

The Bible (Our Salvation Story)

What Is Tradition?

- A tradition is a belief or behavior passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past.
 - Are there any stories that get handed down from one generation to the next?
 - Why might a family tradition be told or written down?



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The Stages in the Development of the Scriptures

- After Jesus ascended into Heaven, his disciples continued his mission by preaching and teaching about Christ.
- Typically, the verbal tradition developed into the written Word in the following stages:



- People experienced God.
- These experiences were shared verbally.
- Inspired authors created a written version.
- The successors of the Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, discerned the books to be included in the Scriptures (the canon).

People Experience God

- People's experience of God is central to the passing on of the message of the Scriptures.
 - In the Old Testament
 - Abraham and Isaac
 - In the New Testament
 - Lazarus



People Wrote Down the Stories

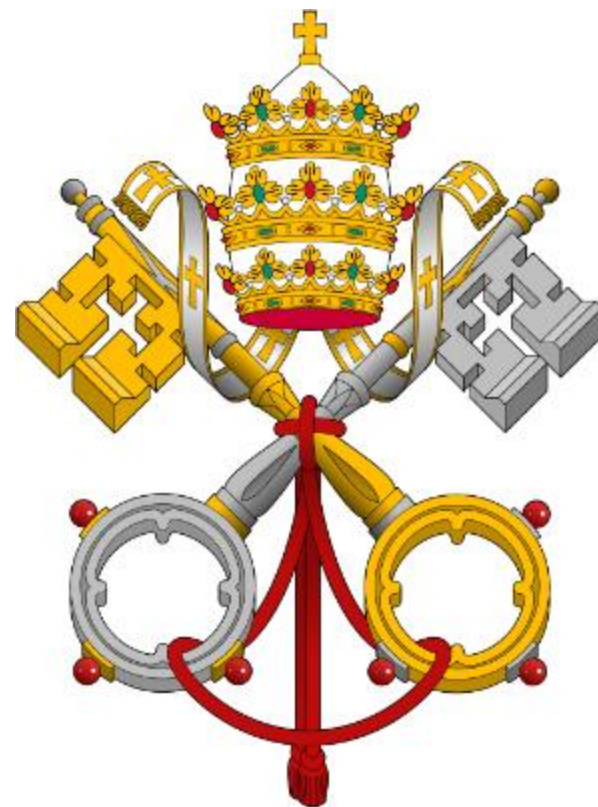
- Because of their desire to capture the stories for future generations believers began recording the verbal tradition in **writing**.



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The Church Determines the Canon

- The term *canon* comes from the Greek word meaning “rule” or “standard.”
- The biblical canon is the collection of books the Church recognizes as the inspired Word of God.
- The successors to the Apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit in discerning the canon of the New Testament.



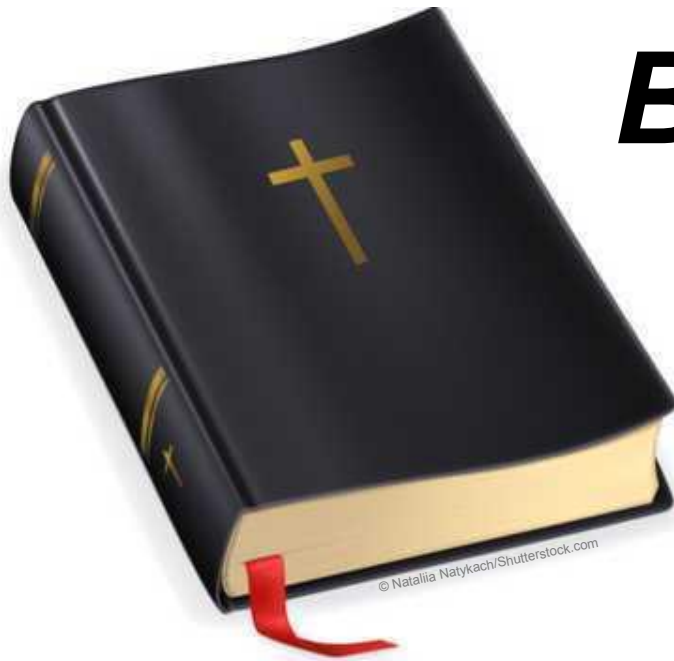
What Is the Bible?



Document #: TX004700

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Bible_(English) =



Biblios_(Greek) =

“Books”_(Literal Meaning)

The Bible is a library of books.



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**How many books of the Bible can you name?
Who are the 4 Gospel writers?**

What are the main sections of the Bible?

God's relationship with the
Hebrews/Israelites



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What separates the two?

The original covenant is fulfilled

Books of Law

The first five books of the Bible, the heart of the Old Testament

Prophetic Books

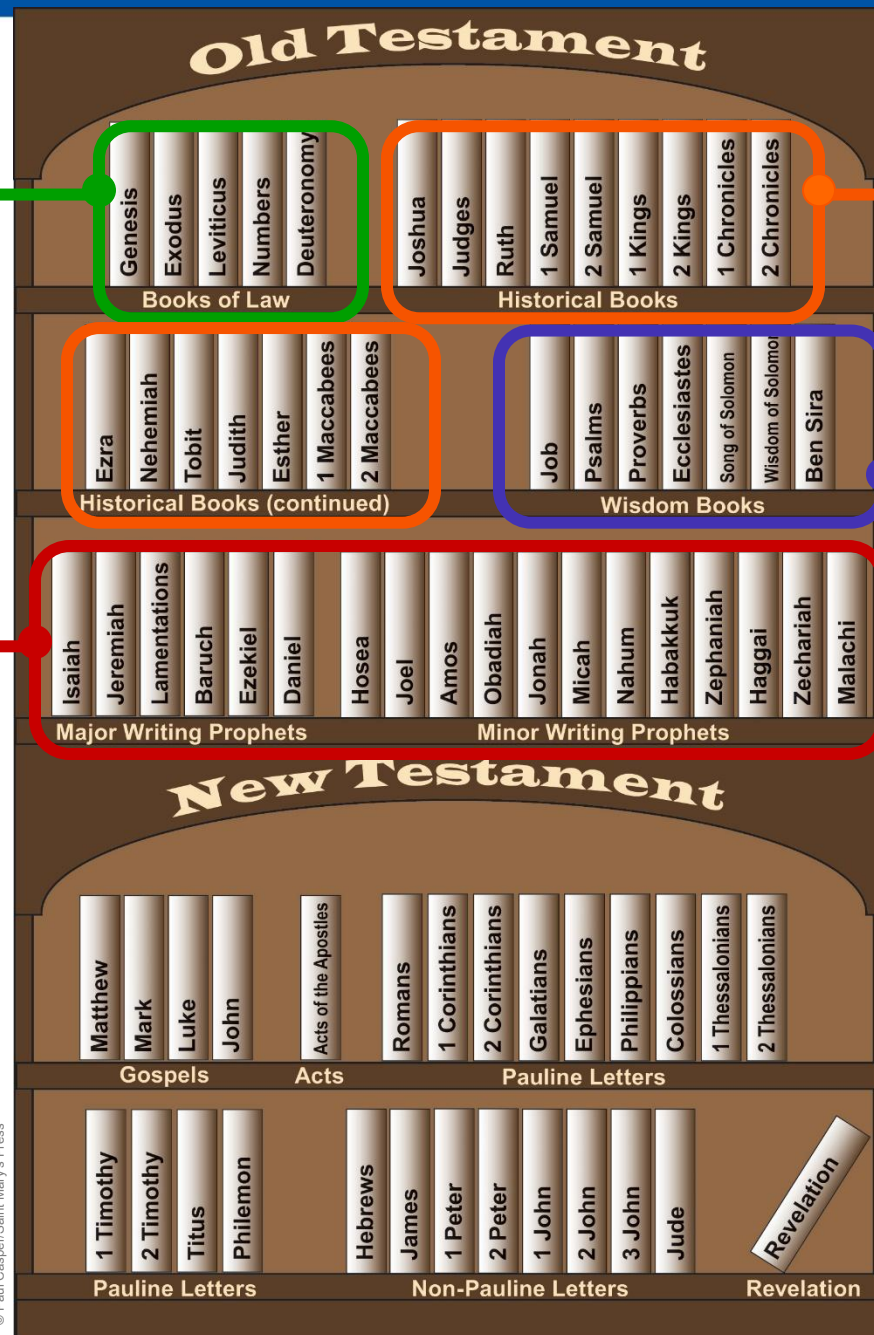
Eighteen books recording the warnings and promises of Israel's prophets

Historical Books

Sixteen books of religious history and a few "historical novellas"

Wisdom Books

Seven books of poetry and wise sayings



Gospels

The story of Jesus' life and ministry and the start of the Church, told from four complementary faith perspectives

Acts

This books tells about the early Christian community

Pauline Letters (Epistles)

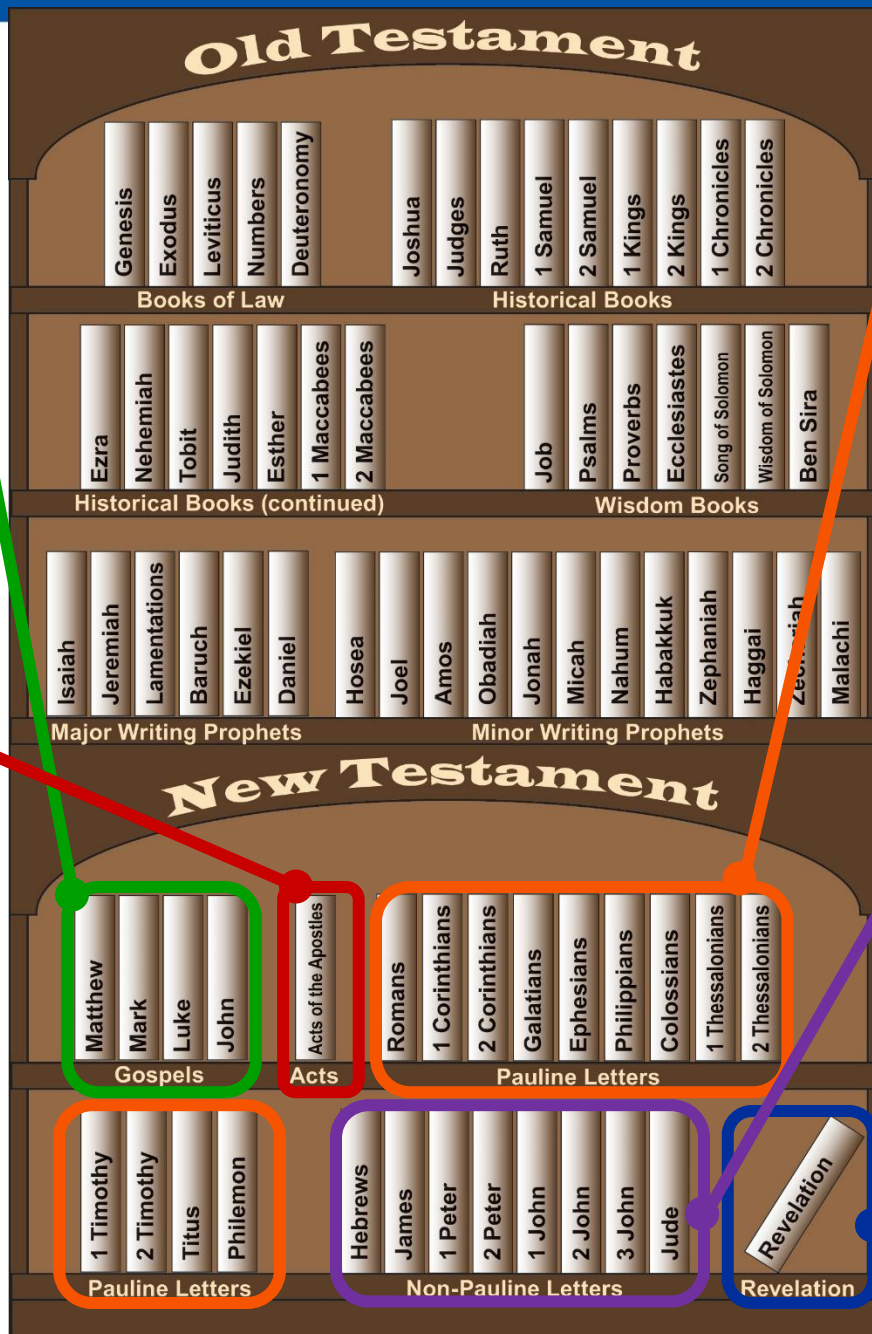
Thirteen letters by Saint Paul or his disciples written to provide teaching and to correct abuses in the early churches

Non-Pauline Letters

Eight letters written by Christ's Apostles or their disciples to provide teaching and to correct abuses in the early churches

Revelation

A book written as apocalyptic literature during a time when Christians were being persecuted



The Bible Is the Story of Our Salvation



Creation



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Adam & Eve
Garden of Eden



Abraham
Sacrifice of Isaac

The Bible Is the Story of Our Salvation (cont'd.)

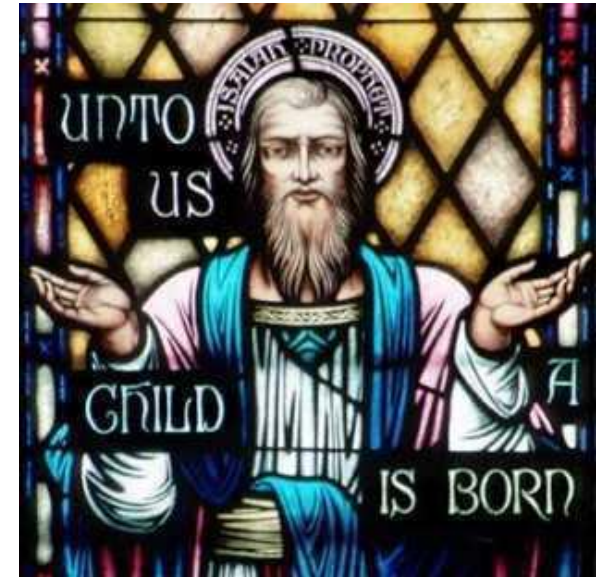


Moses
Ten Commandments



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King David



Prophet Isaiah

The Bible Is the Story of Our Salvation (cont'd.)

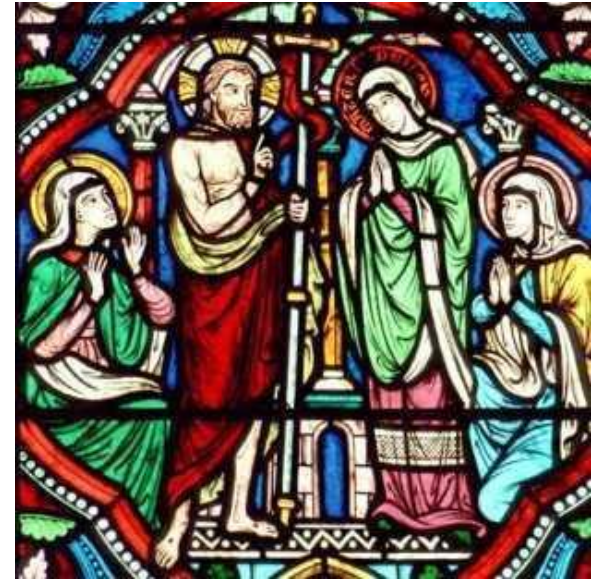


Birth



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Death



Resurrection

Points to Remember

- **The Bible** is a library of 73 books. 46. 27.
- **The Bible** has two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- **Testament** is another word for **covenant**.
A **covenant** is a **sacred vow**.
- The **Old Testament covenants** are between God and his Chosen People, who are called Hebrews, Israelites, or Jews.

Points to Remember (cont'd.)

- The **New Covenant (New Testament)** shows how the former covenants are fulfilled by the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The **Old Testament** is divided into four sections of books.
- The **New Testament** is divided into five sections of books.
- In **the Bible** God reveals his plan for our salvation.

Learning to Navigate the Bible



Document #: TX004701

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Basic Divisions in Sacred Scripture

- The Old Testament
(sometimes called the Hebrew Scriptures)
- The New Testament
(sometimes called the Christian Testament)



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Further Divisions in Sacred Scripture

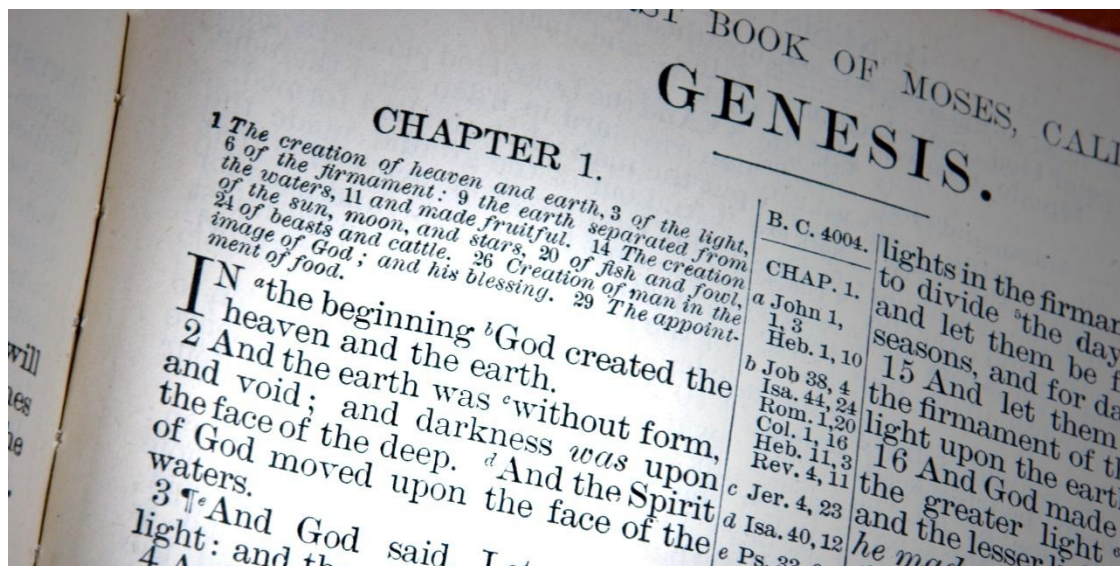
Both the Old and New Testaments are divided into sections called *books*.

- To find a particular book, use your Bible's table of contents.
- Many Bibles also have an alphabetical list of books at the back.



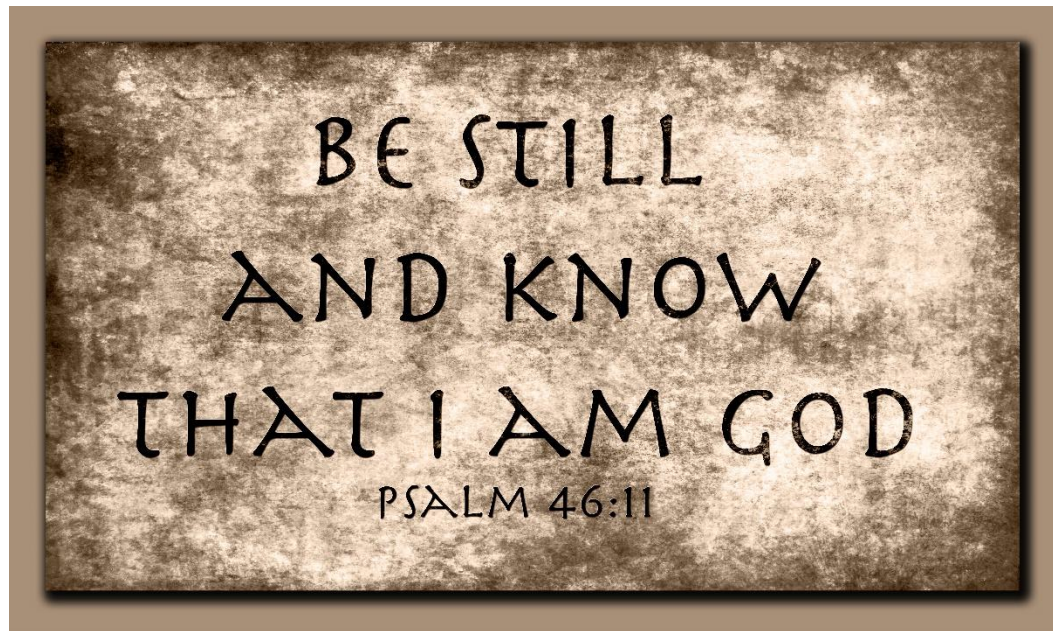
More Divisions, Still!

- Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters. These are generally a page or two long—not as long as a chapter in a regular book.
- Each chapter is divided into very short sections—about a sentence long—called verses.



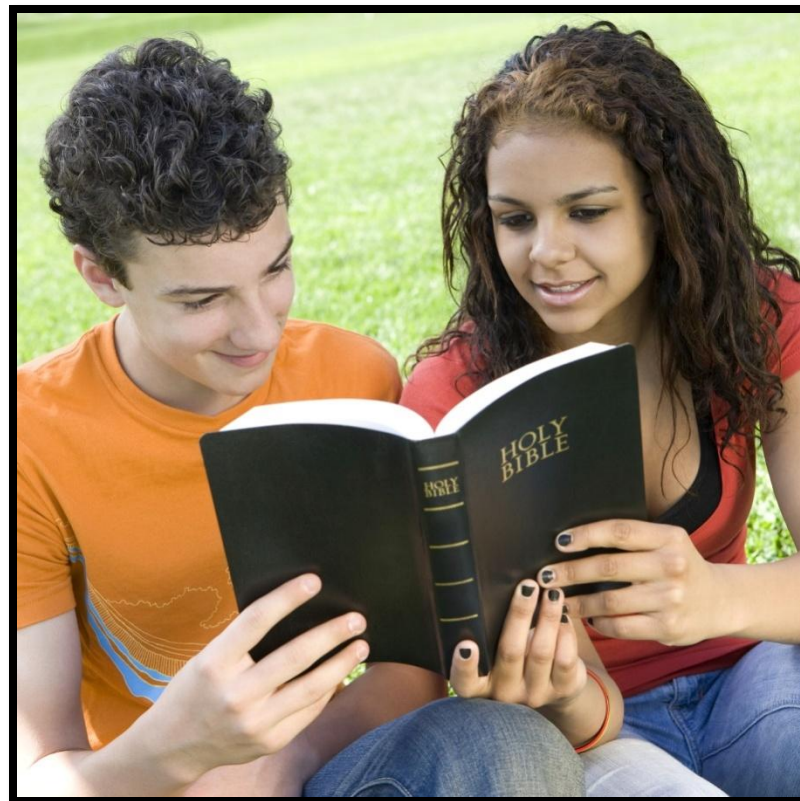
Finding and Citing Biblical Passages

- In referring to a biblical passage, we refer to the book, the chapter, and the verse(s)—Example: Ruth 1:16–17.
- We never use page numbers, because people may have different editions or translations of the Bible.



Other Variations in Citations

- A number is used before the name of several books to distinguish biblical books with the same name.
- (Ex: 2 Corinthians 4:16–18)
- Reference to “a” or “b” indicates either the first or second part of a verse.
- (Ex: Micah 6:4b)



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Let's Practice!



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Practice #1

Question:

Besides the talking serpent in the Garden of Eden, what is the only other talking animal in the Bible?

Numbers 22:28–30

Practice #1

Answer: Balaam's talking donkey



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Practice #2

Question:

How many people did Elisha feed with only a few loaves of bread and some corn?

2 Kings 4:42–44

Practice #2

Answer: 100



Practice #3

Question:

What do all three of the following verses have in common?

Psalm 2:4

Psalm 37:13

Psalm 59:9

Practice #3

Answer: God laughs



Practice #4

Question:

What does the Risen Jesus serve to his disciples for breakfast?

John 21:12–13

Practice #4

Answer: Bread and fish



Practice #5

Question:

Who financially provides for Jesus and his disciples?

Luke 8:1–3

Practice #5

Answer:

Mary Magdalene,
Joanna, and
Susanna



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Practice #6

Question:

What do the four living creatures exclaim throughout the day and the night?

Revelation 4:8b

Practice #6

Answer:

Holy, holy, holy,
is the Lord God
Almighty,
who was, and
who is,
and who is to come.



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