

# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
Number 9, 22nd May 2020

## 'The Most Valuable Thing That This World Affords'

One of my earliest memories is being dressed as a red Indian! I was four years old. I was on the back of a lorry with other children similarly dressed. We were part of a grand carnival parade. The occasion was the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The date was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1953. So intense was the interest in the coronation that it's been estimated that more TV sets were bought in the preceding two months than in any two-month period since! About 277 million people watched the coronation on television worldwide with millions more listening on the radio.

However, the significance of the coronation does not lie in the fact that millions tuned into it or in its magnificence. The significance lies in the Queen's understanding of what she was committing herself to do. The words, symbols and rituals of the coronation service were devised in the year 973. They were designed to highlight the values that monarchs should seek to uphold, the kind of person they should seek to be, and the priorities of the heavenly King they would pledge themselves to serve. Every element of the coronation service pointed in one direction which was that the Queen was vowing to serve her people as a servant of God. The Queen



St Edward's Crown, the Orb, the Sceptre with Cross, the Sceptre with Dove and the Ring.



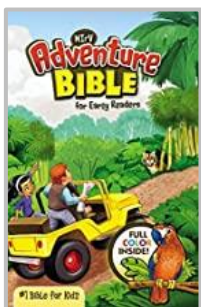
The Queen holding a Bible presented to her during the Coronation Service..

understood that her authority was not conferred by parliament, nor inherited from her earthly father, but came from God and it was to Him that she would ultimately be responsible.

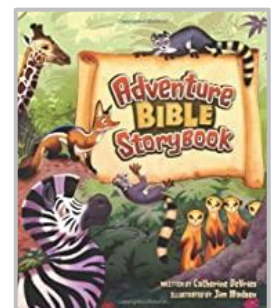
During the coronation service the Queen was crowned with St Edward's crown. This is made of solid gold and has 444 precious stones on it (it weighs 4.9 lbs). Also, she was given an orb with more than six hundred jewels and pearls, with a cross mounted on top to symbolise the rule of Jesus Christ over the earth. She was also given the royal sceptre with its magnificent diamond encrusted cross, including, what is believed to be, the world's largest diamond. These are all so valuable that it's almost impossible to even begin to try and put a price on them.

However, there is something else the Queen was given which is even more valuable than all these put together! During the service the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland presented a Bible to the Queen, saying: 'Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, **the most valuable thing that this world affords**'.

## The Adventure Bible and other Christian Adventure Books

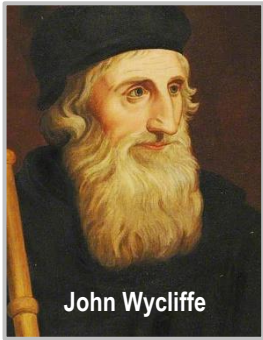


To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Adventure Camp in 2013 each child was given a Christian book with the word 'Adventure' in its title. Two of the books are illustrated and they are the *Adventure Bible for Early Readers*<sup>1</sup> and for younger children, the *Adventure Bible Storybook*<sup>2</sup>. Here are two others: *The Amazing Bible Adventure for Kids*<sup>3</sup> by Josh McDowell and Kevin Johnson (for young teenagers) and *Lift the Flap Bible Adventures*<sup>4</sup> (for



toddlers). There are several other Christian books on the internet with the word 'Adventure' in their title as well.

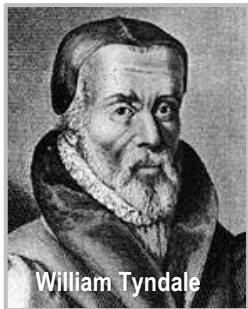
<sup>1</sup> Published by Zonderkidz. <sup>2</sup> Published by Zonderkidz. <sup>3</sup> Harvest House Publishers. <sup>4</sup> Published by Kregel Kidzone



## A Little English Bible History

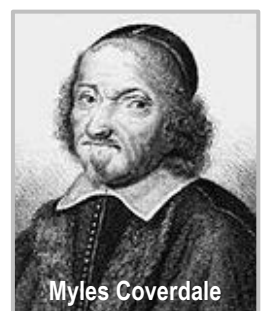
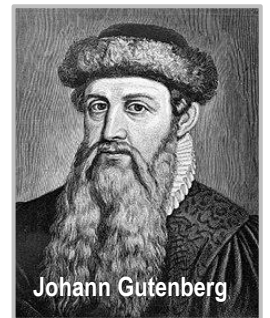
John Wycliffe was born in (about) 1328. He was a professor at the University of Oxford. He knew that the Bible was the only real authority for Christians and was distressed that many of the clergy were not following the Word of God correctly. He taught that people should pay more attention to clergy who personally demonstrated a good Christian example. Later Wycliffe became vicar at St Mary's church in Lutterworth in Leicestershire. He understood that people could live better Christian lives if they knew more of what the Bible taught and therefore felt very strongly that God's Word should be translated from Latin into everyday language. (Most people then could not speak Latin.) He therefore decided to work on producing the first English Bible. This was a mammoth task, but one that he achieved. However, one handwritten English Bible at Lutterworth was of little use on its own. This original copy had to be very carefully copied and recopied many times so that they could be sent to other parts of the country. Sadly, after John Wycliffe's death, the leaders of the country stopped people from using English Bibles and anyone caught with one was punished, imprisoned or put to death. However, John Wycliffe's Bible was still copied and distributed in secret.

About the year 1439, Johann Gutenberg, began to experiment with moveable type for printing in Germany. He discovered that if he made metal alloy letters, dipped them in dye and then pressed them on to paper or vellum, the shape of the letters could be reproduced. By putting letters side by side, he found he could make copies of words and even whole pages of words. He developed the technique and eventually printed the *Gutenberg Bible* in 1455. So now, instead of painstakingly copying a Bible by hand, it was possible to quickly print many Bibles.



About 1494, William Tyndale was born. He was prepared to carry on the work of John Wycliffe. One day Tyndale declared to some of his friends that he wished all men could read the Bible in English. He said that if God spared his life, he wanted to make it possible that a boy who drove a plough could know more about the Bible than did some of his contemporary religious leaders. So Tyndale went to work on the big task he had set himself, that of translating the Bible into English. Unlike Wycliffe, Tyndale did not translate from Latin, but was the first to use Greek and Hebrew texts to work from.

Myles Coverdale completed his Bible translation in 1535. This was the first Bible to contain both Testaments. The demand for the Bible in English was now growing and King Henry VIII felt it wise to allow *Coverdale's Bible* to be printed in England which it was for the first time in 1537. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1538 a royal proclamation stated that a Bible must be placed in every church in the land. So popular were these Bibles that they were often chained to the church lectern so that people could not take them away to read at home. Myles Coverdale also helped with the *Great Bible* which came out in 1539.



In 1560 William Whittingham, along with several others, produced a much smaller 'pocket' sized Bible which was known as the *Geneva Bible*. A copy was given to Queen Elizabeth I on her accession to the throne. This was the first Bible in which chapters were divided into verses. Several famous people such as William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell and John Bunyan used this Bible.

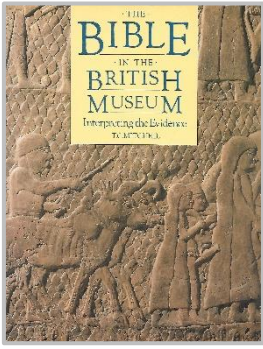
In 1568 the *Bishop's Bible* was finished. The 1602 edition of this Bible was the base for the *King James Bible*.

The *King James Bible* (also known as the *King James Version* and the *Authorized Version*) was commissioned in 1604 by King James I. About 47 men worked on this translation, they sought to make from the previous good Bibles a better one. It was finished in 1611. Since then it has been revised several times. Interestingly, it's estimated that about three quarters of the *King James Bible* uses language penned by William Tyndale. Many people today still prefer to use the *New King James Version* (NKJV).



Adventure Camp visits the John Wycliffe Memorial and St Mary's Church in Lutterworth in 2016.





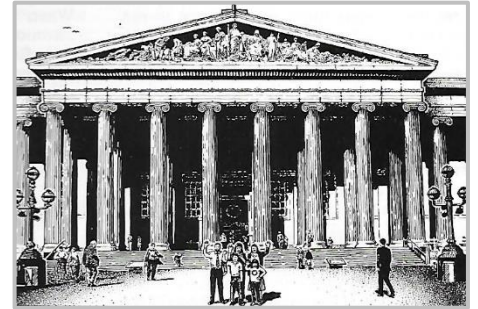
## The Bible in the British Museum

The British Museum published a book in 1988 by T.C. Mitchell entitled *The Bible in the British Museum*. It describes many items of Biblical interest that can be found there. Here is a brief summary of some.

- **Atrahasis and Gilgamesh Epics:** Both give Mesopotamian accounts of a flood (Genesis chapters 6-8).
- **Statue of Idri-mi:** Mentions the 'land of Canaan' (Genesis 12:5).
- **Royal Stamped Jar Handles:** From 'Hebron' (Genesis 13:18), 'Ziph' and 'Socoh'

(Joshua 15:24, 35).

- **Moabite Stone:** Mentions King Omri of Israel (1 Kings 16:16) and the Moabite version of the war narrated in 2 Kings 3:4-27. It also mentions one of God's Old Testament names *Yhwh* (Genesis 2:4) and the Moabite god *Chemosh* (1 Kings 11:33).
- **Obelisk and Monolith of Shalmaneser III:** Mentions Kings Ahab and Jehoram of Israel (1 Kings 16:28; 2 Kings 1:17) and Kings Ben-Hadad and Hazael of Syria (2 Kings 6:24; 9:14).
- **Annals of Sennacherib:** Mentions King Hezekiah of Judah (2 Kings 16:20) and the Assyrian version of the events in Isaiah 36:1-37:37.
- **Lachish Reliefs:** A pictorial account of Lachish (2 Chronicles 32:9) mentioning Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:13).
- **Brick of Nebuchadnezzar:** Inscribed 'Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon' (2 Kings 24:1).
- **Babylonian Chronicle:** Pin-points the fall of Jerusalem to 16<sup>th</sup> March 597 BC — this event is referred to in 2 Kings 24:10-17.
- **Cylinder Inscription of Nabonidus:** Mentions Belshazzar (Daniel 5:1).
- **Cyrus Cylinder:** Describes Cyrus (2 Chronicles 36:22) ordering people back to their homelands; the Jewish return is mentioned in Ezra chapter 2.
- **Fragments of an Unknown Gospel:** Two papyrus pages inscribed in Greek give four references to Christ.
- **Letter from Isias to Hephæstion:** This letter confirms the New Testament style of letter (epistle) writing.
- **Papyrus Census Order:** Ordering people home for a census; this is similar to the account in Luke 2:1-4.
- **Sculptured Heads:** Of Augustus Caesar (Luke 2:1). Tiberius Caesar (Luke 3:1). Claudius Caesar (Acts 11:28) and Nero (Acts 25:21).
- **Coin from Ephesus:** Depicting the temple of Artemis (Diana), the principal goddess of Ephesus (Acts 19:24).
- **Codex Sinaiticus:** 4<sup>th</sup>-century Bible.



These are just a few of many items in one of the many museums which support or confirm the Biblical accounts.

## Some Interesting Bible Information

- In 2019 the full Bible had been translated into 698 languages and the New Testament had been translated into a further 1,548 languages. (In comparison Shakespeare has only been translated into about 50 languages.)
- There are over 450 versions of the Bible in English.
- There are 66 books in the Bible, originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
- Despite many Bibles being free, the Bible is the most stolen book in the world!
- The Bible is excluded from many of the best seller book lists because it would always be on top.
- There are over 40 people who wrote parts of the Bible.
- The Bible was written over a period of about 1600 years, from between about 1500 BC to about AD 100.
- Isaiah's second son was called Mahershalalhashbaz. This is the longest word in the Bible.
- Methuselah is the oldest person mentioned in the Bible, he died when he was 969.
- Currently the Bible sells about 100 million copies annually.
- There are no contradictions in the Bible.
- 53 people in the Bible have been confirmed archaeologically.

## Quotes about the Bible

- 'The New Testament is the best book the world has ever known or will know.' Charles Dickens
- 'The Bible is supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, divine in authorship, infallible in authority, inexhaustible in meaning, perfect in precept, universal in readership, unique in revelation, personal in application, powerful in effect.' *The Gideon Bible*
- 'I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. It is the best Book which God has given to man.' Abraham Lincoln
- 'Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.' Ronald Reagan
- 'Visit many good books, but live in the Bible.' Charles Spurgeon
- 'Having knowledge of the Bible is essential to a rich and meaningful life.' Billy Graham
- 'Never let good books take the place of the Bible. Drink from the Well, not from the streams that flow from the Well.' Amy Carmichael
- 'No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible.' Theodore Roosevelt
- 'I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.' Sir Isaac Newton

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See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words:

'You have known the Holy Scriptures since you were a child. The Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live right'

2 Timothy 3:15-16, *International Children's Bible*.

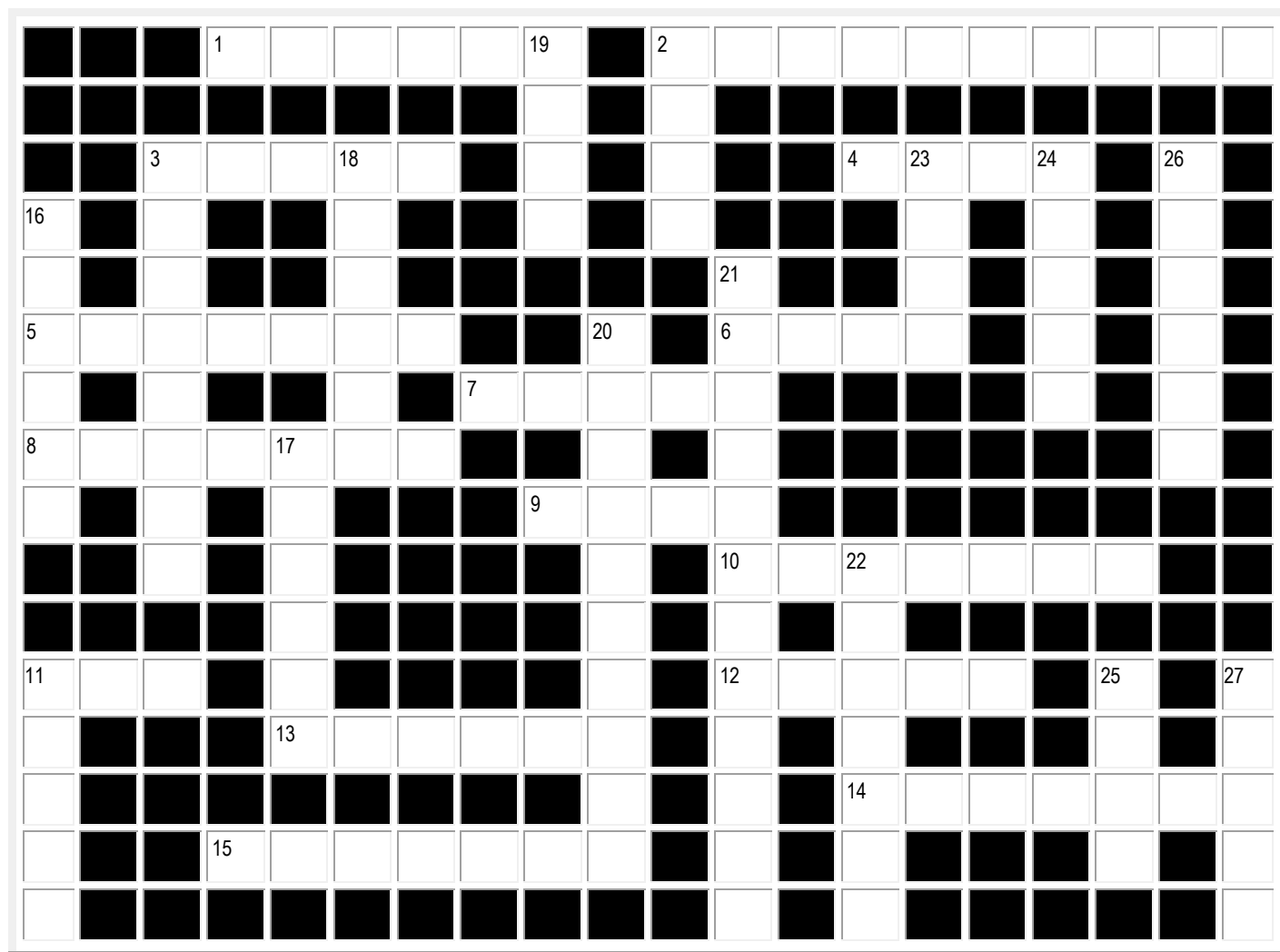
## Bible Books Word Search

### 'This is a most remarkable puzzle'

There are 30 Bible books hidden in the words below. See if you can find them? If you get stuck and need a helping hand by knowing which 30 books you are looking for, then you can find all 30 books in the crossword puzzle.

*This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a traveller in an aeroplane seat pocket on a flight from Sydney to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend studied it while playing his banjo! Elaine Johnson, a columnist friend from Illinois, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involved that she brews a pot of jasmine tea to help her nerves! There are some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people will find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit, it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these sentences. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Adelphi lemonade stall set a new sales record. Subsequently, the local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over eighty readers who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Doctor Daniel Humana humbly puts it: 'Books are all here, in plain view, but hidden from sight'. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass exodus; there are really thirty books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found!*

# 30 Bible Books Crossword



## Across

- 1 The lions did not eat him
- 2 Last book
- 3 He wrote two books in the N.T.
- 4 Rhymes with lark
- 5 Last book in O.T.
- 6 Backwards of soma
- 7 The 7<sup>th</sup> minor prophet
- 8 You count them
- 9 A fisherman
- 10 Paul wrote two letters to him
- 11 Only Bible book with three letters
- 12 The 17<sup>th</sup> book in the N.T.
- 13 His mother, Hannah, came to Eli
- 14 He brews a cup of tea
- 15 Mentions Cain, Abel, Seth, Noah and Abraham

## Down

- 2 Married Boaz
- 3 After Titus
- 11 The middle letter gives his name: KJV
- 16 They lived in Rome
- 17 Book talks about leaving Egypt
- 18 Queen, husband Xerxes, cousin Mordecai
- 19 Doctor who also wrote Acts
- 20 After Kings, before Ezra
- 21 To do with lamenting
- 22 He was once a tax collector
- 23 Sounds a bit like axe
- 24 Saul, David and Solomon were all . . .
- 25 Not Noel, but sounds like it
- 26 They often wear wigs in courtrooms
- 27 **Hose** a garden

Adventure Bible: picture courtesy of **Zonderkidz**. Adventure Storybook: picture courtesy of **Zonderkidz**. The Queen holding a Bible: Courtesy of **Getty Images**.

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Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council  
or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.