

Are There Really Ghosts?

The word “ghost” appears 108 times in the King James Bible. King Saul and the Apostles thought they saw one. What does the Bible tell us about ghosts?

by Gregory Dullum

Ever since we were children, we have heard of ghosts. Ghosts are a popular theme at Halloween. Casper the Friendly Ghost appeared on Saturday morning cartoons.

Many movies have included ghosts as their characters. Some were meant to scare the socks off of us, but others were comedies or love stories. Patrick Swayze played a ghostly love interest to Demi Moore in *Ghost*; Bill Cosby was *Ghost Dad* in that family film. Meryl Streep became a ghost in the comedy, *Death Becomes Her*. Don Knotts faced his fears in a house that was believed to be haunted in the Disney movie, *The Ghost and Mr. Chicken*. And most of us are familiar with the Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd 1984 classic comedy, *Ghostbusters*, and its 2016 sequel, *Ghostbusters 2* starring Melissa McCarthy.

I doubt any of us are surprised to find ghosts as characters in fictional stories. But we may be surprised to learn that the word “ghost” is used 108 times in the *King James Bible*! What does it mean when we read the word “ghost” in the Bible?

What Is a Ghost?

The English word “ghost” comes from the German word *geist*, that means “spirit” (“Ghost,” *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary* by Merrill F. Unger, 1988, p. 470). The German *origin* of the word comes closer to the meaning of the word “ghost” *most of the time* when it appears in the Bible. However, the English word “ghost” has a more specific meaning than simply “spirit.” It’s defined in the dictionary as the “spirit of a dead person, especially one believed to appear in bodily likeness to living persons or to haunt former habi-



Drawing by NAPS and Gregory Dullum

Ghosts appear in books, movies and even children’s cartoons. There also are ghosts mentioned in the Bible. Are ghosts real?

tats” (“Ghost,” *The American Heritage Dictionary*, 1992, p. 764).

The idea of “ghosts” being the spirits of dead people is rooted in the FALSE CONCEPT that *humans are immortal souls* inside of physical bodies. After the body dies, the spirit of the person *goes on living* a CONSCIOUS existence. According to this fable, if the person was good, his or her spirit goes to heaven; if bad, it goes to an ever-burning hell. Thus, church mar-quees will sometimes pose the question: Where will you spend eternity? Smoking or non-smoking?”

According to this unsound doctrine, something may go wrong, and the spirit of the dead person can’t be admitted into heaven until the wrong is righted. In some stories, the dead person was grisly murdered and the murderer must be brought to justice before the spirit can rest in peace for eternity. Whatever the reason for their non-admittance into heaven (or hell), these spirits are con-

demned to wander upon the earth until their problem is solved.

We know this concept is FALSE because *the Bible says so*. We discussed the biblical proof in detail last month. Let’s review a couple of the scriptures.

No Immortal Soul

God told the first man Adam that if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would “surely die” (Gen. 2:17) He would NOT *go on living* as a ghost or a spirit.

Satan introduced the LIE of an *immortal soul* when he told Eve, “You will not surely die” (Gen. 3:4). Eve believed the lie, took of the fruit and gave some to Adam. When God found out, He told Adam, “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you

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were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19).

We humans ARE PHYSICAL. When we die, *we decompose back to dust.*

However, we do have a *spirit* in us. It's called the "spirit of man" and it gives us our intellect, which is far superior to animals. "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him?" (1 Cor. 2:11).

When we die, that spirit leaves the body and returns to God in heaven (Eccles. 3:21, 12:7). That spirit is NOT ALIVE! It has *no conscious thought* and it cannot act. It needs a body in order to think and act (Eccles. 9:5, 10). These scriptures and others clearly show there are no such thing as ghosts as we use the word in the English language!

So what are the "ghosts" that are mentioned in the Bible?

Smile Awhile

"A merry heart does good, like medicine" (Prov. 17:22). Here is this month's dose:

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought.

He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20s, then a circus manager when in her 40s, and a preacher when in her 60s, and now—in her 80s—a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked her why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go."

Giving Up the Ghost

The first time a "ghost" appears in the Bible is Gen. 25:8: "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people" (*King James Version*).

The word translated "ghost" is the Hebrew word *gava*, which means "to breathe out." The expression implies that the person expired or died (*A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible With Their Renderings in the Authorized English Version* by James Strong, p. 46).

Every time the word "ghost" appears in the *King James Version* of the OLD TESTAMENT, it is the expression, "to give up the ghost." Modern translations don't use this archaic expression. The *New King James* says in Gen. 25:8, "Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, and old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people."

Modern translations have it translated CORRECTLY. No ghost came out of Abraham's body when he died. He simply stopped breathing. He inhaled his last breath, exhaled, and expired.

The same can be said for Ishmael (Gen. 25:17), Isaac (Gen. 35:29), and Jacob (Gen. 49:33).

Job uses similar expressions in Job 3:11, 10:18, 13:19 and 14:10. The *King James Version* uses the phrase "give up the ghost," but modern versions render the phrase "perish" or "breathes his last."

Jeremiah twice mentions giving up the ghost (Jer. 15:9 and Lam. 1:19). The *New King James* correctly renders this phrase as "breathed her (or their) last."

There are a few instances in the NEW TESTAMENT where the *King James Version* says a person gave up the ghost.

Mark 15:37 tells us, "And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost." Two verses later the expression appears in past tense: "And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." The *New King James* correctly renders these verses "breathed His last." The Greek word in these verses is *ekpneo*, which means "to expire." This word is used one other time, in the parallel account of Christ's crucifixion in Luke 23:46. When we read in Mark and Luke's Gospels that Christ "gave up the ghost," it means He "breathed his last breath" and DIED.

A similar Greek word is used by Luke when he wrote the book of Acts. The Greek word *ekpsucho* also means "to expire." It is translated as "give up the ghost" or "yield up the ghost" in Acts 5:5, 10 and Acts 12:23 in the *King James Version*. The *New King James* renders these verses cor-

rectly as "breathed his (or her) last."

THE REST OF THE TIME when we read the word "ghost" in the New Testament, it is the Greek word *pneuma*. It means "a current of air," a "breath" or a "breeze." It is used figuratively to mean a spirit, the rational soul, an angel, demon, God, Christ's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, ghost, life and spiritual mind.

Spirit of Man

Most of the time, *pneuma* is referring to the Holy Spirit. There are a few times when it's NOT. Let's look at those first.

In Mat. 27:50, we read, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." Matthew uses the Greek word *pneuma* instead of *ekpneo*. The *New King James* renders this verse, "Jesus, when He cried out again with a loud voice, yielded up His spirit."

John also uses *pneuma* in his account of Christ's death in John 19:30: "...and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." The *New King James* correctly translates the phrase, "And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

While *Mark* and *Luke* describe Jesus TAKING HIS LAST BREATH and dying, *Matthew* and *John* use a different Greek word. They describe death as the UNCONSCIOUS SPIRIT OF MAN LEAVING THE BODY of Christ and returning to God.

Holy Ghost

The vast majority of the times when a "ghost" appears in the New Testament, it is part of the phrase "Holy Ghost" (89 times). The word "ghost" in this case is the Greek word *pneuma*. The *New King*

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The Holy Ghost Is Not a Person

The Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is not the third Person in the Trinity!

by Gregory Dullum

Many people believe that the Holy Ghost is a PERSON; one third part of God; equal with the Father and Jesus Christ..

In the 1982 book, *Larson's New Book of Cults*, Bob Larson describes the ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN view of God: "Both the Old and New Testaments proclaim the triune nature of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal, three Persons of the same substance" (p. 22).

The Roman Catholic Church shares this view: "[T]here are three really distinct Persons in the one true God. ... They are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost" (*This is Catholicism* by John Walsh, 1959, pp. 184-185).

Trinity Not in the Bible

Trinitarians might think that the term "Holy Ghost" in the *King James Version* fits better than "Holy Spirit" of modern translations, as "Ghost" indicates a Being. Translators of the *King James Bible* may have used the word "Ghost" because they were Trinitarians!

The Trinity, however, CANNOT BE FOUND IN THE BIBLE! "Because the Trinity is such an important part of later Christian doctrine, it is striking that the term does not appear in the New Testament. Likewise, the developed concept of three coequal partners in the Godhead found in later creedal formulations cannot be clearly detected within the confines of the canon" ("Trinity," *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*, edited by Bruce M. Metzger and

Michael D. Coogan, 1993, p. 782).

7 Proofs Holy Ghost Not a Person

1. Jesus was conceived by the holy Spirit. The angel Gabriel told Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

When Jesus prayed, He called the Father his father (John 17:1, 5). If the Holy Spirit were *really* a Person—Jesus prayed to the WRONG FATHER!

2. The Holy Spirit is called "power" not a "person." In Luke 1:35, the Holy Spirit is called "the power of the Highest." It is NOT called a *person!* Jesus also referred to it as a power and not a person when He told his disciples, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

3. Christ doesn't mention the Spirit as a part of the Godhead. When Christ prayed to the Father, He mentioned a oneness He shared with Him but there is no mention of that oneness shared with a third person (John 17:3, 5, 20-24).

4. God and Christ have existed together forever; the Holy Ghost is not mentioned. In Christ's prayer on his last Passover, he said, "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5). He said nothing about a Holy Ghost being with them.

John begins his Gospel, "In the beginning was Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1-2, 14). In the beginning were God the Father and the Word, who became Jesus Christ. There is no mention of a Holy Ghost with them in the beginning.

5. The Holy Ghost is absent from greetings in the epistles. At the beginning of nearly every epistle in the New Testament, the author states something to the effect of "Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7). The Holy Spirit is NEVER included in these greetings. (See 1 Cor. 1:2, 2 Cor. 1:2, Gal. 1:3, Eph. 1:2, Philipp. 1:2, Col. 1:2, 1 Thes. 1:1, 2 Thes. 1:2, 1 Tim. 1:2, 2 Tim. 1:2, Titus 1:4, Phil. 1:3, 1 Pet. 1:2-3, 2 Pet. 1:2, Jude 1-2.)

6. The Holy Spirit is poured out. The Holy Spirit is described as being "poured out" on the Gentiles in Acts 10:45. A

PERSON cannot be *poured out!*

7. Descriptions of heaven don't mention the Holy Ghost on a throne. They picture God on his throne and Christ at his right hand, but make no mention of the Holy Ghost on a throne (Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:22).

Why is Spirit Called 'He'?

Why is the Holy Spirit referred to as "He"?

The Greek word used in "Holy Ghost" or "Holy Spirit" in John chapters 14-16 is *parakletos* and means "comforter." In the Greek language, this word has a masculine gender. The gender of a word has nothing to do with whether it is really masculine or feminine; it is a grammatical tool. Having a masculine gender, it is grammatically proper to use the pronoun "he" even though it's not a person. (Even in English we sometimes assign gender to things. For example, we may say "she's a beauty" when referring to a new car or boat, but that doesn't make the car or boat into a person.)

Elsewhere in the New Testament, the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is the Greek word *pneuma*, and this word is gender neutral. It should properly have the pronoun "it" but because the *King James* translators were Trinitarians, they IMPROPERLY used the pronoun "he."

How Does the Spirit Speak?

How does the Holy Spirit "act" or "speak" if it's not a person?

In John 16:13, Christ said the Spirit will "guide you into all truth" and "will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

This is not the Holy Spirit acting independently as a person; using a literary tool called *personification*, Christ gave an inanimate object human [or Godlike] qualities. In actuality, it is *God working through the Spirit to perform his will*. God leads us with his Spirit, *the Spirit conveys the urge to our human minds*. God speaks to us through his Spirit; *the Spirit conveys God's words into our minds*. Christ states plainly that the Holy Spirit does NOT have independent thoughts, it merely *conveys God's words* to us humans.

The Holy Spirit is NOT A GHOST. It is NOT THE THIRD PERSON IN THE GODHEAD. It is the POWER by which God works.

Know Your Bible

by Charles Nenninger

1. Who floated down a river in a basket and was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter?
2. Who was let down over a wall in a basket?
3. What kind of birds did the Israelites get to eat in the wilderness?
4. What kind of bird landed on Jesus at his baptism?
5. What was the smallest and cheapest bird allowed to be used in the temple as an offering??

(Answers on page 5)

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James correctly translates the phrase as “Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is NOT a GHOST! It is the power by which God works. (See article on page 3.)

We have now examined every instance in the *King James Version* of the Bible where the word “ghost” appears and found there were no real “ghosts” as we commonly use the word in English.

‘Ghosts’ in Modern Translations

Surprisingly, there are a couple of times where modern translations have used the word “ghost” when the *King James Version* did not.

“Modern translations use ‘ghost’ (rather than ‘spirit’ as the KJV) for the disembodied spirits of the dead. Jesus’ disciples mistook Him for a ghost when He walked on water (Mat. 14:26; Mark 6:49) and when He appeared after the resurrection (Luke 24:37, 39)” (“Ghost,” *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, 2003, p. 645).

Jesus Mistaken for a Ghost

Matthew tells us that during the fourth watch of the night, as the disciples were crossing the tempestuous Sea of Galilee in a boat, they saw Jesus walking toward them upon the waves, and not recognizing Him, were afraid. “And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ and they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid!’” (Mat. 14:22-26).

Were the disciples really afraid of ghosts? Did they actually think ghosts were real?

The Greek word for “ghost” in this account, as written by Matthew and Mark is *phantasma*. It means “a (mere) show (‘phantasm’). i.e. *spectre*:—spirit” (Strong, p. 75). This account, as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, are the ONLY TWO TIMES *phantasma* is used in the New Testament.

Let’s examine the words used to define the Greek word *phantasma*. A “phantasm” is defined as “something apparently seen but having no physical reality; a phantom or an apparition.” A “specter” (or spectre) is “a ghostly apparition; a phantom.” A “phantom” is “something apparently seen, heard, or sensed, but having no physical reality; a ghost or an apparition” (*American Heritage Dictionary*).

It appears that the disciples saw something they couldn’t explain, and *in fear*, they THOUGHT they saw a ghost. We

might have thought or cried out the same thing if we had been in their position, even though we know *intellectually* that ghosts don’t exist. Why might we cry out “it’s a ghost!”? Because we have been *influenced by the society around us* in which some people believe in ghosts.

The disciples were Jews. They grew up believing what Jews believed. Did Jews believe that ghosts could exist? What were the beliefs of the ancient Jews and Israelites regarding ghosts?

While God inspired David and Solomon to state plainly and TRUTHFULLY that the dead are asleep and have no knowledge or activity, *not every Israelite believed this truth*. The Israelites were not all attuned to God’s truth. They intermarried with the pagan societies around them and often adopted their pagan beliefs, including the idea of immortal souls and ghosts.

“There is evidence that many Israelites thought that the dead continued to play an active role in the world of the living, possessing the power to grant blessings to their relatives and to reveal the future. This was done through the power of necromancy, the consultation of the dead by a medium, and related practices, which appear to have been quite popular in Israel. Evidence for this is found in the substantial number of vehement denunciations of necromancy in the prophetic and legal literature of the eighth through the sixth centuries BCE (e.g., Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; Deut. 18:10-14; Isa. 8:19-20)” (“Afterlife and Immortality,” *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*, edited by Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan, 1993, p. 16).

In other words, the fact that God condemned witchcraft and the practice of supposedly “contacting the dead” through mediums indicates that this practice *was being done* among the Israelites. The false concept of ghosts may have been passed down from generation to generation and still existed among the Jews at the time of the New Testament.

“Two ideas concerning the fate of the soul after death were held in tension during the Hellenistic [Greek] and Roman periods. The first was that of resurrection, that is, that at the end of time the soul would be rejoined with the body and each person would then receive reward or punishment. ...

“The second idea was that the immortal soul lived on after death of the body, and immediately received its reward or punishment. ...

“The tension between these two ideas continued in rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity. References to the rabbis’ views of the afterlife are scattered, but may be summarized thus: at death, the soul leaves the body, but may return from

time to time until the body disintegrates. The righteous go to paradise, but the wicked go to hell. Finally, in the messianic age there will be a bodily resurrection” (Metzger and Coogan, p. 17).

It seems very likely that the disciples cried out in fear, “It’s a ghost!” NOT because *ghosts really exist*, but because *they had been taught the false concept growing up as Jews* in the first century.

The Ghost of Samuel

There is one instance in the Bible where the “ghost” of a dead person is conjured up by a medium. This is when Saul visits the medium at En Dor.

The prophet Samuel had died, and King Saul wanted his advice on what to do about an army of Philistine soldiers that threatened Israel.

“Then Saul said to his servants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, ‘In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.’

“So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, ‘Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name for you.’ ...

“Then the woman said, ‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ And he said, ‘Bring up Samuel for me.’ When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, ‘Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!’ And the king said to her, ‘Do not be afraid. What do you see?’

“And the woman said to Saul, ‘I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.’ So he said to her, ‘What is his form?’ And she said, ‘An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle.’ And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

“Now Samuel said to Saul, ‘Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?’ And Saul answered, ‘I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do’ ” (1 Sam. 28:7-8, 11-15).

Was this *really* the ghost of Samuel who was speaking to Saul?

We must keep in mind Solomon’s words: “For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing ... for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Eccles. 9:5, 10). This is the

TRUTH. At death, the body goes into the grave and the unconscious, inanimate “spirit in man” that keeps our memories, character and personality returns to God in heaven (Eccles. 12:7). This is the TRUTH. Jesus Christ referred to the state of the dead as being in an unconscious sleep (Mat. 9:24, Mark 9:39, Luke 8:52 and John 11:11).

A Ghostly Imposter

How could a ghost of Samuel be conjured by a medium when Samuel was DEAD and UNCONSCIOUS in the grave? How could he *speak* and give advice? How could he *foretell the future*? The only thing we can properly conclude is that this wasn’t truly Samuel. It was an IMPOSTER.

Who was it? The Bible says it was “Samuel” because that is *who Saul believed it to be*. But who was it *really*?

The Bible tells us it was “a spirit ascending out of the earth.” Samuel’s body was in the earth but *his spirit was in heaven*. If this were Samuel, would not his spirit have descended from heaven?

God and his angels are in heaven. The inanimate spirits of the dead have returned to God in heaven. So what spirits are there who can rise out of the earth?

There are rebellious angels who lost their right to inhabit heaven. The angels who followed Lucifer in his rebellion “did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day” (Jude: 6). These are called “wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (v. 13).

When Lucifer rebelled, he took a third of the angels with him (Rev. 4:4). They were cast to the earth (vv. 9, 12).

It was one of these spirits that impersonated Samuel. He rose from the earth wearing a mantle as Samuel wore.

The “ghost” the medium saw was not POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED as Samuel. When she described a man wearing a mantle, *Saul jumped to a conclusion*.

If Satan can transform himself into an angel of light and his false ministers can transform themselves into ministers of righteousness (1 Cor. 11:13-15), then we may assume that one of his demons could very well have transformed himself to appear unto Saul as the ghost of Samuel.

Other Ghost Sightings

What about other people who have reported seeing ghosts? Their sightings are sometimes researched. “In 1882 a Society for the Psychical Research was founded in London for the scientific and systemat-

ic investigation of reported apparitions. A similar society in New York makes investigations of similar phenomena reported in the United States and makes annual reports on them” (“Ghosts,” *The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1964, vol. 12, p. 634).

Sometimes, what people see are figments of their overactive imaginations.

“The memory of the deceased makes it possible to call up his image. The primitive man does not observe accurately the distinction between fact and fancy—between what is seen in a dream and what is seen in reality. The belief that man has a soul capable of existing apart from the body to which it belongs, and continuing to live, for a time at least, after the body is dead and buried, fits perfectly in such a mind with the fact that shadowy forms of men and women do appear to others, when the men and women themselves are at a distance, and after they are dead. We call these apparitions dreams or phantasms, according to whether the person to whom they appear is asleep or awake; and when we hear of their occurrences in ordinary life, set them down as subjective processes of the mind” (ibid, pp. 634-635).

In other words, these “ghosts” are usually just dreams (if the person is asleep) or tricks the mind is playing upon a person (if they are awake). These appearances are fueled by the fact that people believe there are conscious souls that go on living after the body dies.

Conclusion

There are NO GHOSTS, as we understand the word in English.

When people “gave up the ghost” in the Bible, they actually “breathed their last” or “yielded up their spirit” to God.

The Holy Ghost is not a ghost but the power through which God works.

The apostles may have thought they had seen a ghost, but it was actually Christ walking on water. Their mistaken belief was a result of their Jewish background and false teachings they had received growing up—not biblical truth.

In the one instance of necromancy recorded in the Bible, the medium conjured up not the ghost of Samuel, but most likely a demon impersonating Samuel.

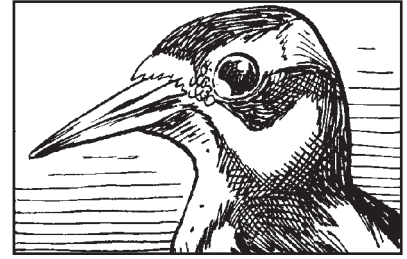
Ghosts exist only in fiction, having been originally created by pagans based upon the lie that Satan told Eve in the garden of Eden, “You shall not surely die.”

Know Your Bible Answers

1) Moses. 2) Paul and two spies at Jericho. 3) Quail. 4) Dove. 5) Two turtle doves or two young pigeons.

Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS
Woodpeckers’ nostrils are narrow slits that prevent flying wood chips from landing in their noses.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

The Martha Rules by Martha Stewart, Rodale, 2005, p. 173.

The Rich Rule

“The excitement of this idea was contagious, and the path was easy for me to see. Finding the \$85 million, however, was not quite so easy. I first approached people who were used to taking big risks—investment bankers and venture capitalists—and quickly learned that, on Wall Street, The Golden Rule is turned on its head. Instead of ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,’ the prevailing view is ‘He who has the gold makes the rule.’”

Prov. 18:23, 22:7; James 2:6

Quotable Quotes

“If we expire when we die, shouldn’t we inspire while we live?”

—George Goldtrap

Memory Scripture

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

—Gal. 5:19-21



BIBLE TRUTHS FOUND IN STAR TREK

by Gregory Dullum

Many Biblical truths can be found in the dialogue of the original “Star Trek” television series. Here are just some of them:

- **“All your people must learn before you can reach for the stars.”** —Captain James Kirk to the Thrall Shana in “The Gamemasters of Triskelion.”

As Christians, our ultimate goal is to become children of God and rule over all creation—including the stars (Rom. 8:16-17, 19-21). To get to that point, we must grow in grace and KNOWLEDGE (2 Pet. 3:18). We must learn God’s way of life. “Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day” (Ps. 25:4-5).

- **“No problem is insoluble”** said Dr. Janet Wallace to Captain Kirk in “The Deadly Years.”

Jesus taught, “With God all things are possible” (Mat. 19:26). Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philip. 4:13).

- **“There’s a way out of any cage”** Captain Christopher Pike told his captors in “The Menagerie.”

Paul tells us, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10:13).

- **“Insufficient facts always invite danger,”** said Mr. Spock in “Space Seed.”

Solomon taught, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Prov. 11:14). Solomon added, “He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him. ... The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him” (Prov. 19:13, 17).

- **“Is truth not truth for all?”** asked the High Priestess of Yonada in “For the World Is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky.”

The Bible tells us, God’s truth “endures to all generations” (Ps. 100:5).

END-TIME EVENTS

RECENT WORLD EVENTS & THEIR PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Going Cashless: A Journey into the Future?

“I didn’t mean to do it. It just sort of happened. But what began as an empty wallet on New Year’s Day has evolved into something akin to a lifestyle change.

“I’ve gone cashless.

“For the first three months of the year, I have hardly touched paper money or metal coins. There are no grimy bills folded alongside my driver’s license. No quarters or pennies jingling in my pocket.

“Instead, I’ve relied almost exclusively on credit cards, Apple Pay, online orders and the occasional generosity of an unsuspecting friend.

“By essentially renouncing physical currency, I’ve slipped a little further into the future. Already, some technologically advanced nations—South Korea, Sweden—have all but done away with cash. Yet, in the United States, I remain an outlier. In a study last year by ING, the vast majority of responders from the United States said they would never go completely cashless.

“I’m here to encourage my fellow Americans to reconsider. ...

“Here in New York City, as well as just about everywhere these days, it’s possible to pay for nearly everything with a card or a phone” (“Going Cashless: My Journey Into the Future” by David Gelles, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, March 30, 2018, pp. 1-2).

Jesus instructs us to use money while it still has value, for one day it will fail. “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitation” (Luke 16:9 *Revised Standard Version*). *The New English Bible* renders this verse, “ ‘So I say to you, use your worldly wealth to win friends for yourselves, so that when money is a thing of the past you may be received into an eternal home.’ ”

Ezekiel said in the coming Day of the LORD silver will be thrown into the streets: “They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD” (Ezek. 7:19).

Prior to the Day of the LORD, there is coming a great tribulation. During that time, a beast power will be ruling in Europe and will control people’s ability to buy and sell: “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” (Rev. 13:16-17). In a society flush with cash, it would be hard to prevent buying and selling. Official edicts can be made, but a black market usually arises to take care of people’s needs. However, in a cashless society, all the Beast needs to do is hit a few key strokes and people’s credit/debit devices will cease to function.

European Elections Coming Next Year

“The window for meaningful changes is rapidly closing before next year’s elections for a new European Parliament, and the choices of a new European Commission, European Commission president and head of the European Central Bank. Projects and legislation not approved by June or by latest October will fall by the wayside until 2020.

“It would be a shame to miss this chance, said Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

“ ‘It is urgent, a window of opportunity between now and the European elections is real but narrowing,’ he said. ‘The constellation of the most centrist German chancellor in a long time in her last term looking for her legacy and a French president, newly elected on a European platform and highly ambitious, is very rare’ ” (“Macron Had a Big Plan for Europe. It’s Now Falling Apart” by Steven Erlanger, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, April 19, 2018, pp. 1-2).

Bible prophecies indicate that a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire consisting of 10 kings is coming in Europe before Christ returns (Dan. 2:40-45, Rev. 17:9-14). Changes are coming to Europe, whether they begin this year or happen after the election.