing Adventure* lessons cover 10 key Bible truths in a way your kids will enjoy:

1. **The Treasure Map** explains why God's Word can be trusted.
2. **Slaying the Dragon** explores the origin of evil and how we can withstand temptation.
3. **Journey Through the Stars** presents the Second Coming as our great hope.
4. **The Code of the King** explains why God gave us the blessing of His Ten Commandments.
5. **Only One Lifeboat** presents the plan of salvation and our hope in Jesus Christ alone.
6. **A Day with the King** reveals the seventh-day Sabbath as God's weekly gift to His children.
7. **God's Super Food** looks at God's guidelines for attaining the best health possible.
8. **Whistling Through a Graveyard** shares the truth about death and why we shouldn't fear it.
9. **Journey Through the Sea** explains baptism and how we can commit our lives to Jesus.
10. **A Kingdom of Gold** reveals the beautiful hope of living with God for all eternity in paradise.



Watch *Amazing Adventure* with Pastor Doug!

As your children complete the lessons, they can watch Pastor Doug's video series for kids on our website (English only). Scan the QR Code to watch now!



Proverbs 22:6 says we should "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Says Cathy Bauer, Amazing Facts Bible School supervisor, "So many kids today don't know the Bible for themselves. And parents don't have many options to help them teach their children sacred truths in a step-by-step way—so these lessons will help unite families in Jesus."



The Bible School offers the *Amazing Adventure* lessons, available in both English and Spanish, as a mail-based course. And not only can you sign up your kids or grandkids—even churches can register kids for Sabbath lessons or school classes. With the first lesson, each child receives an *Amazing Adventure* Treasure Map. Then, every time they return a lesson answer

sheet, we'll send them the next lesson and a sticker. We even send a one-time gift during their birthday month.

So don't wait. Sign up the kids in your life today!

How to Get Started

When contacting us to begin your child's journey, please provide the child's first and last name, mailing address, age, and birth month, as well as your own name and contact information.

- Call 844-215-7000.
- Email afbibleschool@amazingfacts.org.
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TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE



Amazing Facts with Doug Batchelor (Times marked in black)

Bible Answers Live (Times marked in orange)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	10:30 AM PT 7:00 PM PT LIVE 10:30 PM PT	3:30 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT	2:00 PM PT	2:00 AM PT 11:00 AM PT 10:00 AM PT 10:00 PM PT	6:00 AM PT 2:00 PM PT 6:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT
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RADIO

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!



Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



Are all Bible translations equal—or should I avoid some of them?

First, it's certainly good to be aware that, unless you are actually reading a Hebrew- and Greek-language text, all Bibles are translations.

Thus, we need to determine the quality of any one translation and the text sources used. Some translations are actually "paraphrases," which means they don't follow the source text word for word; rather, they subjectively give thought-for-thought meanings. Examples of this are *The Message* and *The Living Bible*. In one case, the latter calls the mark of the beast a tattoo, which, however sincere, is certainly a misleading way to put it.



Is the mark of the beast a tattoo? Scan the code to find out!

Careful Bible students will recognize that there are some biases in every Bible, especially in some of the newer English translations. For instance,

Hebrews 9:12 in some Bibles speaks of the holy place, but in others it speaks of the most holy place. This variation is shaped entirely by differing theology. That's why it's good to look at several translations that more closely follow the source text word by word, such as the King James, the New King James, and the New American Standard.

Sometimes, sad to say, the creation of new translations is driven by money. Let me explain. The King James is public domain—anyone can print and sell it. In order for publishers to make the most money possible when selling Bibles, they're required to say something different than existing versions in order to copyright, market, and own it. For instance, you can be sued for quoting the New International Version without permission because Zondervan, the publisher, owns that version. They have a monetary incentive to come up with something different.

I personally believe that the Lord can work through almost any version to call people to repentance and better living. But if you are doing a deep study on a passage, compare several versions with



Learn more about English translations of the Bible by scanning this code.

each other and consult a Bible dictionary before making conclusions.

In case you want to know, my preferred translations are the King James and the New King James, which are based on ancient manuscripts known as the *Textus Receptus*.



Scan here to listen to Pastor Doug offer more insights about the accuracy and origin of the Bible.



When do you receive the Holy Spirit—before, during, or after baptism?

It is possible to receive the Holy Spirit before, during, and after baptism! The Bible has examples of all three.

At Jesus' baptism, He received a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. "Immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove" (Mark 1:10). And during one of his impassioned sermons, the apostle Peter told listeners, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized ... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). See also Acts 19:5, 6.

Some have received the Holy Spirit *before* they were baptized. For example, while Cornelius the centurion and his family listened to Peter's preaching, "the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word" (10:44). Afterward, they were baptized (vv. 47, 48).

The apostles and others were baptized by John the Baptist, but they didn't receive the full filling of the Spirit until Pentecost. Then the Holy Spirit came in a mighty way and empowered them to preach (Acts 2). After that, the spiritual tide may have gone out a little but came in again after Peter and John were threatened by the Sanhedrin (Acts 4).

The Holy Spirit is received in different "degrees" in a person's life. It's the Spirit coming into our lives that inspires us to surrender, be baptized, and experience conversion. The Spirit is given in cycles according to the need to prepare us for the work God calls us to do.

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.

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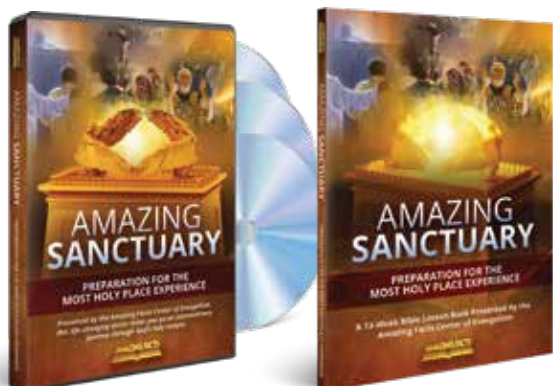
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(Continued from page 9.)

(Matthew 25:10–12). We may have the Holy Spirit to some degree, but if we do not allow Him full access to our hearts, to cleanse us of all sin, to dwell in us without measure (John 3:34), we will not enter with Christ into His heavenly kingdom. (See also Mark 2:18–20; Revelation 19:7, 9.)

Preparing for the Latter Rain

The sealing of God and the marking of the beast are completed by the time probation closes at the end of the world. Just before God's people are sealed, the Bible prophesies that the Holy Spirit will come in full force, a special event called the latter rain.



The prophet Joel wrote of the former and latter rain, known in agriculture as two periods of heavy rainfall crucial to crop growth and harvest (Joel 2:23). Joel paralleled these times to a special outpouring of the Spirit (v. 28, 29) just before "the great and awesome day of the LORD" (v. 31). The apostle Peter identified Pentecost as the former rain (Acts 2:14–21). The latter rain is yet to come.

Joel's prophecy states that the Holy Spirit will be poured out "on all flesh" (Joel 2:28), to every person living on Earth. But look at what occurred during the

former rain: There were those who were "confused" (Acts 2:6) and "perplexed" (v. 12) at, even "mocking" (v. 13),

the working of the Holy Spirit. That is, they did not receive the former rain at its outpouring. Likewise, not everyone will receive the latter rain. Given what we've learned, we know that those who reject this second outpouring of the Holy Spirit will not receive the seal of God. If you are living at the end of time and do not receive the latter rain, neither will you be marked to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Christian author A.W. Tozer said, "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference." We could learn a few things from the early church. What did those disciples do to ensure they received the former rain?

Studied God's Word (Acts 10:44): One of the Holy Spirit's duties is to "guide you into all truth" (John 16:13), but how can He if you don't give Him the opportunity to do so? (See also 6:63.)

Persisted in Prayer (Acts 1:14): Remember, God will never force you to do anything against your will. If you want the Holy Spirit, ask for Him! (Zechariah 10:1; Matthew 7:7).

Were Willing to Obey (Acts 5:32): You cannot obey God without the Holy Spirit, but you can be *willing* to surrender your will to His. (See also John 14:15–17.)

Gathered to Worship (Acts 4:31): This doesn't mean that you must always physically be with other believers in order to receive the Holy Spirit. Rather, God's blessings fall upon us particularly when we



honor Him together. (See also Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24, 25.)


Were United in Truth (Acts 2:1): Divisiveness, which results from pride, envy, and resentment (1 Corinthians 3:3; James 3:16), turns away the Holy Spirit; a merciful, humble, and repentant attitude makes room for Him (Ephesians 4:30–32).

The disciples allowed the Holy Spirit to prepare their hearts beforehand—and He made them ready to receive Him in full abundance!



The Time Is Now

By no means are these truths less relevant now. Our choices today affect who we become. Though some reading this may go to the grave before Jesus returns, they also, in a sense, will be marked as either loyal to God or Satan. Everyone makes this decision, whether during their lifetime or at the end of time.

“Now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2, my emphasis); “choose for yourselves *this day* whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15, my emphasis). Don’t allow your decisions to cause you, like the foolish virgins, to miss out on eternal life. Invite the Holy Spirit into your heart today and every day. Be prepared to receive the seal of God. 



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Nourishing God's Workers

...
**Your Support
Is Uplifting
Missionaries
Around the
World!**

Not everyone can say that they first learned about Amazing Facts while in Afghanistan. But Fabiano and Karla can.

The young Brazilian couple were working with a humanitarian agency when a friend invited them to the mountains for a little rest and relaxation. The friend brought with him *Storacles of Prophecy*, Pastor Doug Batchelor's series of lessons. It was exactly the spiritual nourishment they needed at that time.

"When you are in Afghanistan, dealing with all its security issues, you recognize your need for God," shares Fabiano. "Amazing Facts really helped me get close to Jesus and the Bible in those days."

Fabiano and Karla were the only expatriates working with the relief agency in Afghanistan, and they felt their lack of spiritual fellowship keenly. Amazing Facts' online library of materials—resources that you helped make available—provided the encouragement they needed. "It was a really big support for us," Fabiano says.

Then one day, a car bomb exploded near the relief agency's headquarters in Kabul. "It shattered the windows in our office," Fabiano explains. "Security was getting worse, so we made the difficult decision to leave the country."

Support for the Missionary Journey

Karla grew up on mission stories. "They inspired me," she says. "I always wanted to be a missionary, doing whatever I could for God." Her desire led her to serve in South Africa and Italy; then, just five days after marrying Fabiano, the couple went to Cambodia.

After the car bomb incident, they spent six years each in Mali and Panama. Most recently, they have led humanitarian efforts in Venezuela and Timor-Leste.

Through all their moves, Amazing Facts has been a source of spiritual stability. "Sometimes, the local church is limited in what it can do," Karla explains. "Amazing Facts has filled

the void when we need more spiritual food."

Amazing Facts materials have also enabled Karla and Fabiano to share their faith more clearly. When non-believers have tricky questions, they go to Amazing Facts to find answers. In Mali,

Fabiano used our resources to share the Sabbath truth with a friend who


served as a Sunday-keeping pastor. In Panama, he shared materials about the final events of Bible prophecy with a colleague lost in the sea of conspiracy theories.

Part of the Family

The pandemic years were especially lonely for the couple and their family. "It was hard for our boys since they don't speak the local language," says Karla. During the lockdowns, they watched *Amazing Adventure*, Pastor Doug's series for kids, and the boys loved it. Now the family regularly watch anything and everything Amazing Facts offers online.

Doing that in Timor-Leste, one of the world's poorest countries, takes faith and plenty of patience. "Our internet connection is the worst in the world! But whenever the stream froze, we would pray, 'God, please give us Your divine internet connection.' Then, poof! It would come back on every time," Karla says. "Our boys feel like we are part of Pastor Doug's church."

Shares Fabiano, "Amazing Facts' impact on our family has been amazing. We see a lot of suffering while doing our humanitarian work. It is a real comfort to be able to listen to the sermons. It is reassuring to know that God is in control despite the wars, famines, and suffering we see in our work. Amazing Facts materials have strengthened our spiritual resilience."

Thank you for enabling Amazing Facts to provide vital spiritual nourishment to missionary families. Together, we can ensure they can always access the resources they need! 



BRINGING CHRIST TO PRISONERS

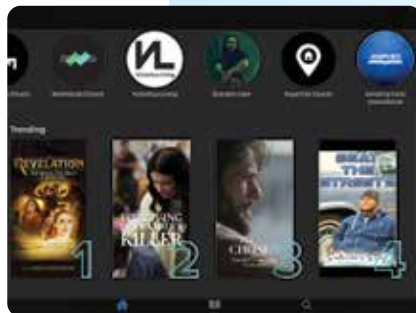


PANDO is a unique mobile app created especially for inmates, enabling them to seek and find transformative spiritual teaching through Bible-based messages, devotionals, and more using a secure, prison-issued tablet. In its mission to reach more prisoners in more ways, Amazing Facts jumped at the chance to post content on Pando in August 2022.

And God is truly blessing! Our 96 video uploads are performing amazingly, including testimonies of changed lives. As a result, our content on Pando has been seen nearly 2.5 million times by more than 415,000 unique users. This has led to an increase in requests for Bible studies and other literature, with nearly 4,500 viewers having expressed their desire to accept Christ.

Since posting our *Revelation: The Bride, the Beast & Babylon* documentary in April 2023, it has received more than 230,000 views. It even topped the trending list for weeks, beating out programs like *The Chosen*. Says James Sauve, correspondence supervisor, "We're so excited to have partnered with the Pando network and have engaged with prisoners all over the United States with Spirit-filled content."


"Thank you for making *Cosmic Conflict*. That video changed my life and brought me to my relationship with Jesus Christ. I am 47 years old, and I never believed in God. All my life, I've lived my own selfish ways. I was either getting high or wanting to get high. I've been to prison five times. But my life completely changed on September 20, 2022, while I was in my prison cell. I was scrolling on my tablet for something to watch and came across Amazing Facts. It immediately caught my attention because I love facts and didn't think it was about God. As soon as the video started, I realized



it was a video about God, but I watched it anyway because I had nothing else to do. About halfway through, you explained about forced love and genuine love, and you're holding a robot dog and then a real dog. I will never forget the feeling I had at that moment. At the end, I said the prayer with you. And I have never

been the same since. The very next day, I was a different person. My heart cared more for people, I wanted to read the Bible, I wanted to be a better person, and I no longer craved drugs. I was released from prison four months later with nothing physically, but emotionally and spiritually I felt like I had everything. I moved into a faith-based program and

got a job. I now do a Bible study every night. I no longer watch TV, and I have goals in Jesus in my life. I work on my body, soul, and spirit every day. I completed parole, and I keep seeking Jesus every day. I didn't really know what happened the night that I watched the video until, about four months later, I was reading Ephesians 1:13. I believed and was sealed with the Holy Spirit! God is truly working through you. I am so grateful my eyes and ears are now open. God bless you, Doug Batchelor, and everyone else at Amazing Facts. I truly found God and am a witness to His power!" *Matthew*

Over the coming months, Amazing Facts will explore new ways to reach prisoners and add even more Bible truth to Pando. Please pray for Matthew—and that God will open up even more opportunities to reach souls like him. Thank you for making it possible to bring Christ to those behind bars! 

Amazing Facts News to Note

Glorystar G19 Satellite Changes May Affect You!

If you watch Amazing Facts TV using the G19 satellite system, we have some important news you need to know. Due to an upcoming change in frequency on the G19 system, our viewers in North America with newer receivers will need to rescan to find AFTV on the new frequency. The new channel will show up as Amazing Facts TV HD. If you need more help with this transition, please call 618-627-7010.



Amazing Facts YouTube Health Series Makes Waves

Last quarter, Pastor Doug Batchelor sat down with centenarian John Scharffenberg, M.D., a renowned physician, nutritionist, and professor of nutrition at Loma Linda University, for a two-part interview series on YouTube. During part 1, called *Seven Keys to Long Life*, Dr. Scharffenberg winsomely offered unique insights into

experiencing longevity according to God's health laws; part 2, called *How to Reverse Diabetes & Hypertension*, revealed secrets to overcoming two of the biggest killers in America. The videos have been watched nearly 1.5 million times combined! Watch

part 1 now at <https://youtu.be/m1aFs1uD-Rg> and part 2 at <https://youtu.be/TVLbiMBqG1E>.

New Ultimate Prophecy Study Bible Coming Soon!

The Amazing Facts publishing team has been designing a brand-new prophecy study Bible with even more helpful study tools, including a chain reference study system based on our popular *27 Study Guides*, a tool that enables users to dig into end-time teachings without ever leaving the Scriptures. Another new study feature is commentaries about difficult texts throughout the Bible, plus full-color

charts about prophecy, the sanctuary, the life of Jesus, and more. Look out for this new Bible in the next few months, and visit afbookstore.com for updates.

AFCOE Full Course in Full Swing

Amazing Facts welcomed 35 new students to the W.O.R.D. Center campus on August 17 for three months of intense Bible and evangelism training. As part of their training, students will participate in Pastor Doug's upcoming prophecy series *The Pinnacle of Prophecy* in door-to-door outreach and bridge events. They will also have the opportunity to serve overseas in Panama in early 2024. Please pray for our class this session, that God will lead them and inspire them as witnesses for His holy kingdom.



China Outreach Grows God's Kingdom

Our China outreach team continues to take big steps to grow God's kingdom, translating new programs and books into key languages.

In the first four months this year, more than 980,000 unique visitors learned more about Jesus by visiting our Chinese-language website, with more than three million page views. Nearly 90 percent came from smartphones! And over

5,000 Bible questions were answered by our internet outreach team. Many of these precious souls have expressed a desire to join the remnant church and be baptized. Sister Cui was experiencing depression due to many challenges and was introduced to Amazing Facts just in time. She says, "I downloaded *Shadows of Light* and other books. I thank God for His grace. The truth is so clear! Thank you for helping me find purpose and focus."



PART 1



Volunteer Spotlight

By Brandon Tygret,
Publishing Director



It can be difficult to find good help, especially in today's me-first world. So you can imagine how much harder it is to get good *volunteer* help. But every once in a while, you find a gem. Amazing Facts has lots of gems, and one of those is Rosie!

Many years ago, Rosie's brother shared his newfound faith with her, and she became interested in learning more. She started studying the Bible with a lady in the church, and she soon accepted Jesus Christ. In 1973, Rosie was baptized into the remnant church. She also has three wonderful children, and all are faithful believers too.


Rosie first heard about Amazing Facts when her church sponsored a Revelation prophecy series, which was presented by one of our evangelists. Her daughter, Yvonne, was volunteering for Amazing Facts at that time, and she invited her mother to help spread God's light to those in darkness too.

When Rosie prayed about the opportunity, the Holy Spirit brought to her mind Ephesians 2:10: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Rosie was convinced God was calling her to

serve Him as a volunteer—and she also brought a church friend, Jo, with her! Together, the two ladies have been sharing their faith through service at Amazing Facts for a decade!

Colossians 3:23, 24, says, "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Rosie has been doing exactly this since choosing to serve here at Amazing Facts! She says, "I feel so thankful and blessed that Amazing Facts has volunteer positions to help share last-day truths in our world today. I am truly privileged to be part of the ministry."

We give a special thanks to Rosie and all our other dear volunteers, who are helping us spread the three angels' messages to a lost and dying world. 



Photos by Alden Ho

Would you like to volunteer at Amazing Facts International? If you live in the Sacramento area, call us at 916-434-3880.

God's Special Seal

By Laurie Lyon



Have you ever been hurt or in some kind of trouble? Have you ever worried that something bad was going to happen to you or someone else? Of course! Who hasn't? The Bible tells us God doesn't want things to be the way they are! In fact, He has promised to send Jesus back to our planet very soon to rescue us. You can count on Him to set things right and end all the pain, sadness, and other problems that make life hard. Aren't you glad?

Many people think the last book of the Bible—Revelation—is mysterious and even scary with all its beasts, symbols, and warnings, but Jesus wants us to understand this unusual book because it gives us clues about what will happen on Earth just before He returns. He wants everyone to be ready to meet Him as a friend!

One important fact in Revelation is that just before Jesus comes back, everyone will be in one of two groups. They will either get marked by the devil—or sealed by God. But what does that mean?

Chances are, you have a dog or cat or know someone who does. If your pet has a microchip and someone scans it, it will show that you're its owner. In a similar way, if a person has the mark of the beast or the seal of God, this mark or seal will show who they belong to.

But these aren't marks on the skin or something you can see, like a tattoo or a microchip. Not at all! Solve the puzzle below to find out where God's friends are marked with His seal. A word is hidden in each of the two lines. Circle every third letter (the first one is marked for you)

to uncover the words, then write them in the blank spaces in the Bible verse.



t w m p o i n b n s c d i m s
y t h g b e u m a q w r n c t p a s

"I will put My law in their _____,
and write it on their _____; and
I will be their God, and they shall be My people"
(Jeremiah 31:33).

That's right—
God seals us when
He writes His law of love
within us! How does He do
that? Through the powerful Holy Spirit.

How can you be sure you get the seal of God and be ready to meet Jesus when He comes back? One thing is for sure—you can't earn it. But Jesus earned it for you! When you accept Jesus as your Savior and invite Him into your life, He will give you His Holy Spirit. The Bible says:

(31:1 snaisehpE) "esimorp fo tirpS yloH eht htiw delaes erew uoy ,deveileb gnivaH"

Oops, that's backward! Can you still read it?

Once you've opened your heart to Jesus, you'll want to spend time with your new Best Friend. This means reading the Bible and talking with Him every day. That way, you'll grow to be more like Jesus each day and become obedient to His law. That doesn't mean you'll never make a mistake. But when that happens, God is always ready to help!

Solve this puzzle to read a great promise we all need. The first line has all the consonants in the right order, and the second line has all the vowels in the right order. See if you can reassemble the words in the blanks below.

" _____,

_____."

(Answer: 1 John 1:9)

f w cnfss r sns, H s fthfl nd jst t frgv s r sns nd t clns s frm ll nrhtsnss
I e oe ou i e i aiu a u ooie uou i a oeae u o a uieoue



Get a **Better Night's Sleep!**

Did you know that chronic sleep disorders, which often require medical intervention, plague about 50 to 70 million Americans? And even for many of us outside this statistic, quality sleep is in short supply. In fact, it's estimated that a third of us lack sufficient slumber.¹

There's no way to calculate all the trouble that results from this deficiency, but we do know that insufficient sleep causes inflammation in the body—contributing to a host of chronic health problems.

Further, it's well known that sleep deprivation mimics alcohol intoxication and regularly causes transportation and workplace accidents. In fact, it's believed that drowsiness is responsible for hundreds of thousands of road accidents every year, causing much injury and loss of life.² Plus, lack of proper sleep often triggers work inefficiency, loss of creativity, emotional imbalance, social conflict, and it results in poor decision-making.

And while the amount of ZZZs we get may seem beyond our control, there are actually proven steps that can enhance our chances for better sleep on a regular basis. Let's look at some of them.

1 Expose yourself to bright daylight in the early morning. Its powerful effect on your circadian rhythm tends to help you sleep better at night.³

2 Make sure your diet includes foods that support the sleep-regulating hormones melatonin and serotonin. Walnuts, almonds, cashews, pumpkin seeds, whole-grain bread and pasta, spinach, avocados, soybeans, and black beans offer key nutrients. But avoid eating anything within three hours of bedtime.

By Laurie Lyon


3 Avoid exercise late in the day. Breaking a sweat within a couple of hours of bedtime is likely to increase sleep latency—the time it takes you to get to sleep.

4 Limit your exposure to light in the two hours before bedtime. Dim your lights. The blue light emitted by your TV, cell phone, tablet, or computer is especially likely to delay your sleep.

5 Go to bed and get up on a regular schedule. We all have unexpected circumstances, but the closer you stick to your plan, the better.

6 Keep your sleeping area dark, comfortable, and quiet—but not too quiet. Many people find “white noise” conducive to sleep; machines that produce a variety of soothing sounds (rainfall, for instance) are plentiful and inexpensive.

7 Have a regular bedtime routine. As you slow down and unwind, pay attention to your emotional state. Set your problems aside—cast your care on the Lord—and remember to count your blessings as well.

As you tweak your habits to improve your sleep, ask God to guide you. Psalm 4:8 says, “I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.” You can be certain that He who “shall neither slumber nor sleep” will watch over you all night long (121:4). 

1 National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, “What Are Sleep Deprivation and Deficiency?” <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/sleep-deprivation>.

2 National Safety Council, “Drivers are Falling Asleep Behind the Wheel,” www.nsc.org/road/safety-topics/fatigued-driver.

3 The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, “Effects of Light on Circadian Rhythms,” www.cdc.gov/niosh/emres/longhourstraining/light.html.



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