

# “O How Love I Thy Law”



This File contains the notes and some of the slides of a message presented in an assembly of God’s people in the USA. A poll was conducted during the message and the responses are presented in Bar Graphs. The message was given on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, celebrated as Easter Sunday by many.



# What I would like to do today:

- Main focus: READ THE SCRIPTURES
- Current state of Biblical Illiteracy
  - Showing you some statistics
  - What the secular world itself is thinking
- Challenge you with some questions to stimulate your thinking and convictions
- Somehow attempt to convince you that the Bible is the only and alone REVELATION that we have in this dispensation.
- Plead with you to start a regular program of reading God's Holy Word

[hopefully we can do all of this within 45-50 minutes]

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



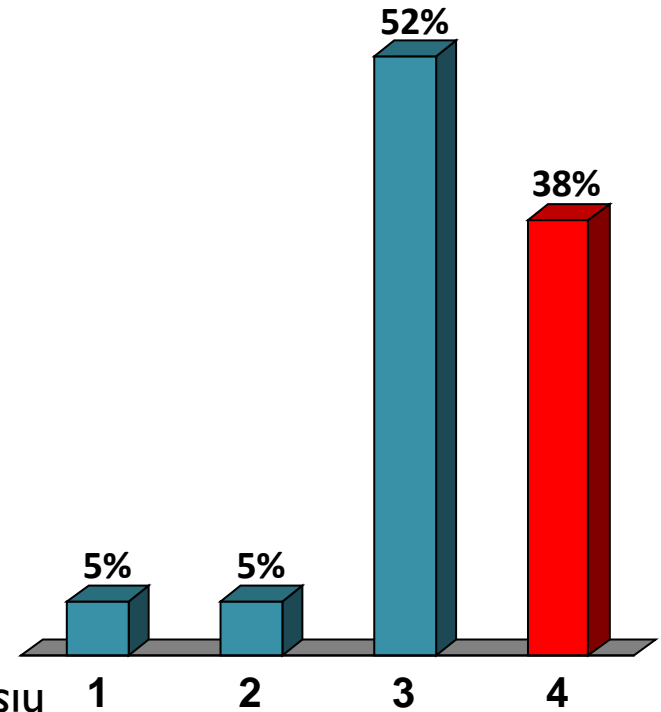
# ARE YOU READY TO BE QUIZZED?





# ALL of the following are true regarding the Bible except:

1. There are 2 Testaments—Old and New
2. There are 66 Books
3. The apostle John wrote 5 books of the NT
4. The apostle Paul wrote 15 books of the NT



Correct Answer is in Red. The apostle Paul wrote 13 epistles. The author of Hebrews is unknown. John wrote the Gospel of John, his 3 epistles and Revelation.

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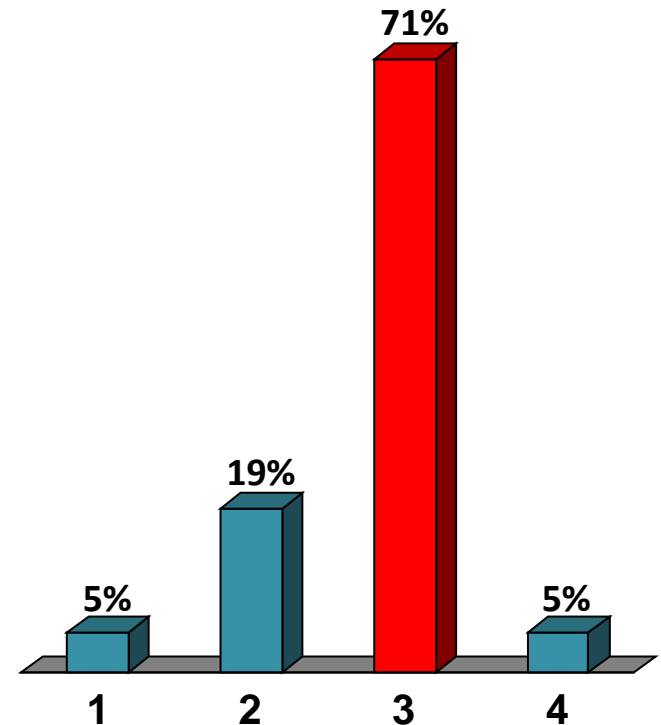




# Psalms 113-118 are called the Hallel Psalms. What does the word “Hallel” mean?

1. To Pass Over
2. To Ascend up the stairs of the temple
3. To praise the Lord
4. To open the gates of the temple

Correct Answer is #3. Traditionally the Hallel Psalms (songs or prayers of praise) are 113-118. Psalms 120-134 are called “songs of ascent” (or Shir Hama’aloth) probably associated with the priests (kohanim) ascending the steps of the temple, or the Jews going up to Jerusalem for the festivals.



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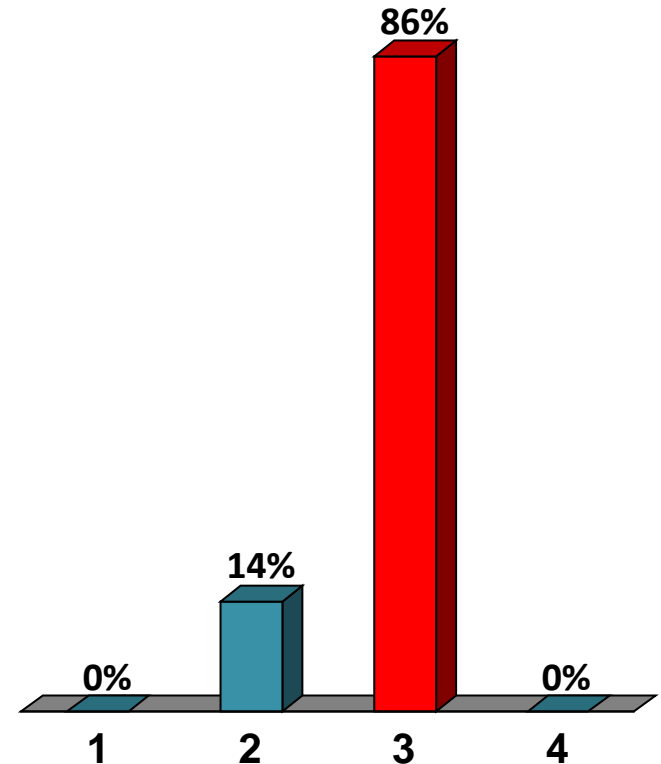




# Which animal is not mentioned by this name in the Bible?

1. Sheep
2. Dragon
3. Cat
4. Leopard

Correct Answer is #3.



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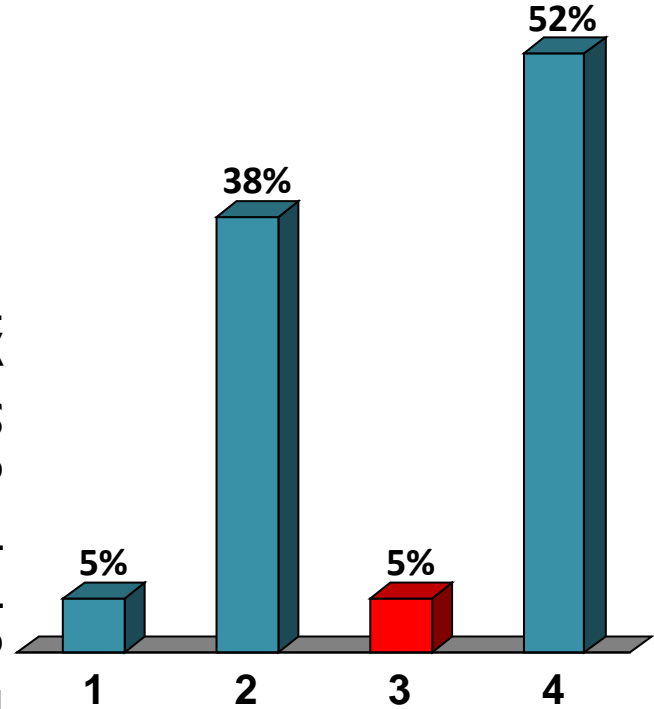




# Who was the second oldest man recorded in the Bible?

1. Methuselah
2. Noah
3. Jared
4. Lamech

Correct Answer is #3. Please read Genesis chapters 5 and 9. The oldest man recorded is Methuselah (969 years). Jared is the second oldest man recorded (962 years). The rest in order of age are as follows: Third oldest man: Noah (950 years); Fourth oldest man: Adam ( 930 years); Fifth oldest man: Seth (912 years); Sixth oldest man: Kenan (910 years). Read the rest in Genesis 5. Lamech lived 777 years.



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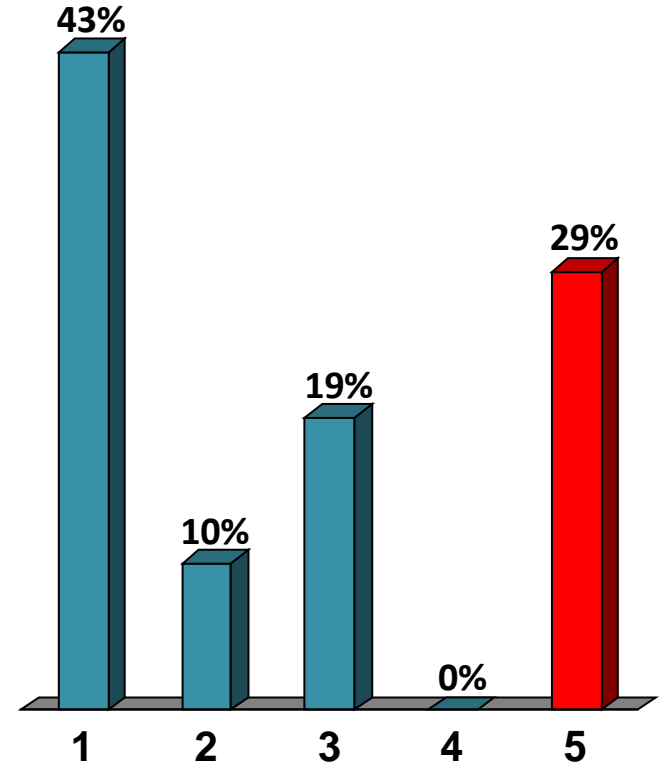




# The shortest verse in the Bible is:

1. John 11:35
2. Luke 20:30
3. Isaiah 10:8
4. I Thessalonians 5:16
5. It depends

**John 11:35**—shortest verse in most English Bibles; NIV, NLT and HCSB have Job 3:2 ("He said")  
**Luke 20:30**—shortest verse in the Greek New Testament Westcott and Hort text (καὶ οὐ εὐρεῖος—"and the second")  
**Isaiah 10:8**—shortest verse in the Latin *Vulgate* ("Dicit enim")  
**I Thessalonians 5:16**—shortest verse in the Textus Receptus ("πᾶντοτε χαίρετε", "Rejoice always")  
**It depends**—CORRECT ANSWER



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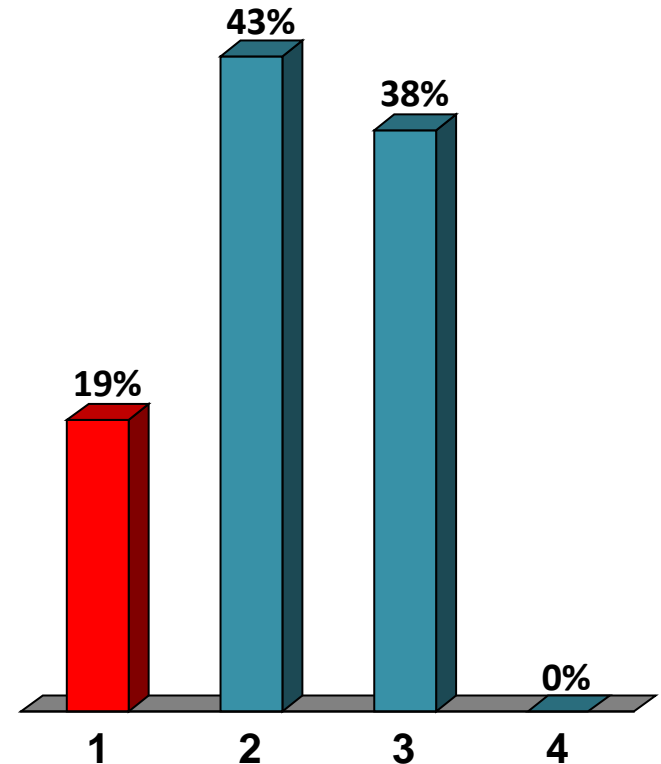






# All of the following are true regarding events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion except:

1. After interrogating Him, Pilate sent Jesus directly to Caiaphas the high priest
2. After His arrest, Jesus was led to Annas the high priest first
3. Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for Jesus
4. At Jesus' death, there was 3 hours of darkness over the land

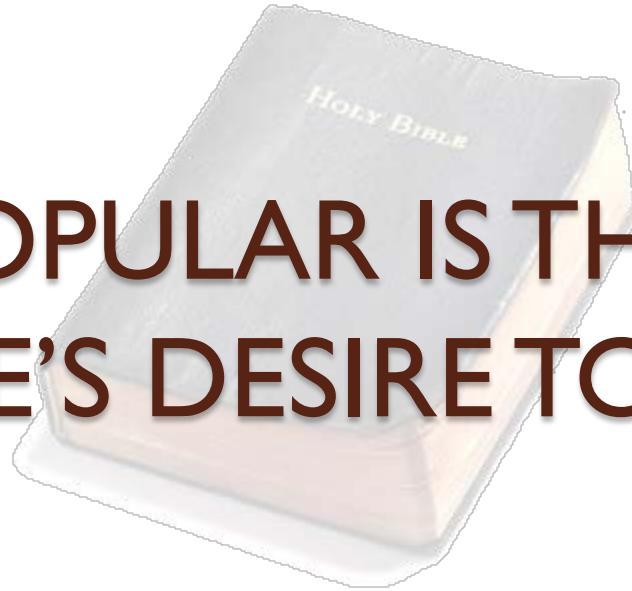


Correct Answer is #1. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod.

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# HOW POPULAR IS THE BIBLE IN PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO BUY IT?



# The Bible is the best-selling title in America.

- Twenty-five million copies of the Bible are sold annually in America. The Bible is not only the best-selling title in America, it also is available in a multitude of translations and paraphrased editions.
- In 2006, religious books accounted for 6.4 percent of all book sales.
- Americans spent \$2.4 billion on Bibles and other religious books last year. This was an increase of 5.6 percent over 2005, the biggest percentage increase of any book category.

Chicago Tribune, reprinted in the Colorado Springs Gazette June 16, 2006.



According to The Baptist Standard, *a publication of the Texas Baptist Convention:*

Gideons International distribute annually in excess of 45 million Bibles. This computes on the average at 86 Bibles distributed every minute.

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



# SOME QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15

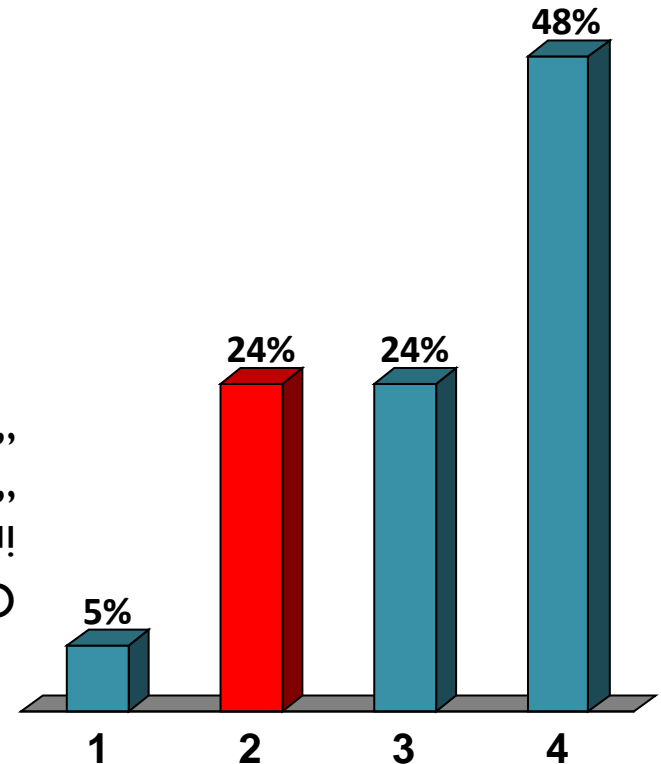




In I Corinthians chapter 15, the apostle Paul lists the following people as eyewitnesses of Jesus after His resurrection except:

1. Cephas (Peter)
2. Luke
3. James
4. Paul (i.e. himself)

Correct Answer is #2. Eyewitnesses mentioned in I Corinthians 15 are: Cephas, "the twelve", "more than 500 brethren at one time", James, "all the apostles", Paul himself (verses 5 to 8).



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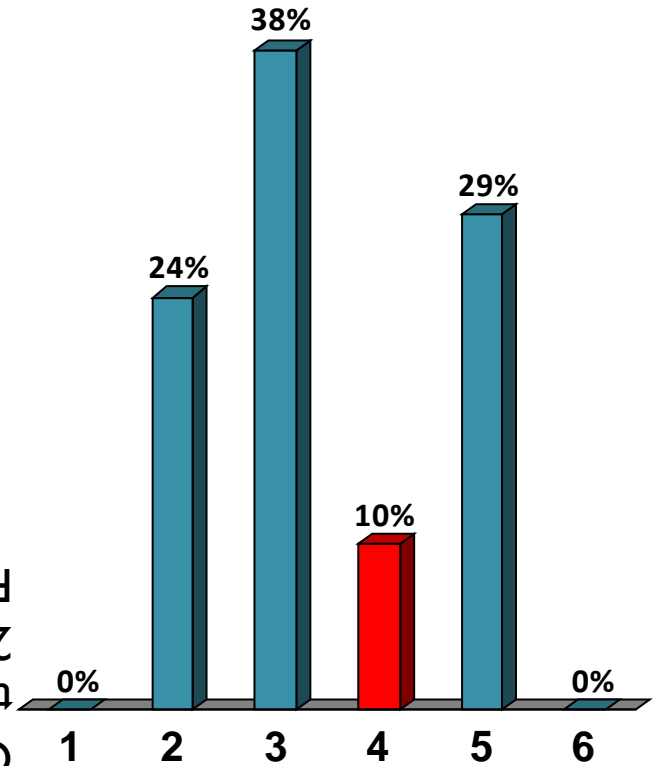




# In I Corinthians 15, Christ is referred to as all of these except:

1. Son
2. Man
3. Adam
4. Chief Cornerstone
5. Jesus
6. Lord

Correct Answer is #4. Jesus is referred to as the "cornerstone" in these passages: Psalm 118: 22; Isaiah 28: 16; Acts 4: 11; Ephesians 2: 20; 1 Peter 2: 7

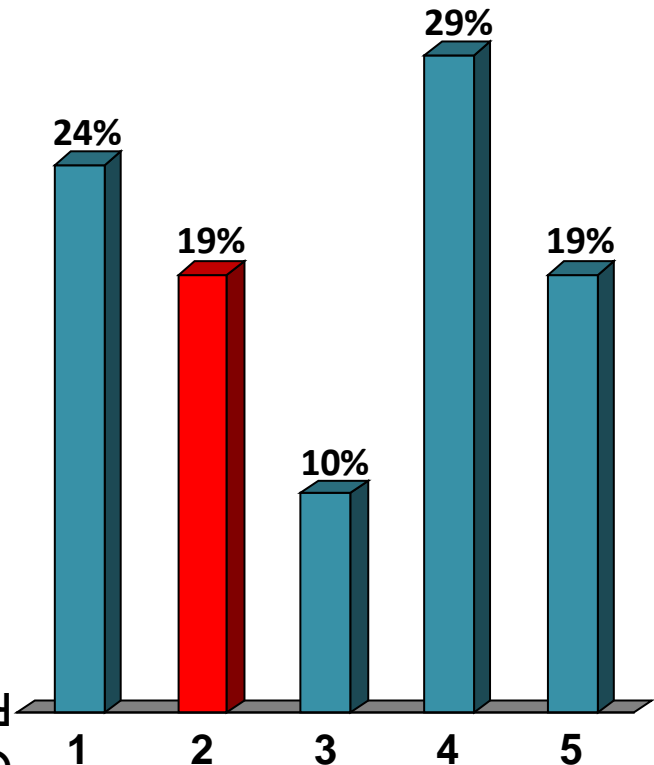


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# The “mystery” that Paul refers to in I Corinthians 15 includes these facts except:

1. Not all will sleep
2. The first trumpet sound
3. All will be changed
4. The dead will be raised incorruptible
5. The twinkling of an eye, i.e. a moment



Correct Answer is #2—the “LAST TRUMPET”.  
Read I Corinthians 15:51-52

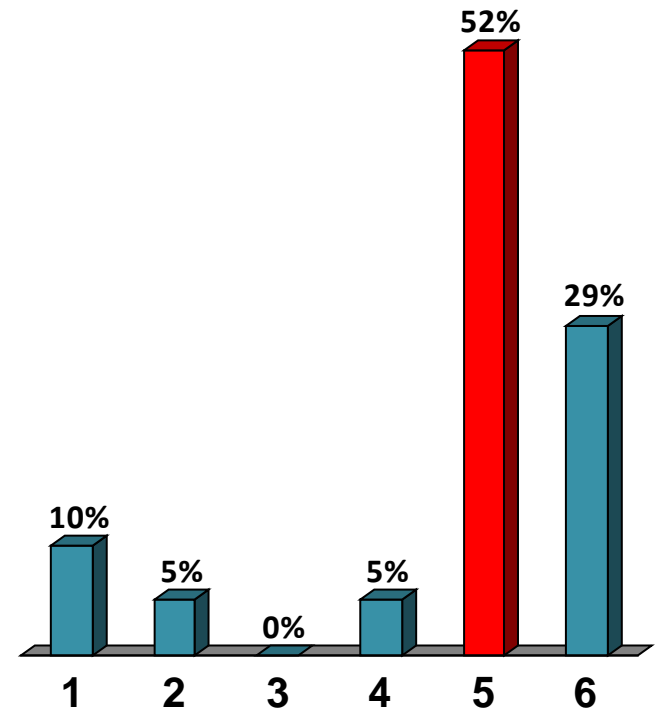
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Paul argues, in I Corinthians 15, that all of the following are true if Christ is not raised from the dead except:

1. SINS—PERSISTENT
2. FAITH—FUTILE
3. PREACHING—VAIN
4. WITNESS—FALSE
5. DEATH—DESTROYED
6. BELIEVERS—PITIABLE

Correct Answer is #5. Death will be destroyed if Christ is raised from the dead. Read I Corinthians 15: 14-19



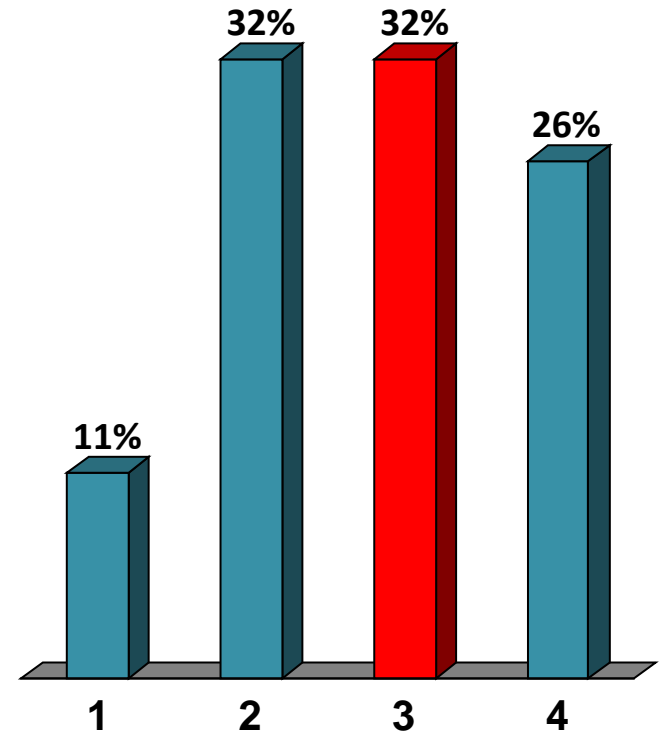
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# The main metaphor that Paul uses in I Corinthians 15 regarding death and resurrection is that of:

1. ARCHITECTURE
2. WAR
3. AGRICULTURE
4. ATHLETICS

Correct Answer is #3. I Corinthians 15: 36-38; also verses 42-44



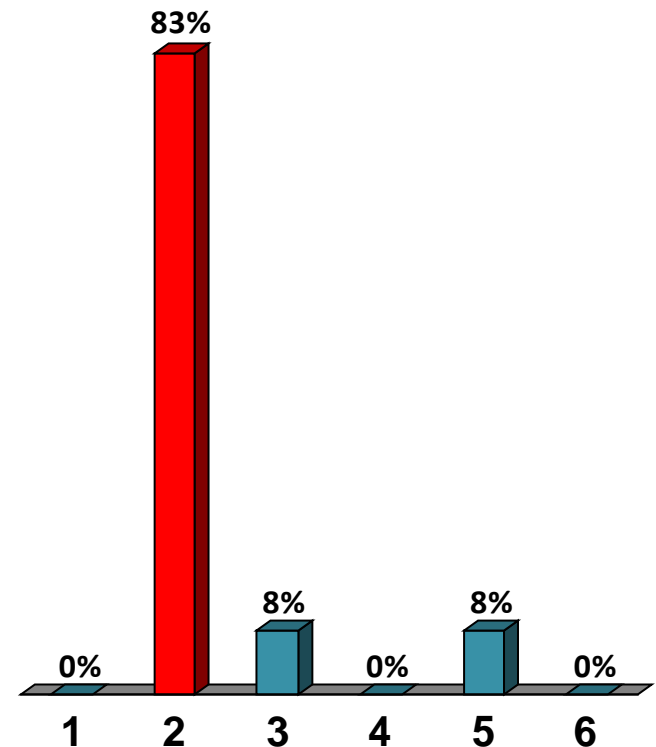
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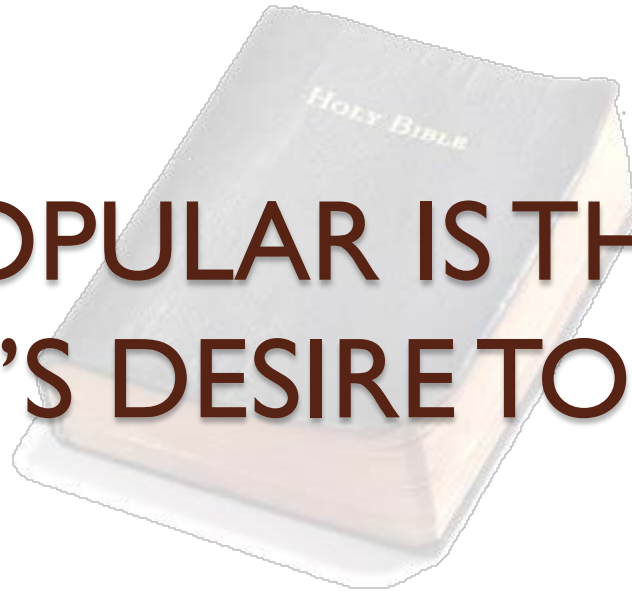
# According to I Corinthians 15, the last enemy that will be destroyed is:

1. Sin
2. Death
3. Satan
4. The world
5. The flesh
6. evildoers

Correct Answer is #2. | Corinthians 15: 26



# HOW POPULAR IS THE BIBLE IN PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO READ IT?





# A Nation of Biblical Illiterates

- A Gallup survey shows that:
  - fewer than half of Americans can name the first book of the Bible (Genesis),
  - only one-third know who delivered the Sermon on the Mount (many named Billy Graham, not Jesus),
  - and one quarter do not know what is celebrated on Easter.
- A 1997 Barna Research poll showed ;
  - 12 percent of Christians think Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.
  - Eighty percent of born-again Christians believe it is the Bible that says "God helps them that help themselves."

•The Baptist Standard, December 4, 2000.





# TEN COMMANDMENTS VERSUS BIG MAC

In conjunction with the October release of the animated feature, “The Ten Commandments”, Kelton Research questioned 1000 Americans on their knowledge of the biblical Ten Commandments.

- Even though 80 % could name the ingredients of a Big Mac (McDonald’s),
- only 60% could name the sixth commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.”

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# WHEATON COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

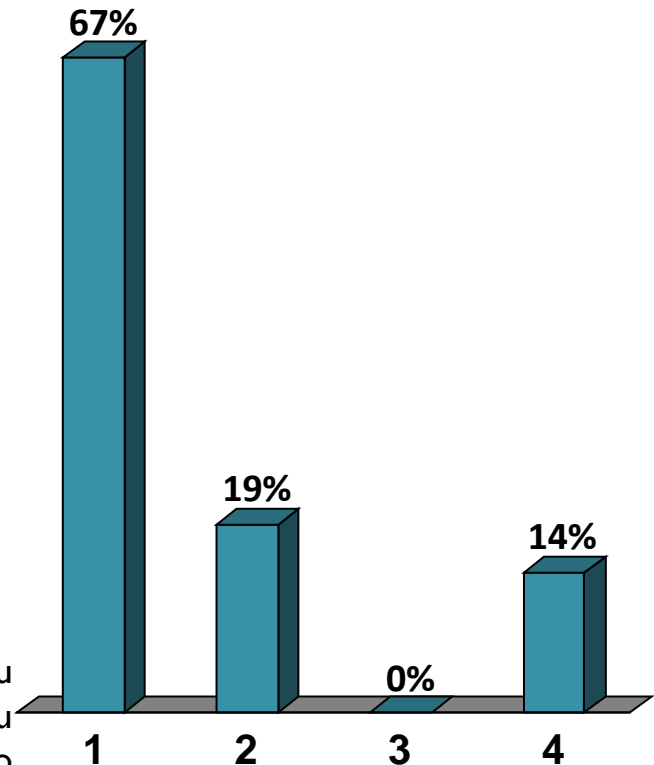
- In an article published in Christianity Today in 1999, Burge wrote about surveys which are administered by Wheaton College to incoming freshmen to assess their knowledge of the Bible. These students, who represent every Protestant denomination in America, are asked basic Bible questions.
- Following are some of the results quoted by Professor Burge:
  - One-third of the students tested could not put the following in sequential order: Abraham, the Old Testament prophets, the death of Christ, and Pentecost.
  - Half could not sequence the following: Moses in Egypt, Isaac's birth, Saul's death, and Judah's exile.
  - One-third could not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names.
  - One-third could not identify the book of Acts as the location of Paul's missionary travels;
  - half did not know that the Christmas story was in Matthew, half did not know that the Passover story was in Exodus.



Gary M. Burge, "***The Greatest Story Never Read***," Christianity Today.

# What are your convictions about the Bible?

1. The Bible is the actual Word of God—it should be taken literally word for word
2. The Bible is the inspired Word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally
3. The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man
4. The Bible becomes the Word of God when you read it.



A proper view of the Bible is that it is the actual Word of God, to be taken literally, rather than merely containing the Word of God. It does not become the Word of God because one reads it but IS the Word of God regardless of our reading or not reading it.

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# **NEXT, LET US POLL YOUR RESPONSES.**

**NOTE: THESE ARE OPINIONS, NOT NECESSARILY CORRECT ANSWERS.**

**These Questions are to:**

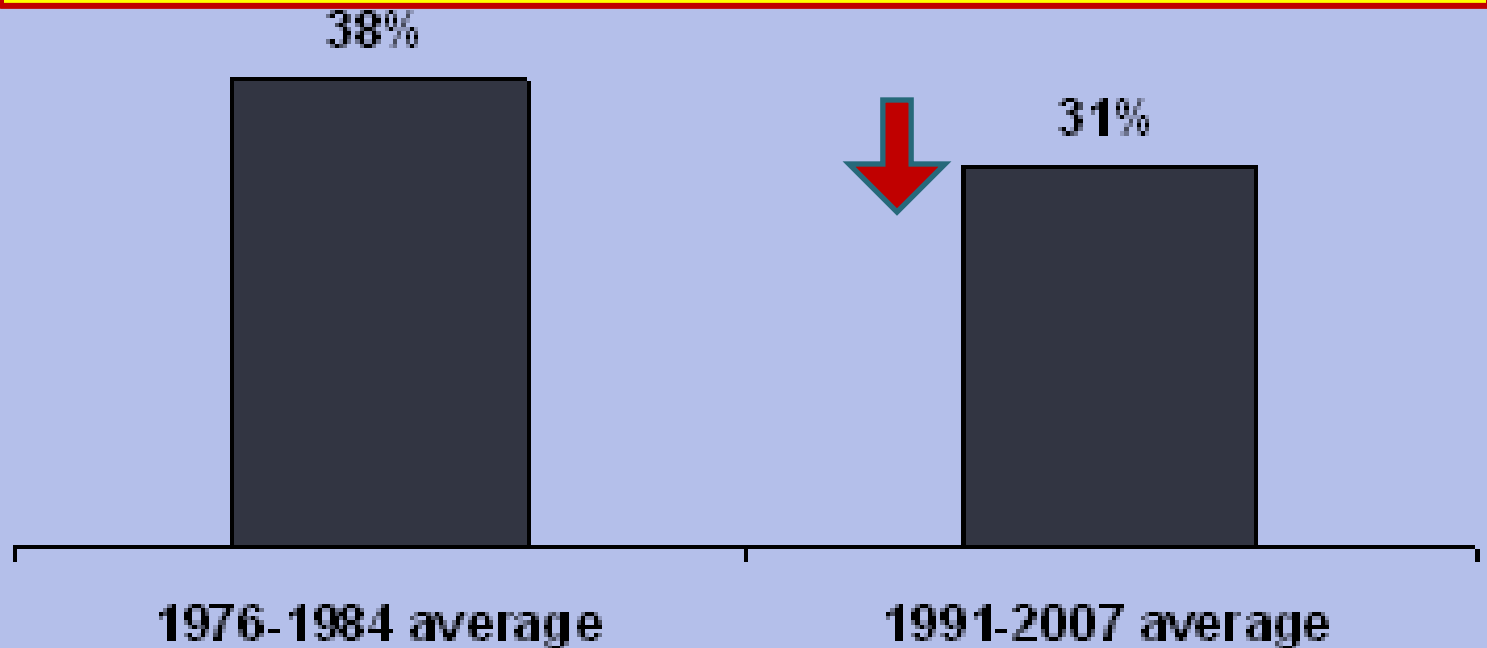
- 1. Stimulate your own thinking regarding the Scriptures**
- 2. Enable you to realize where you stand currently in your reading of the Scriptures**
- 3. Help you to make some decisions regarding what you ought to be doing to change your current trends**



# Gallup Poll--2007

Belief That the Bible Is the Actual Word of God to Be Taken Literally, Word for Word

**DECREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS BELIEVING IN THE BIBLE AS THE ACTUAL WORD OF GOD TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY**



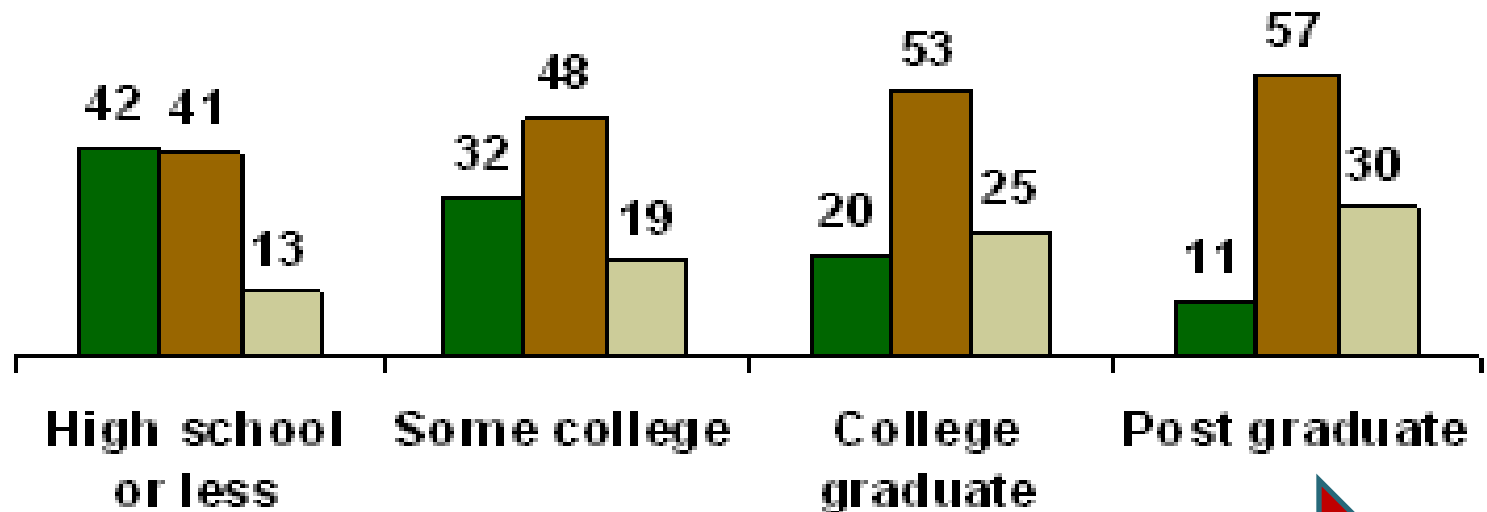
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# Gallup Data sorted by Level of Education

## THE MORE THE EDUCATION, THE LESS THE BELIEF

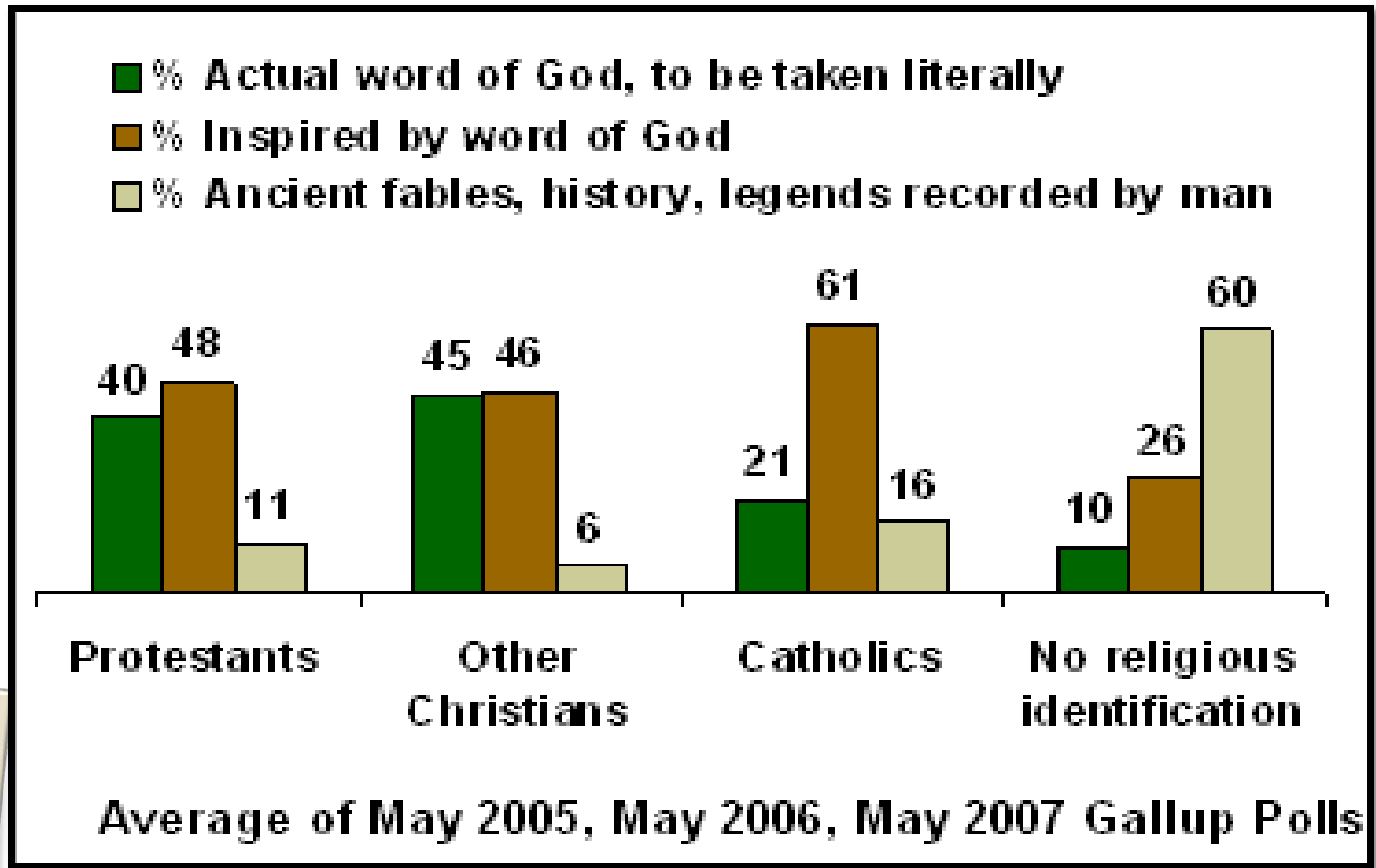
- % Actual word of God, to be taken literally
- % Inspired by word of God
- % Ancient fables, history, legends recorded by man



Average of May 2005, May 2006, May 2007 Gallup Polls

# Gallup Data sorted by Religious groups

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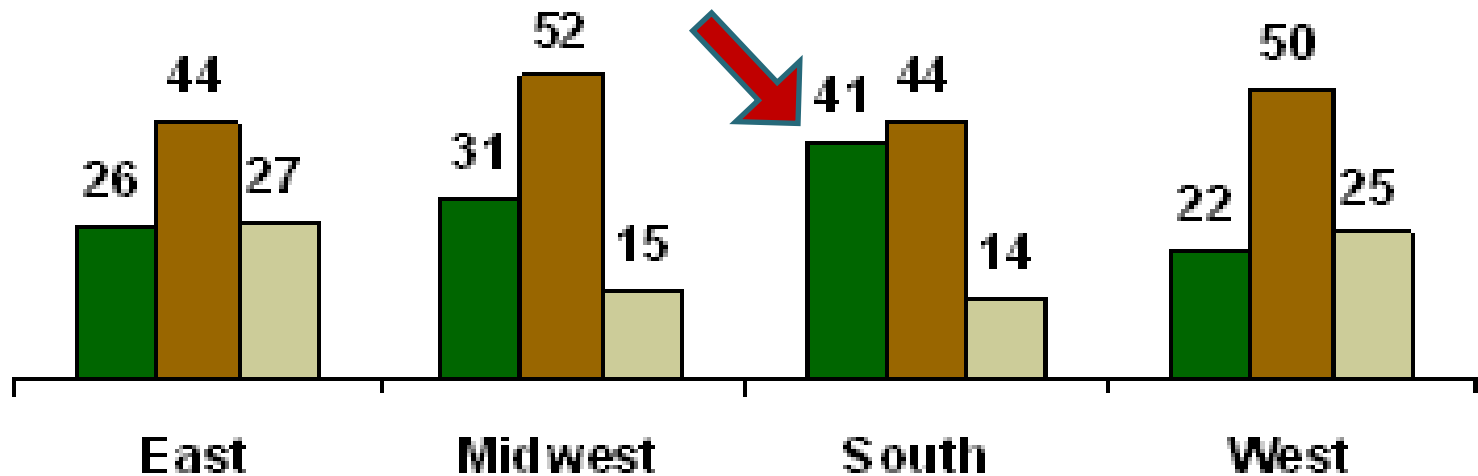


# Gallup Data sorted by Regions

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- % Actual word of God, to be taken literally
- % Inspired by word of God
- % Ancient fables, history, legends recorded by man

**YOU FOLKS IN THE SOUTH TAKE THE PRIZE**



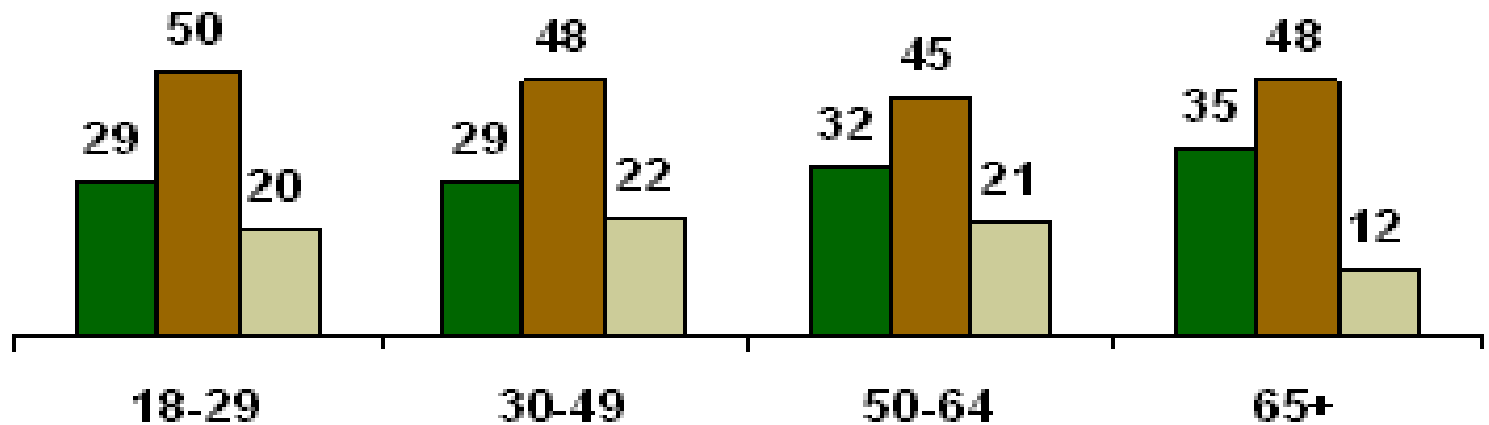
Average of May 2005, May 2006, May 2007 Gallup Polls





# Gallup Data sorted by Age

- % Actual word of God, to be taken literally
- % Inspired by word of God
- % Ancient fables, history, legends recorded by man



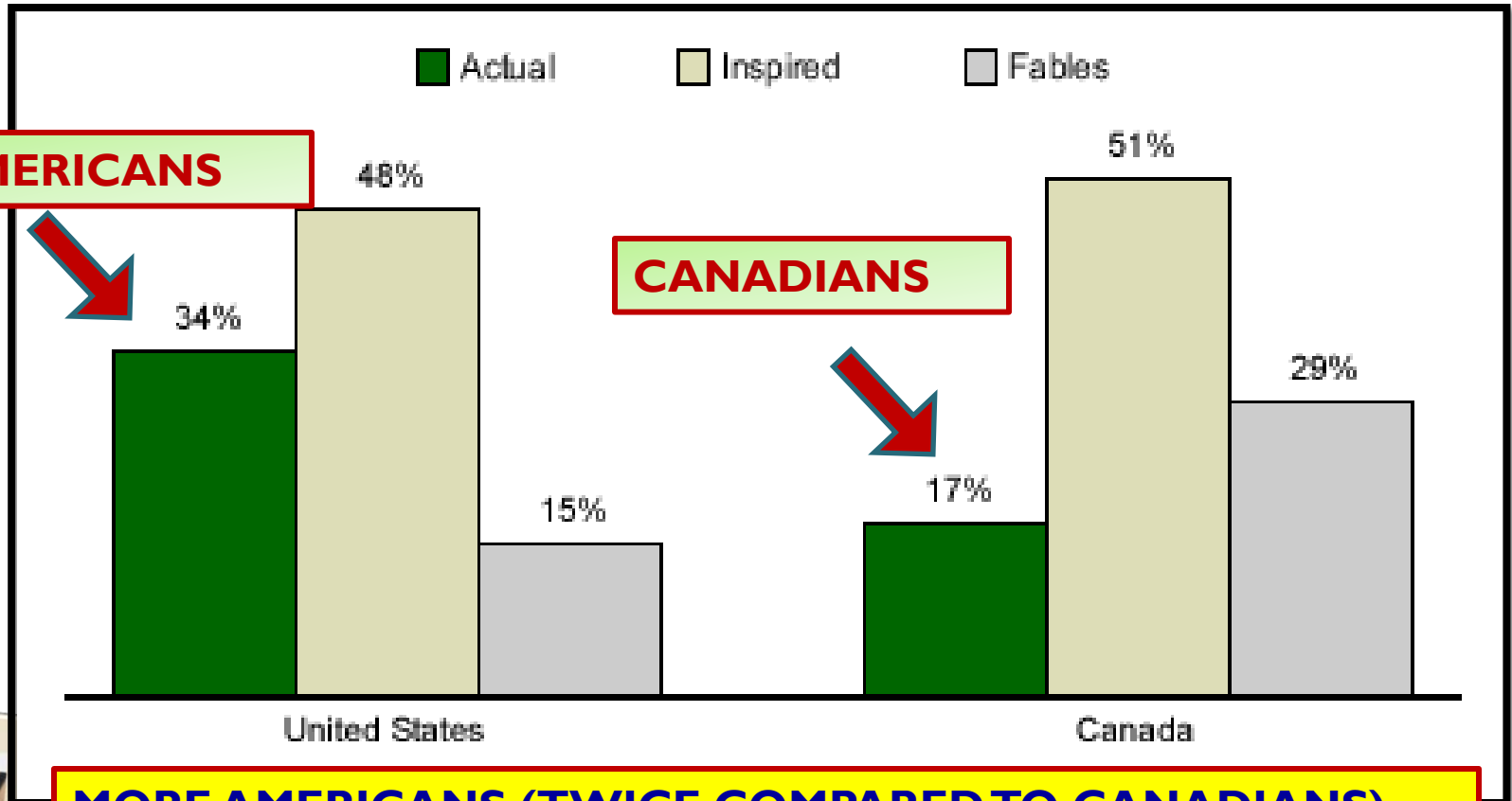
Average of May 2005, May 2006, May 2007 Gallup Polls

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# At the risk of being crucified later... Gallup Data—US versus Canada

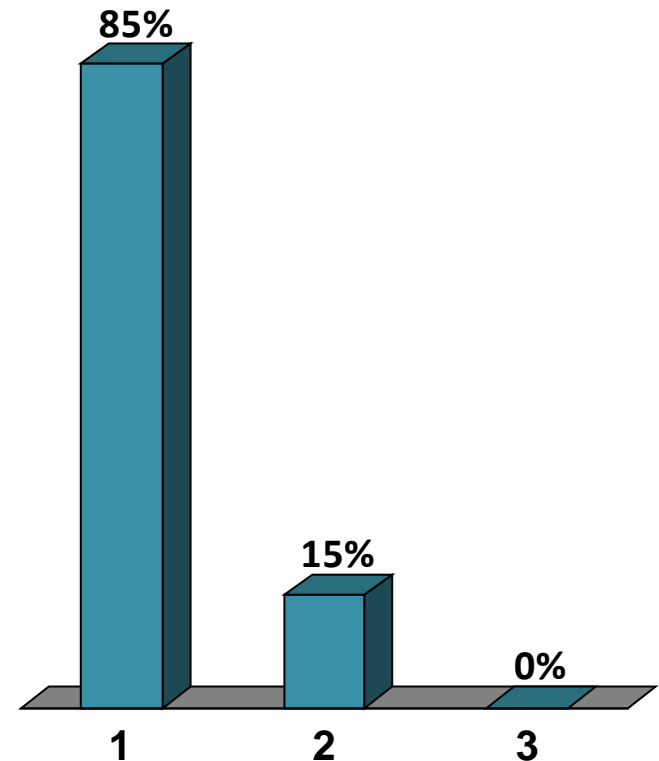
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**MORE AMERICANS (TWICE COMPARED TO CANADIANS) HOLD THE BIBLE TO BE THE ACTUAL LITERAL WORD OF GOD [my wife is Canadian!!]**


# Which statement describes your conviction about the Bible?

1. Today the **ONLY** specific revelation from God that we possess is the Bible comprised of 66 books.
2. The Bible is the primary specific revelation we possess but we may also have dreams, visions, and other revelations that are apart from the Bible
3. The Bible is an important piece of specific revelation but the traditions of the church leaders/fathers are equally important.



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**REVELATION**  
[what God has revealed]

**GENERAL REVELATION**  
[nature/conscience etc.]

**SPECIAL REVELATION**  
[The disclosure of information from God that is not available directly to all human beings]



**THE HEAVENS STILL  
DECLARE THE GLORY OF  
GOD**

**THE ONLY SPECIAL  
REVELATION WE HAVE  
TODAY IS THE BIBLE**

# REVELATION, INSPIRATION, ILLUMINATION

- **REVELATION:** [This] “concerns the material, the information, the content that God has communicated in the form of the Bible”
- **INSPIRATION:** [This] “is a term that describes the process of writing down the disclosure.”
- **ILLUMINATION:** [This] “is the Spirit’s work in providing understanding of the written message”

Taken from the *Handbook Of Bible Study*, written by Paul S. Karleen, Oxford University Press, electronic version, © 1994

THE QUESTION WE NEED TO ASK IS: ARE THE SCRIPTURES SUFFICIENT OR DO WE NEED SOMETHING BESIDE THE SCRIPTURES, SUCH AS VISIONS, DREAMS, SO-CALLED “DIRECT PERSONAL REVELATIONS”, TRADITIONS ETC. TO SUPPLEMENT THE SCRIPTURES

**TODAY THERE IS MUCH RELIANCE ON  
EXPERIENCE OVER TRUTH.  
FEELINGS REIGN SUPREME OVER  
SUBSTANCE.**

**MOST POPULAR TEACHERS—ESPECIALLY  
WOMEN TEACHERS LEAD THE TRAIN OF  
SUCH ABERRANT THINKING AND  
TEACHING. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE  
SEEM TO CLAIM DIRECT PERSONAL  
COMMUNICATION FROM GOD APART  
FROM THE SCRIPTURES.**

## D. Martin Lloyd-Jones writes:

Let us imagine I follow the mystic way. I begin to have **experiences**. I think God is speaking to me; how do I know it is God who is speaking to me? **How can I know I am not speaking to man**; how can I be sure I am not **the victim of hallucinations**, since this has happened to many of the mystics? If I believe in mysticism as such without the Bible, how do I know I am not being **deluded by Satan as an angel of light** in order to keep me from the true and living God? I have no standard... The evangelical doctrine tells me not to look into myself but to look into the Word of God; not to examine myself, but to look at the revelation that has been given to me. It tells me that God can only be known in His own way, the way which has been revealed in the Scriptures themselves.

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martin, ***Fellowship With God***, Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL. 1993; pg. 95



# EVEN IN THE SCRIPTURES, GOD DID NOT SPEAK TO EVERYONE!!

“As to the issue of God speaking to almost everyone in the Scriptures, that is simply not true. The average believer in either Testament never heard a personal word from God, and even the majority of key players never heard the voice of God personally. When God did speak in Scripture it almost always dealt with the big picture of what God was doing in the outworking of His redemption program or the life of His people in general. You will search in vain to find God telling people what job to take, how many donkeys to buy, or what land to purchase—except as it was related to the bigger issue of God’s dealings with His people.”

Gilley, Gary E., *Is That You Lord? Hearing The Voice Of The Lord*, Evangelical Press USA, Webster, NY, 2007; pg. 71





Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



### OLD TESTAMENT INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED DIRECT PERSONAL REVELATION (not prophets)

NAME	ONCE	TWICE	MORE THAN TWICE
Noah and his sons			6 X
Job	√		
Abraham			16 X
Abimelech	√		
Isaac		√	
Rebekah	√		
Jacob			8X
Sarah (heard God talking to Abraham)	√		
Pharaoh	√		
Laban	√		
Moses			At least 85X
Aaron			14X
Miriam	√		
Joshua			14X
Gideon		√	
Manoah & wife	√		
Samuel (before he began his prophetic ministry)	√		
David			6X
Solomon			3X



# The Law of Non-contradiction

## A is not non-A

- For example, we cannot make the statement **God Exists (A)** and **God doesn't exist (non-A)** in the same sense.
- If my wife sent me to the grocery store asking me to buy milk and I reasoned to myself, “milk (A) is the same as non-milk (non-A)” and with that reasoning I went ahead and bought oranges, I know my wife will be quite displeased.
- **A claim to Direct personal revelation Undermines Sufficiency Of Scriptures**

Thus, to claim the sufficiency of Scripture and to also state that we need new revelations today is to make this nonsensical statement: **Scripture is sufficient (A)** and **Scripture is not sufficient (non-A)**.

**Now many people who make such claims do not realize that they are uttering nonsense. They are generally very sincere in their claim; they really believe that God speaks to us today, having closed the canon of Scripture.**

- **Geisler writes:** “In fact, the law of noncontradiction is so absolutely fundamental to the most basic of ethical assertions that an act (or intention) cannot be both good and evil at the same time and in the same sense. As Isaiah put it: “Woe be to those who call evil good and good evil” (Isa 5:20). In short, unless one begins with the premise that A is not non-A (all that is good is not nongood), how could he ever be anything but a total ethical relativist? If logic does not apply to all ethical statements, then when the Bible commands “love” it could mean “hate.”

Geisler, Norman L., ***Avoid... Contradictions (1 Timothy 6:20): A Reply to John Dahms***, Journal Of The Evangelical Theological Society, Vol. 22 No. 1 (March 1979); pg 61





# GOD CAN SPEAK AUDIBLY TODAY BUT HE HAS CHOSEN TO SPEAK ONLY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES.

- GOD HAS THE ABILITY TO SPEAK BUT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO SPEAK—ALL SPECIFIC REVELATION WE NOW POSSESS IS FOUND IN THE 66 BOOKS OF THE CLOSED CANON OF SCRIPTURES
- When the Church age comes to a close, He will speak again. When He does he will have fresh new revelations for us. As is true in each stage of redemptive history, the Word of God then available was sufficient for that stage. On this aspect of revelation, Grudem writes:

*“The doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture does not imply that God cannot add any more words to those he has already spoken to his people. It rather implies that **man cannot add on his own initiative any words to those that God has already spoken.** Furthermore, it implies that in fact God has not spoken to mankind any more words which he requires us to believe or obey other than those which we have now in the Bible.*”

This point is important, for it helps us to understand how God could tell his people that his words to them were sufficient at many different points in the history of redemption, and how he could nevertheless add to those words later. For example, in Deuteronomy 29: 29 Moses says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of the law.”

This verse reminds us that God has always taken the initiative in revealing things to us. He has decided what to reveal and what not to reveal. At each stage in redemptive history, the things that God had revealed were for his people for that time, and they were to study, believe, and obey those things. With further progress in the history of redemption, more of God’s words were added, recording and interpreting that history...

Grudem, Wayne, *The Sufficiency Of Scripture, Systematic Theology, IVP, England and Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI. 1994; pgs. 129-130*

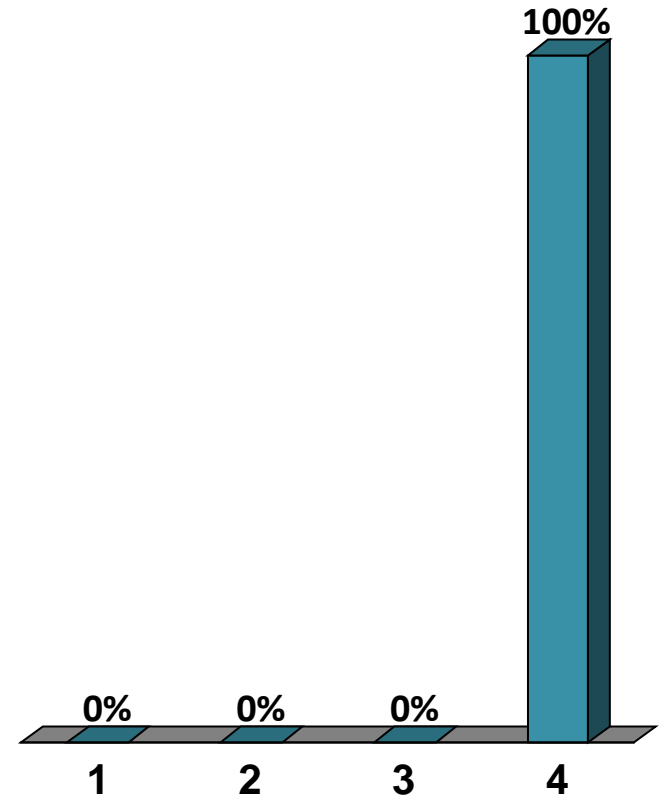
# “GOD’S WORD, THE BIBLE, IS HIS VOICE”



D. L. Moody said, something to this effect:  
When I pray, I am speaking to God, When I  
preach, I am speaking to people, but when I  
read God’s Word, God is speaking to me

# How many Bibles are there in your household?

1. None
2. One
3. Two
4. More than Two



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## Here are some statistics from the Barna Research Group:

- Among households which own a Bible, the typical count is three Bibles per household. (1993)
- Almost every household in America (92%) owns at least one copy of the Christian Bible. This includes most homes in which the adults are not practicing Christians as well as the homes of hundreds of thousands of atheists. (1993)

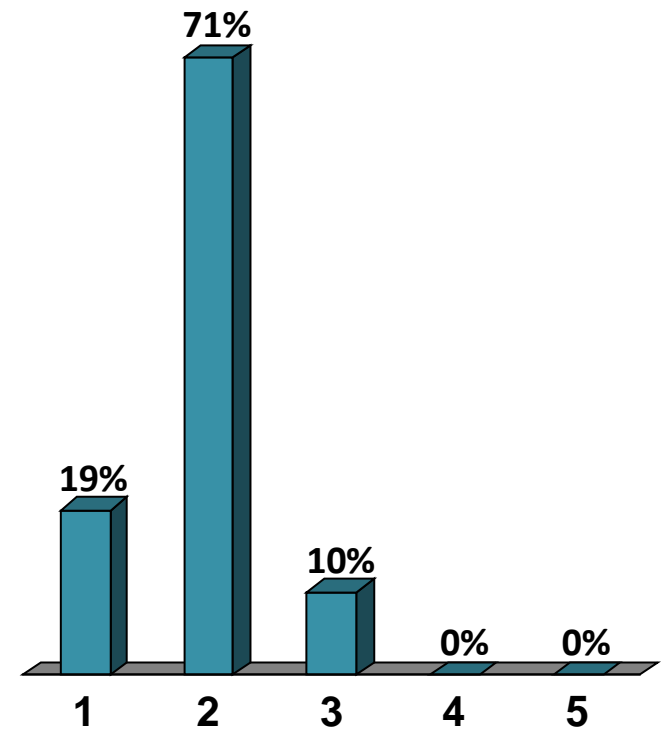
Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# How OFTEN on average do you read your Bible?

1. Daily
2. At least once Weekly
3. At least once Monthly
4. Once in a while but less than monthly
5. Never



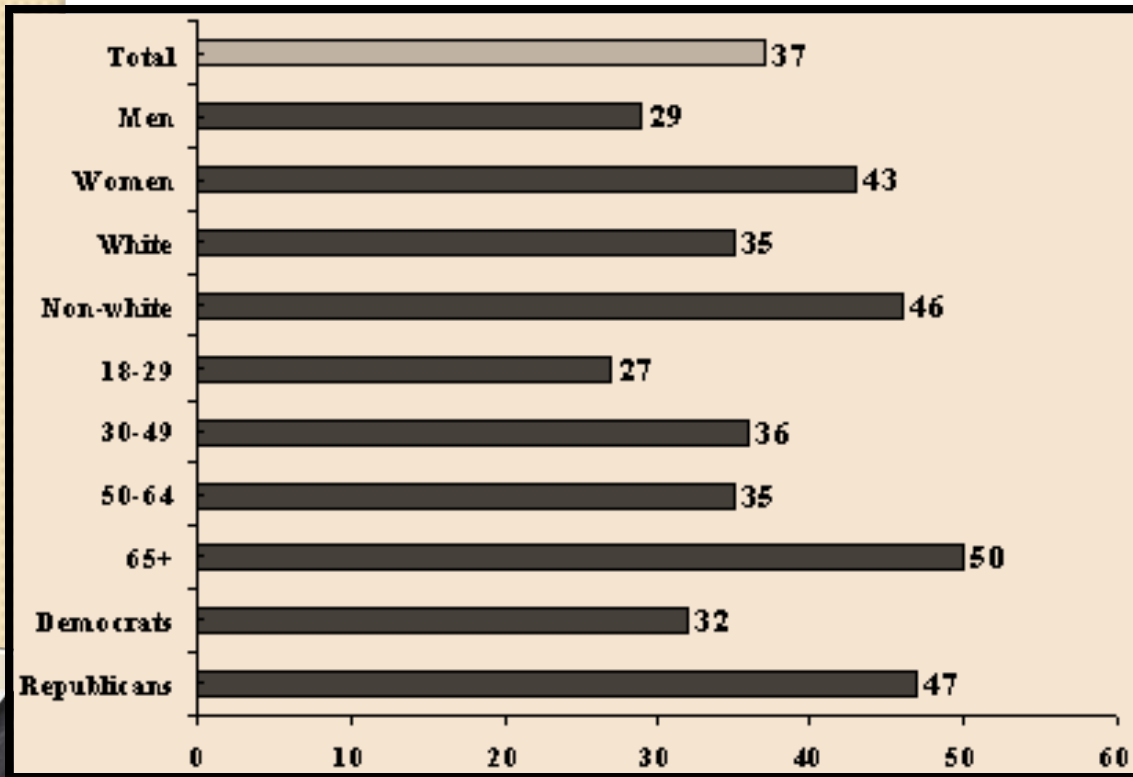
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*How often do you read the Bible – daily or more often, monthly, less than monthly, or rarely or never?*

## % Saying "Daily or Weekly"



**PEOPLE WHO  
TEND TO  
READ THE  
BIBLES DAILY  
OR WEEKLY:**

- **Women**
- **Non-White**
- **65 Years and older**
- **Republicans**

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

± 3% Margin of Error

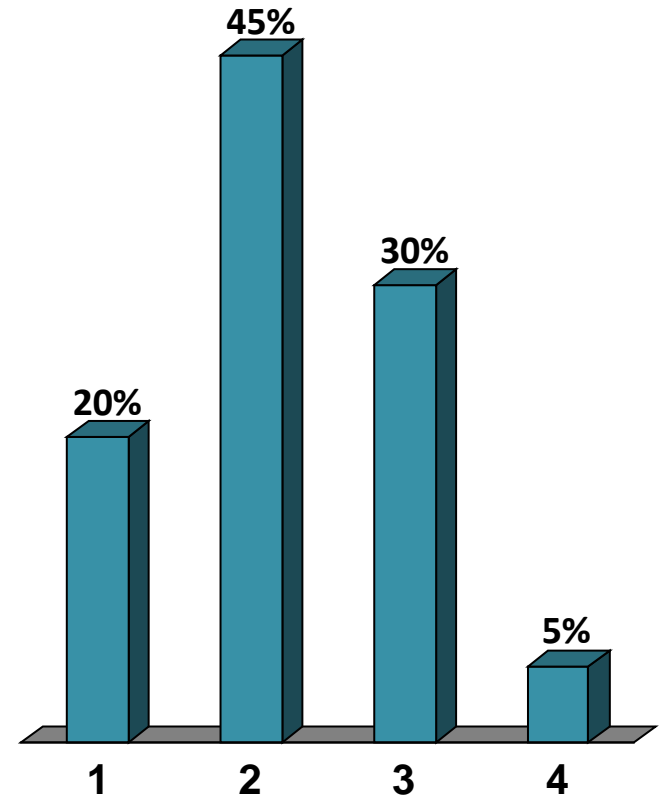
October 6-9, 2000

Sample Size=1,052



# How much minimum TIME on average do you spend reading your Bible on a given day?

1. 15 minutes or less
2. 15-30 minutes
3. 30-60 minutes
4. More than 1 hour



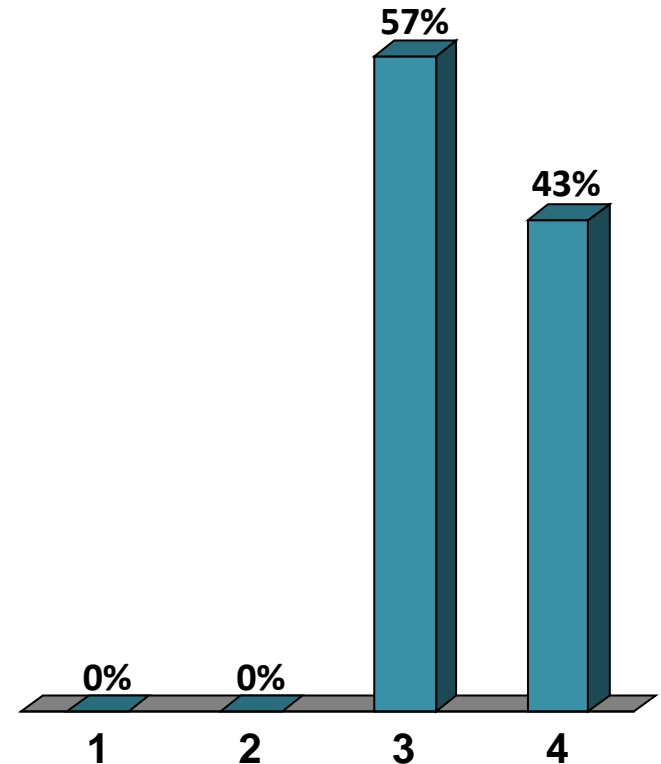
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# When you read your Bible, How MUCH do you read on average on a given day?

1. No more than 1 VERSE
2. About 1 PARAGRAPH
3. About 1 CHAPTER
4. MORE than 1 Chapter



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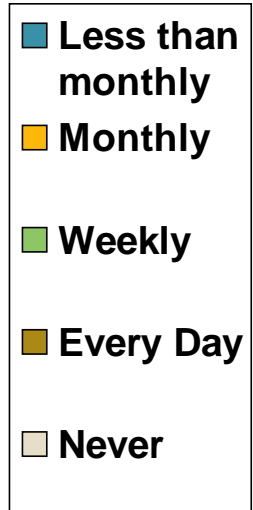
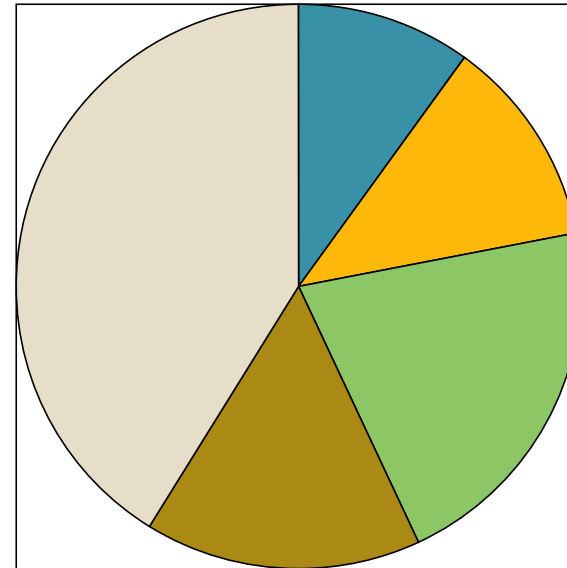




# Gallup Poll for 2000

In terms of frequency of readership:

- 16% of Americans say that they read the Bible every day,
- 21% say they read it weekly,
- 12% say they read the Bible monthly,
- 10% say less than monthly and
- 41% say that they rarely or never read the Bible.





# Gallup Poll for 2000

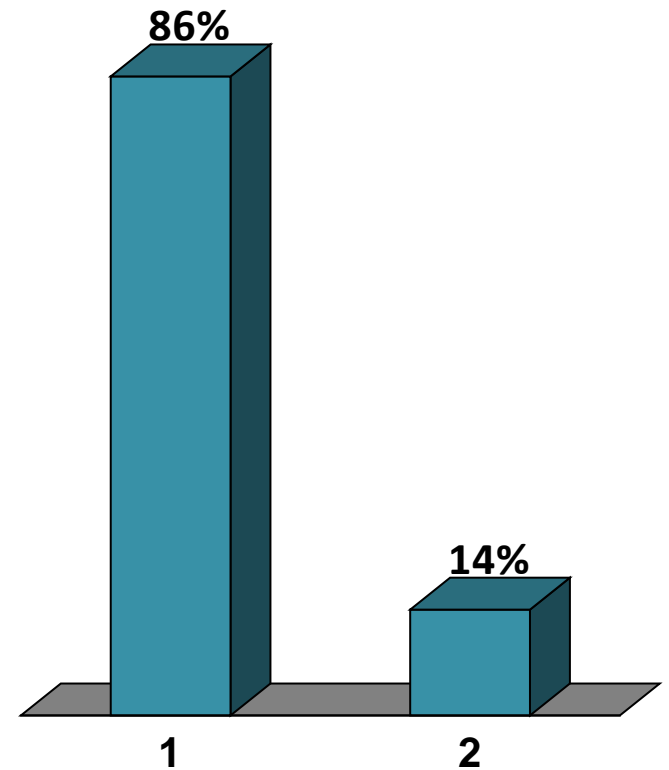
- About six in ten Americans (59%) say they read the Bible at least on occasion
- Readership of the Bible has declined from the 1980s overall, from 73% to 59% today.
- The percentage of frequent readers, that is, those who read the Bible at least once a week, has decreased slightly over the last decade, from 40% in 1990 to 37% today.

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



# Have you ever read the Bible on an electronic device, such as computer, smart phone etc?

1. Yes
2. No

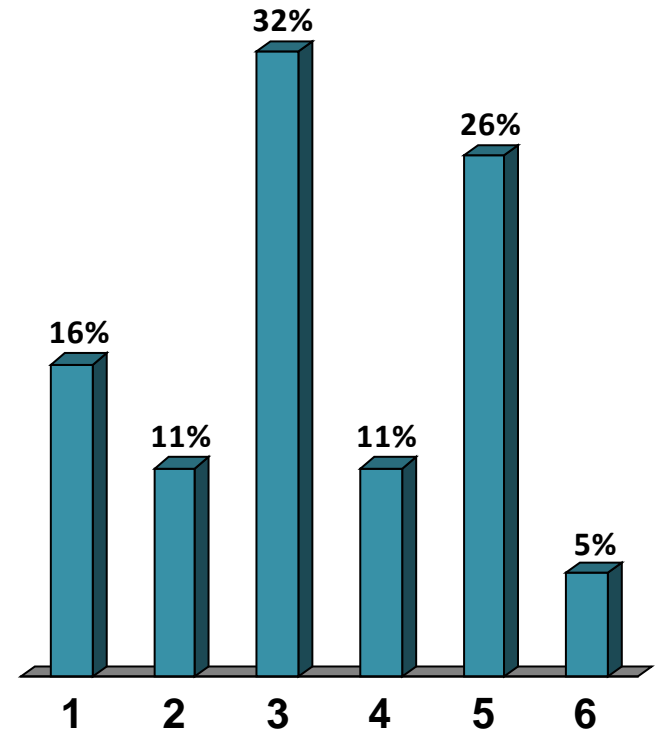


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# Which of the following do you use?

1. Internet (such as Bible Gateway etc.)
2. E-SWORD or another downloaded software
3. Android or I-phone or I-PAD or Kindle or similar app-oriented electronic devices
4. None of the above
5. More than one of the above
6. All of the above

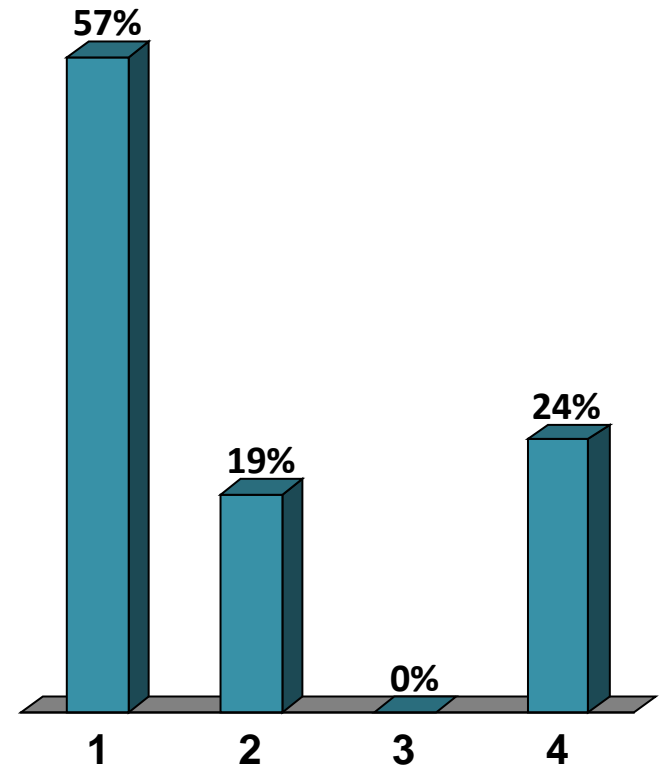


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# Have you ever read through the Bible systematically from Genesis to Revelation?

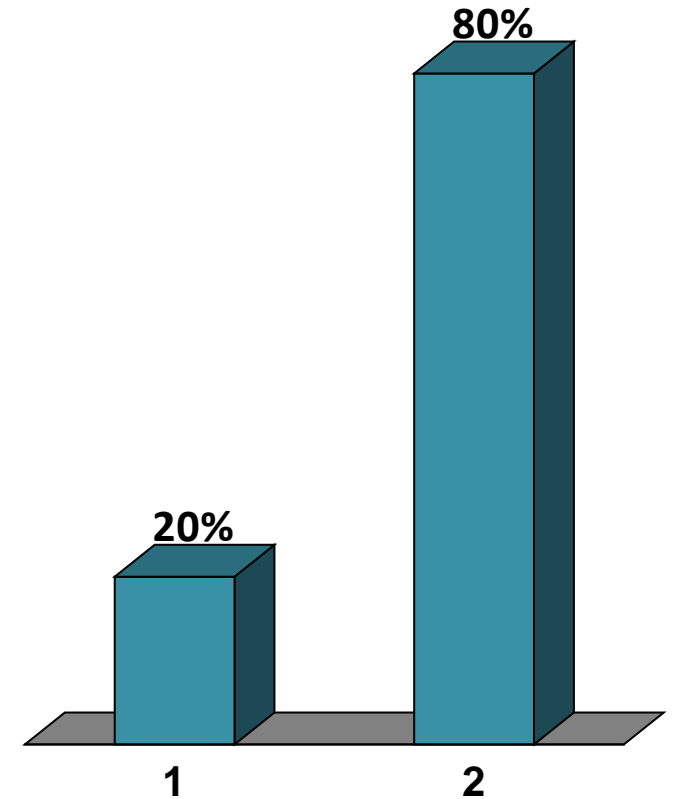
1. NEVER
2. ONCE
3. TWICE
4. MORE THAN TWICE



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Have you ever read through the Bible chronologically (i.e. as the events presumably occurred in time-space history)?

1. YES
2. NO

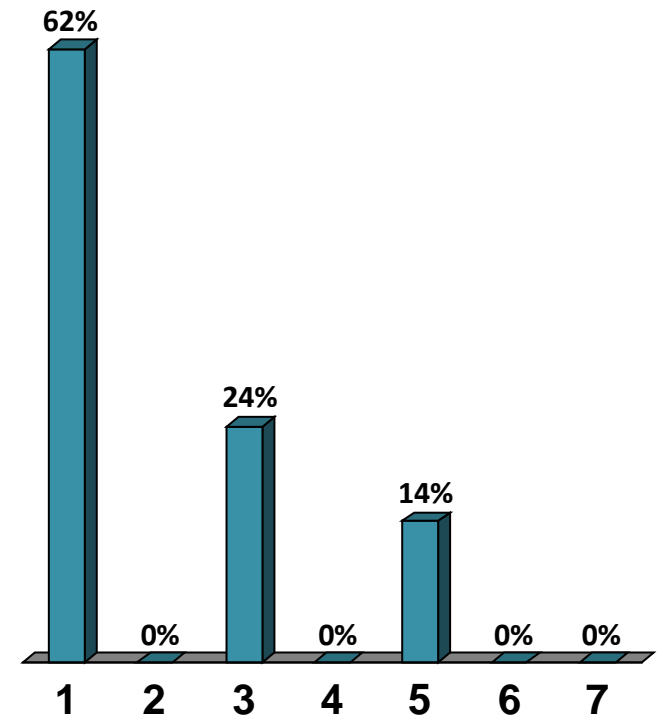


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# What English VERSION of the Bible are you MOST comfortable with?

1. King James Version (KJV)
2. New American Standard Bible (NASB)
3. New King James Version (NKJV)
4. English Standard Version (ESV)
5. New International Version 1984 (NIV84)
6. New English Translation (NET)
7. Other



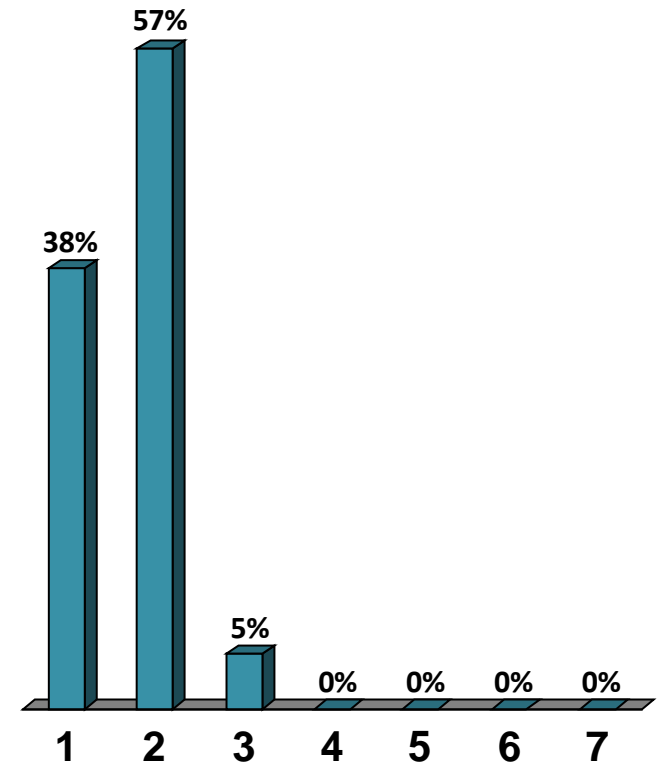
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# What do you think hinders CHRISTIANS from reading their Bibles daily?

1. Lack of desire
2. Busy Lifestyle
3. Difficulty understanding
4. Lack of support from family
5. Fear of Persecution
6. Don't own a Bible
7. Other



Cross-tab label







# So why aren't people reading the Bible?

- Tyndale House Publishers did a survey to find the answer to this perplexing question.
  - Their survey showed that 64 percent of Americans said they did not read the Bible because **they are too busy**.
  - Eighty percent said the Bible is **too confusing and hard to understand**.

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



The Baptist Standard, December 4, 2000.



# Bible ILLITERACY

Woodrow Kroll, president of Back to the Bible, had this to say about Bible illiteracy:

“When we speak of creeping Bible illiteracy in America, we are not talking about the inability to read but the **choice not to read...**”

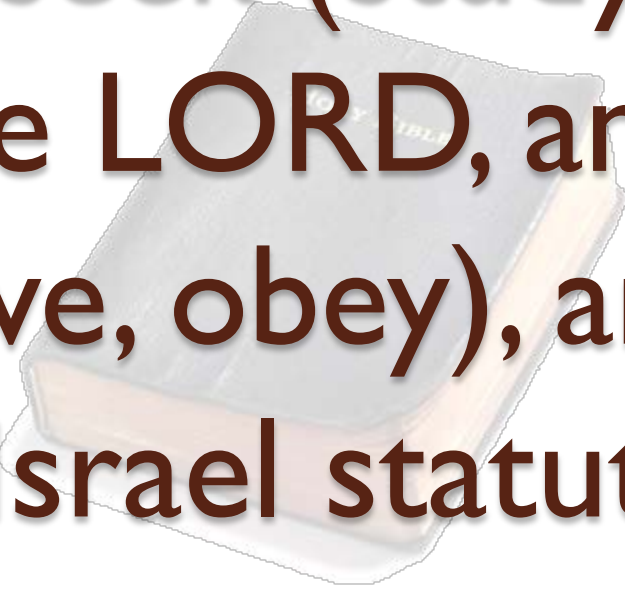
This failure to read the Bible consistently, or to hear its truth consistently, is the major factor in Bible illiteracy in America. It is an epidemic in ...America.”

Woodrow Kroll, “The New America and the New Bible Illiteracy” June 27, 2007.

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



For [he] had prepared his heart to seek (study) the law of the LORD, and to do it (observe, obey), and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

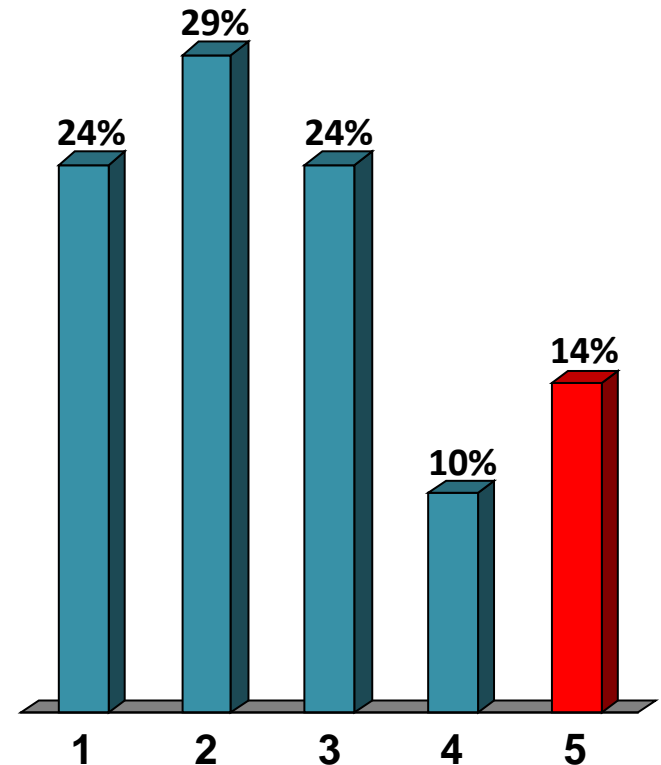


READ THE ABOVE PASSAGE AND  
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT  
FOLLOW

# Who is the person that the passage is referring to?

1. Gideon
2. Samuel
3. Moses
4. Joshua
5. Ezra

Correct Answer is #5.

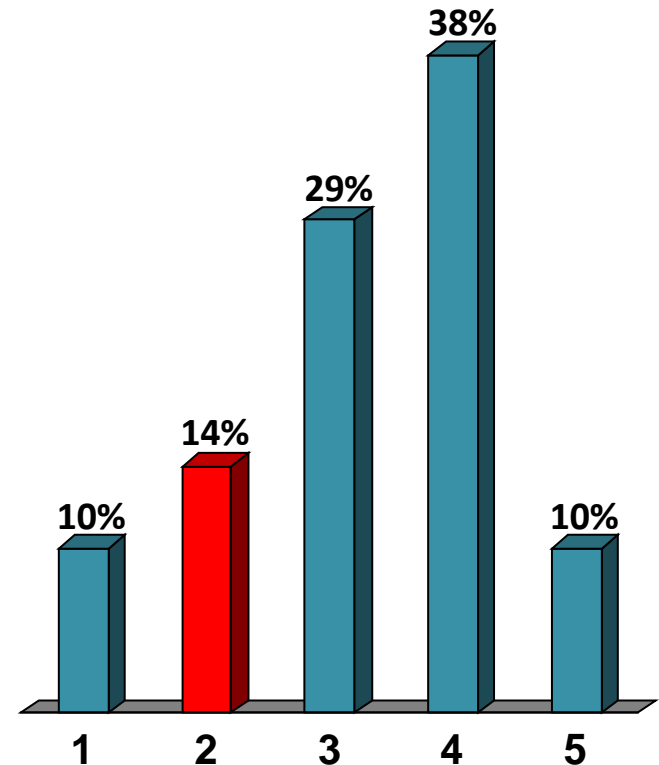


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According to the passage what is the second thing that he did, regarding God's Law (Word)?

1. Read
2. Applied
3. Studied
4. Meditated
5. Taught

Correct Answer is #2.



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For Ezra had prepared his heart to  
(1) seek (study) the law of the LORD,  
**STUDY COMES FIRST**

(2) and to do it (apply, observe, obey),  
**APPLICATION COMES NEXT**

(3) and to teach in Israel statutes and  
judgments.

**TEACHING FOLLOWS**

**STUDY** → **APPLY** → **TEACH**

**EZRA 7: 10**



# Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein

day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (KJV)

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

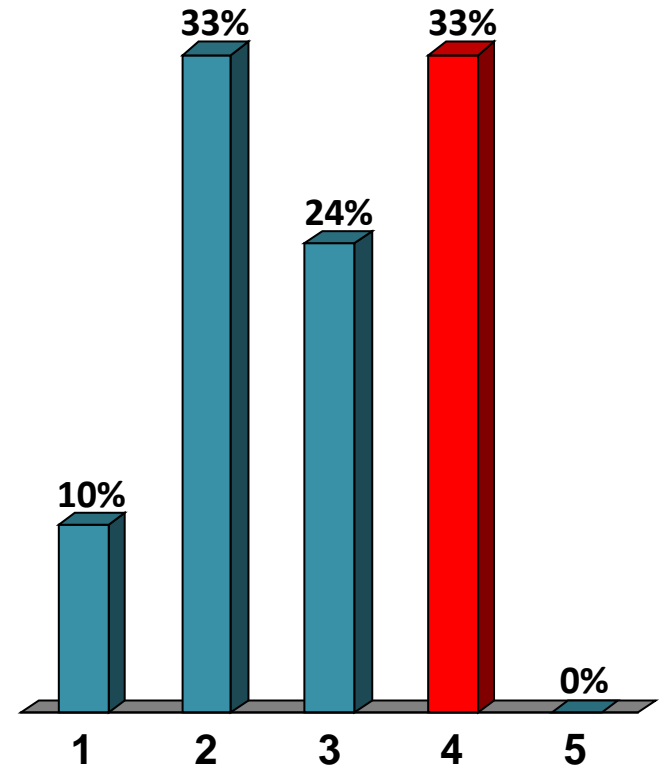




# The Lord spoke these words to whom?

1. Gideon
2. Samuel
3. Moses
4. Joshua
5. Ezra

Correct Answer is #4.



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# The Lord to Joshua (Joshua 1:8)



BIBLE (THE TORAH)

“This book of the law shall not depart

out of thy mouth; but thou shalt

meditate therein

day and night, that thou mayest

observe to do according to all that is

written therein: for then thou shalt

make thy way prosperous, and then

thou shalt have good success.” (KJV)

“LIPS”—HAVING TO DO WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE LIPS IN READING, AND RECITATION LIKELY PUBLICLY

“CONSTANTLY”

THE OUTCOME:  
1. A Prosperous way  
2. Success

“REFLECT”, “MUSE”, “PONDER”, “THINK”. IT ALSO MEANS “READ IN UNDERTONES” (QUIET RECITATION)

“CAREFULLY APPLY” OR “DILIGENTLY OBEY”





# The LORD's instruction to Joshua in Joshua 1:8 regarding the Law (i.e. God's Word)

- **Read and Recite**
- **Meditate (reflect) constantly**
- **Apply and obey**
- **Blessings will follow**

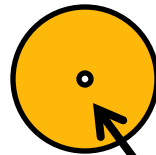
Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# A Qualitative Assessment Of What We Normally Do:

**MEMORIZING IS HARD WORK AND REQUIRES THE MOST AMOUNT OF TIME. THIS ACTIVITY IS IMPORTANT BUT WILL NOT RESULT IN THE READER GOING THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE, i.e. MEMORIZING THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN HIS OR HER LIFETIME. ONE CAN ONLY MEMORIZE A VERY SMALL PORTION OF THE BIBLE, ON AVERAGE.**

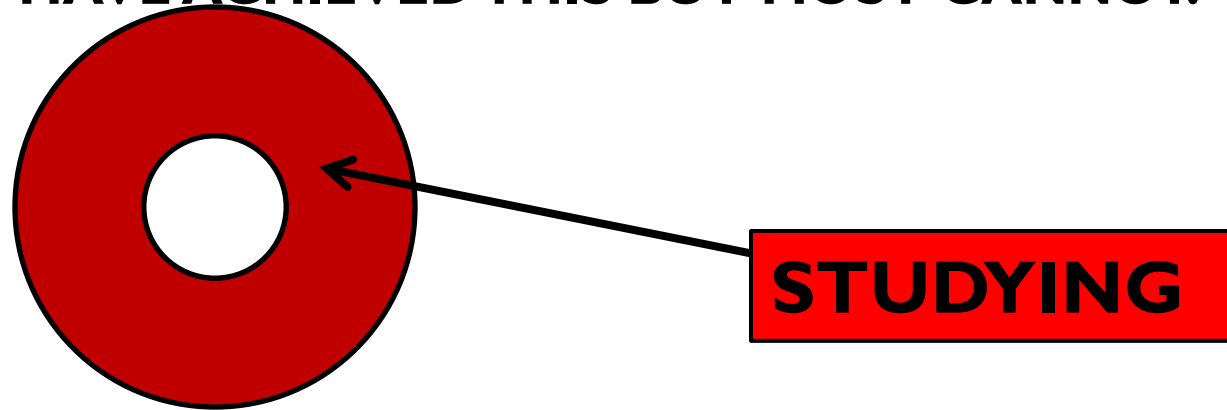


**MEMORIZING**



# A Qualitative Assessment Of What We Normally Do:

**WE CAN DO MORE STUDYING THAN MEMORIZING, BUT FOR MOST OF US, WE WILL NEVER STUDY THE ENTIRE BIBLE ADEQUATELY IN OUR LIFETIME. SOME HAVE ACHIEVED THIS BUT MOST CANNOT.**

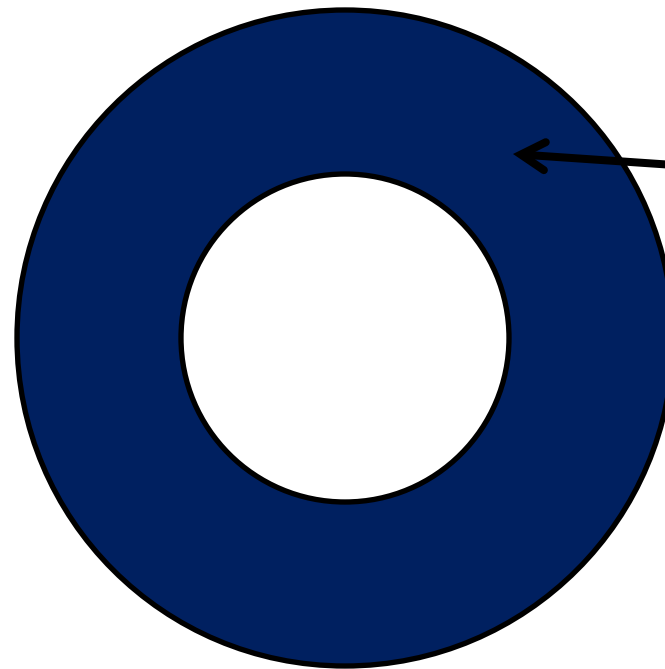


Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



# A Qualitative Assessment Of What We Normally Do:

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012



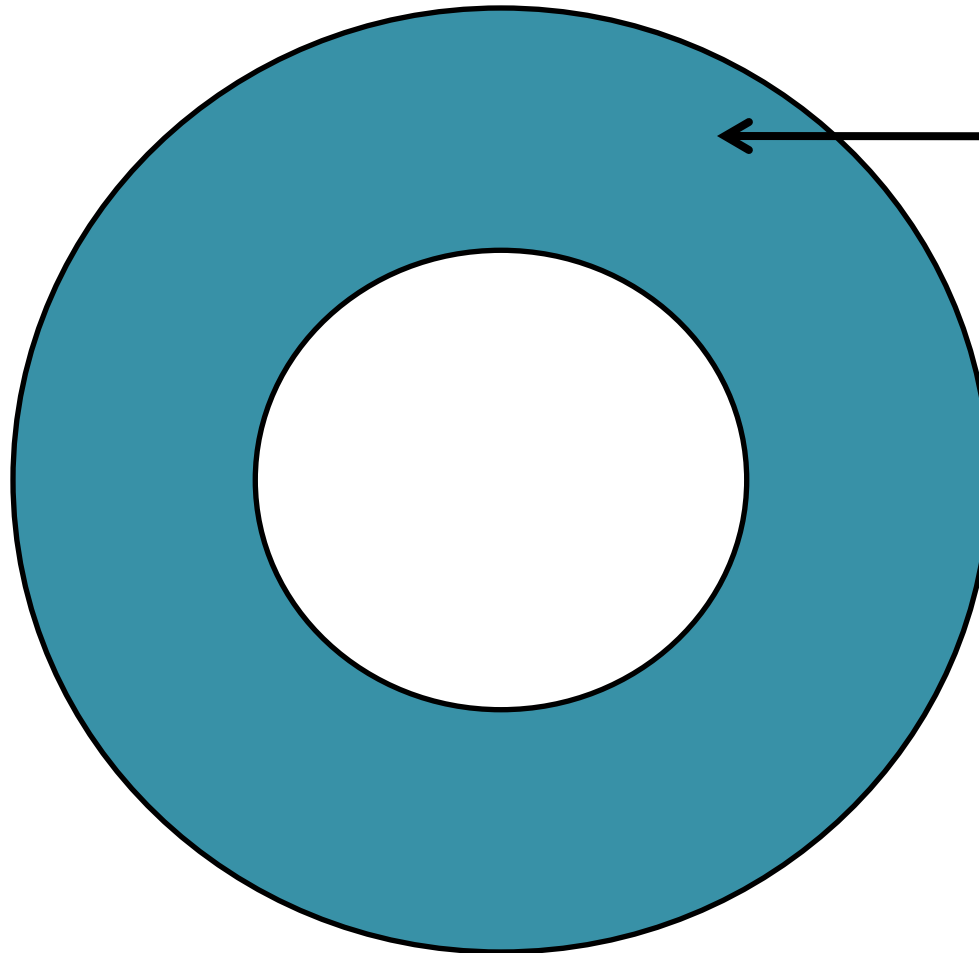
**REFLECTING**

**REFLECTION FOR MANY CHRISTIANS IS A CONTINUAL ACTIVITY. WE REFLECT ON ANYTHING WE HAVE READ MULTIPLE TIMES DURING THE DAY. BUT MOST OF US CANNOT REFLECT ON THE ENTIRE SCRIPTURE IN ITS ENTIRETY**

# A Qualitative Assessment Of What We Normally Do:



Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

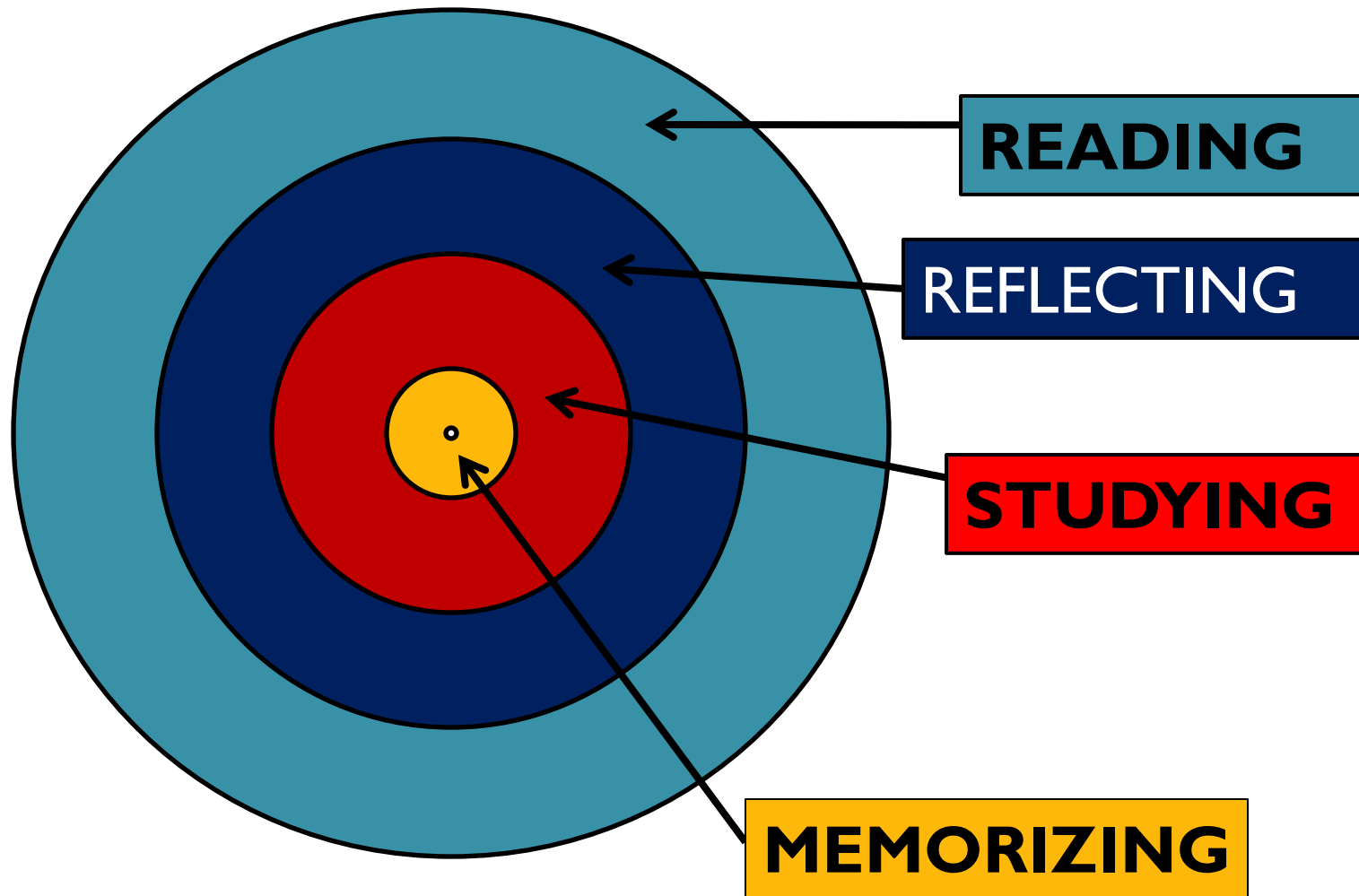


**READING**

**WE CAN ALL READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE THROUGH. THIS IS ONE ACTIVITY WHERE WE CAN COMPLETE 100% OF THE CONTENT OF THE BIBLE.**



# A Qualitative Assessment Of What We Normally Do:



Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

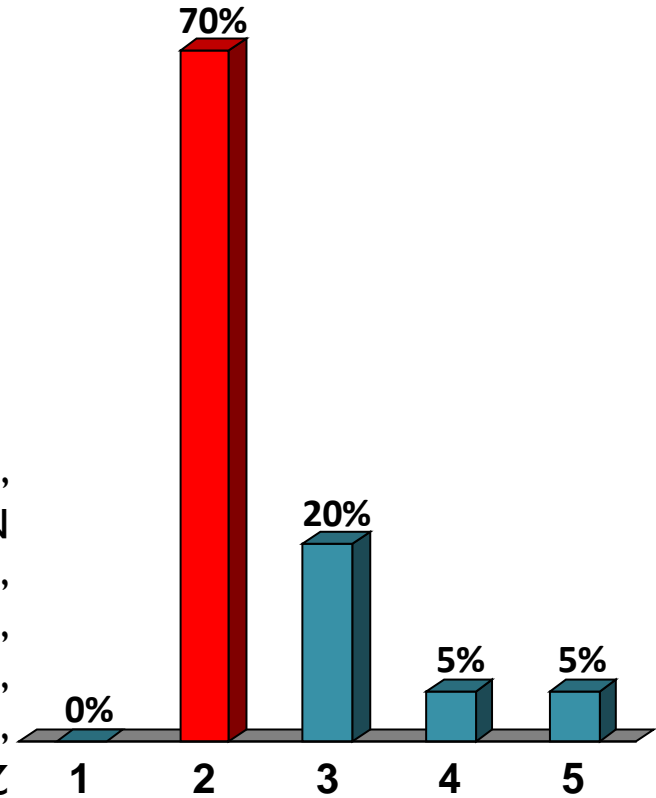


# Who uttered the phrase “Have you not read?” in the New Testament?

1. Peter
2. Jesus
3. Paul
4. John
5. Matthew

Correct Answer is #2. **JESUS**. Mentioned 11 times in the NT:

“Have ye not read what David did” (Mat. 12: 3, Mar. 2: 25, Luk. 6: 3)  
 “Have ye not READ in the law” (Mat. 12: 5)  
 “Have ye not READ” (Mat. 19: 4)  
 “Have ye never READ” (Mat. 21: 16)  
 “Did ye never READ in the scriptures” (Mat. 21: 42, Mar. 12: 10)  
 “Have ye not READ” (Mat. 22: 31, Mar. 12: 26)



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# Nehemiah 8: 1-12

I/4

And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and **they spake** unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. Ezra the priest **brought the law before the congregation both of men and women**, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

And he **read** therein before the street that was before the water gate **from the morning until midday**, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and **the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.**

Note the following:

- The people spoke—the people were eager to find out what was in the law
- Ezra brings the scroll before the people
- Ezra read from the law
- This reading lasted several hours (probably 6 hours!)
- The people paid close attention to the book of the law

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# Nehemiah 8: 1-12

2/4

And **Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood**, which they had made for the purpose; and **beside him stood** Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. And Ezra **opened the book in the sight of all the people**; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, **all the people stood up**:

- Ezra stands in a place of prominence to read the scroll—it was NOT a pulpit but a towering platform. Thus Ezra showed **reverence to the LAW (the Word)**
- Flanking him on either side were the priests. They were also standing, showing **reverence to the Word.**
- Ezra publicly opened the book—a practice that provided a visible reminder to people of the importance of this Book.
- The people stood up showing their **reverence for the Book.**

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# Nehemiah 8: 1-12

3/4

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

And Ezra **blessed the LORD, the great God.** And all the people answered, **Amen, Amen**, with lifting up their hands: and **they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD** with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, **and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law:** and **the people stood in their place.**

Reading allows us to find out—**What do the Scriptures say?**

Interpreting allows us to find out—**What do the Scriptures mean?**

(**Not what the Scripture means to me!**)

- Ezra prayed during the reading of the LAW, giving glory to God and the people responded with AMEN—this is a great practice when reading the Word.
- They worshipped the Lord
- **The Levites dispersed among the crowd of close to 50,000 people and explained the readings to the people.**
- The people continued to stand for several hours without moving!





# What is Biblical Interpretation?

- **What it is not:**

- **It is not one's subjective understanding of the text**—i.e. “what this passage means to me...” McArthur writes: **“Unfortunately, a lot of Bible studies are nothing but a pooling of ignorance; a lot of people sitting around telling what they don't know about the verse.”** (John MacArthur in *How To Study The Bible*, Moody Press, © 1982)
- **It is not a preconceived idea supported by verses!!!** It is not making the Bible say what one wants it to say. Some people approach the Bible like the guy who said, “I've already got a sermon; I just have to find a verse for it.”

- **What it is:**

- **It is what the text actually means**—in context, and general application as the author of the text (human) and the Author of the text (God) intended to mean.
- **“It should be kept in mind that the text of the Bible is primary, not our statements about it.** We are only attempting to summarize. That summarizing is necessary, but we can never allow it to take on a life of its own. **All of us who ever read the Bible, no matter how simple or how scholarly, are in danger of imposing our own views and our own conclusions on it...** when we say, then, that we are to interpret the Bible so as to give each part its due, and should work out all contradictions, we are simply affirming the process of looking at the parts, then comparing them with the other parts, then making an interpretation, then looking some more, all the while attempting to fit it all together. This is, of course, just what a person does in a conversation, using all the clues to get the whole message. It would be foolish to ignore some of the information and interpret it so as to allow contradictions, since one would assume that the speaker does not wish to feed him nonsense...” (Paul Karleen in *Handbook to Bible Study*, Oxford University Press, © 1994)

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# Nehemiah 8: 1-12

4/4

So they **read in the book in the law of God distinctly**, and **gave the sense**, and **caused them to understand the reading**...all the **people wept** when they heard the words of the law...and all the people went their way...to **make great mirth because they had understood the words that were declared to them**

This leads to weeping, most likely the weeping of REPENTANCE along with the joy of understanding God's Word

- The Word is READ distinctly—i.e. with clarity
- The Levites gave insight and explanation to the people
- This lead to the people understanding what was being read.
- This is the hallmark of expository teaching—the Word is read and explained. No external ideas are brought into the text but there is insight of the actual words of the text itself.

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# PAUL'S Charge to TIMOTHY

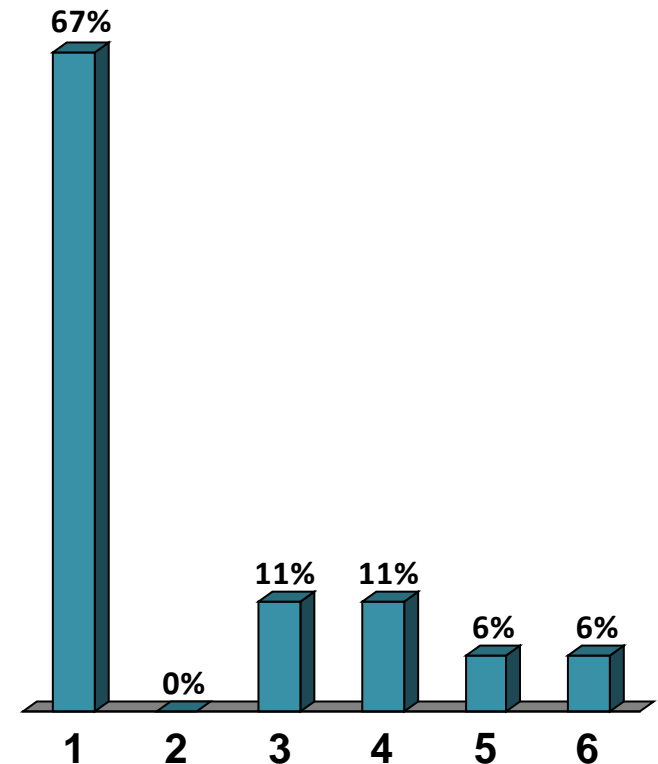
- **FIRST EPISTLE**: 1 Timothy 4: 12: “Till I come, give attendance to **reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
- **SECOND EPISTLE**: 2 Timothy 2: 15: “**Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- **READ FIRST, THEN STUDY**





# What is YOUR estimate of how long it will take YOU to READ through the entire Bible, if you were to read daily?

1. 1 year
2. 2 years
3. 6 months
4. 3 months
5. 2 months or less
6. More than 2 years



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**I believe that every  
Christian should spend  
at least 1 hour reading  
the Bible—the Book of  
Books!**



THERE IS NO EXCUSE VALID ENOUGH TO NOT READ THE BIBLE FOR 1 HOUR DAILY.

\* ON AVERAGE WE SPEND 8 HOURS SLEEPING (33%)

\* 8 HOURS WORKING (33%)

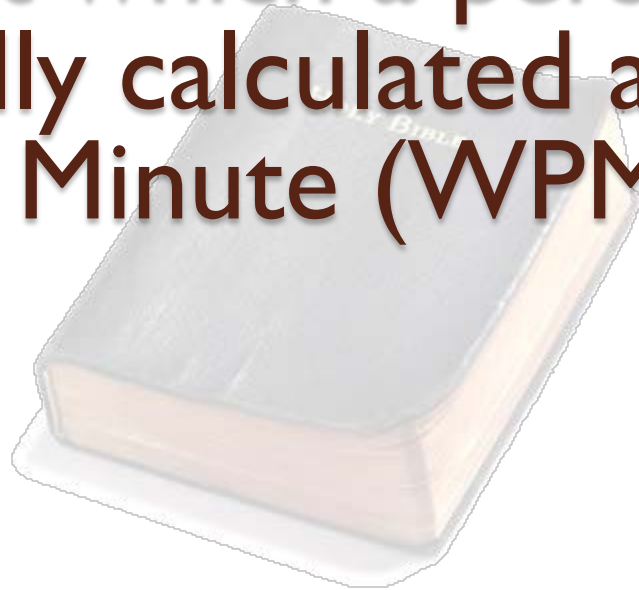
\* ABOUT 1-2 HOURS WATCHING TV OR SURFING THE INTERNET, FACEBOOK ETC.

\* TO SPEND 1 HOUR (4.2%) IN BIBLE READING IS FAIR.

PLUS THIS 1 HOUR YIELDS BENEFITS FAR GREATER THAN ALL OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR A LIFETIME COMBINED!!!!

**“EITHER THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK”** ----D. L. MOODY

**The Rate at which a person reads  
is universally calculated as Words  
Per Minute (WPM)**





# Minimum Reading Rate Proficiency Recommendations in US Schools

Research Study Recommendations Words Per Minute (WPM)					Reading A-Z Recommendations Words Per Minute (WPM)	
Grade	Rasinski	Manzo	Harris & Sipay		Early Rate	End Rate
1	<b>80</b>	(1.8) 30-54	<b>60-90</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>70</b>
2	90	(2.8) 66-104	85-120		70	100
3	110	(3.8) 86-124	115-140		100	130
4	140	(4.8) 95-130	140-170		130	140
5	150	(5.8) 108-140	170-195		140	160
6	180	(6.8) 112-145	195-220		160	170



# Most people can read through their Bibles multiple times:

- Most Bibles have no more than 800,000 words (the KJV, for example, has 788,280 words)
- This means that at the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade reading rate of 150 words per minute, it will take 5333 minutes to read through the entire Bible.
- This calculates to 89 hours.
- If a person were to read at 150 wpm, for 1 hour daily, they can read through the Bible in less than 90 days (i.e. 4 times per year). Note that this is a slow reading rate.
- If read for only 30 minutes daily, one may read the entire Bible in 6 months.
- If we go at the snail's pace of 60 wpm (1<sup>st</sup> Grade or less), one can read entirely through the Bible in 222 days, if one reads for 1 hour daily

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# Most people can read through their Bibles multiple times:

- If we were to approach it from the angle of the number of pages:
  - MOST BIBLES HAVE NO MORE THAN 1200 PAGES (SMALL PRINT BIBLES HAVE ½ THIS AMOUNT)
  - IF ONE WERE TO READ 4 PAGES/DAY, ONE COULD READ THE BIBLE THROUGH IN 300 DAYS
  - FOR AN 8.2 FONT SIZE BIBLE, EACH PAGE HAS ABOUT 104 LINES WITH 8 WORDS PER LINE. THEREFORE 4 PAGES WOULD MEAN 3328 WORDS. AT THE SLOW RATE OF 150 WPM, IT WOULD TAKE 22 MINUTES. MULTIPLY THIS BY 3 (I.E 66 MINUTES AND 12 PAGES) AND ONE CAN FINISH THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN LESS THAN 90 DAYS!



THERE IS, THEREFORE,  
NO EXCUSE FOR  
CHRISTIANS FOR NOT  
READING THEIR BIBLES  
THROUGH.



# SUMMARY:

- READING IS **NOT** THE SAME AS STUDYING
- WHEN YOU READ **DO NOT PAUSE TO STUDY** BUT CONTINUE READING—COMMIT THE TIME TO READING ALONE
- IF YOU COME ACROSS A PASSAGE THAT YOU WANT TO GO OVER AGAIN, BOOKMARK WITH A STICKY NOTE
- SPEND **AT LEAST 1 HOUR READING DAILY**
- **READ PAGES** NOT CHAPTERS—THIS WILL MAKE THE AMOUNT OF DAILY READING CONSISTENT
  - 3-4 PAGES DAILY COMPLETES THE BIBLE IN 1 YEAR
  - 12-14 PAGES DAILY COMPLETES THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS
- THE RISEN LORD HAS CHOSEN TO COMMUNICATE TO US THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD. LET US READ THE WORD AND THUS HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD WHICH SPEAKS ONLY THROUGH HIS WORD IN THIS DISPENSATION

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012





# Amos Wells

I/2

I supposed I knew my Bible  
Reading piecemeal, hit and miss  
Now a bit of John or Matthew  
Now a snatch of Genesis

Certain chapters of Isaiah  
Certain Psalms (the twenty-third)  
Twelfth of Romans, First of Proverbs  
Yes, I thought I knew the Word

But I found that **thorough** reading  
Was a different thing to do  
And the way was unfamiliar  
When I read the Bible through

Oh, the massive, mighty volume  
Oh, the treasures manifold!  
Oh, the beauty of the wisdom  
And the grace it proved to hold!

As the story of the Hebrews  
Swept in majesty along,  
As it leaped in waves prophetic  
As it burst to sacred song

As it gleamed with Christly omens,  
The Old Testament was new,  
Strong with Cumulative power  
When I read the Bible through

Ah, the imperial Jeremiah,  
With his keen, coruscant mind,  
And the blunt old Nehemiah,  
And Ezekiel refined!

Newly came the Minor Prophets,  
Each with his distinctive robe;  
Newly came the Song idyllic,  
And the tragedy of Job

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012







# Amos Wells

2/2

Sam Kurien, April 8, 2012

Deuteronomy the regal,  
To a towering mountain grew,  
With its comrade peaks around it,  
When I read the bible through.

What a radiant procession  
As the pages rise and fall,  
James the sturdy, John the tender  
Oh, the myriad-minded Paul!

Vast apocalyptic glories  
Wheel and thunder, flash and flame,  
While the church triumphant raises  
One incomparable Name

Ah, the story of the Savior  
Never glows supremely true  
**Till you read it whole and swiftly,**  
Till you read the Bible through

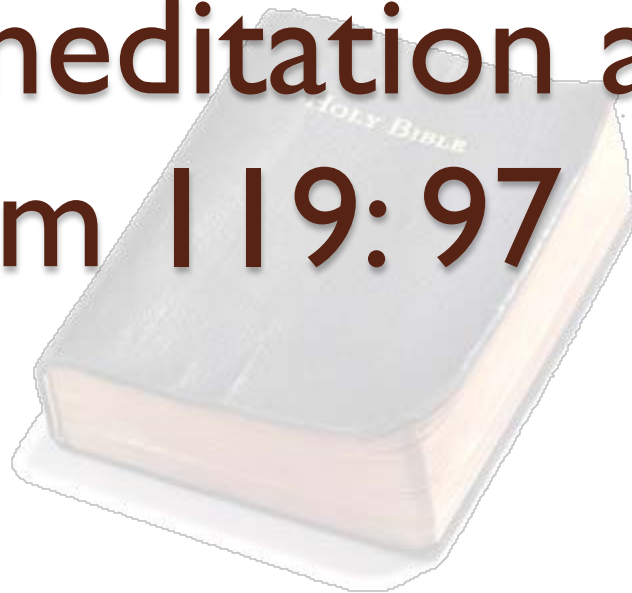
You who like to play at Bible,  
Dip and dabble, here and there,  
Just before you kneel, weary,  
And yawn thro' a hurried prayer

You who treat the Crown of writings  
As you treat no other book  
Just a paragraph disjointed  
Just a crude, impatient look

Try a worthier procedure  
Try a broad and steady view;  
You will knee in very rapture  
When you read the Bible through



**“O How Love I Thy Law,  
It is my meditation all the  
day.” Psalm 119:97**



**May the LORD bless you daily by  
the reading of His precious Word**

