

January 2025



Let us read and reason together – 3



Many studies affirm that there are thousands of religions practised in the world. Many religions have one or more sacred texts for their adherents. For example, Hindus say that they have many Vedas, epics, and philosophical works. Muslims claim that the Quran is their most sacred book. Buddhists say the Tripitaka, a work containing Buddha's teachings, is their sacred text. You may ask, then, what is the uniqueness of the Bible if different religions have their own sacred books?

The word Bible comes from a Greek word, biblia, which means "little books" or "booklets." The thirty-nine Old Testament books have been grouped into four subdivisions according to classifications over the centuries by biblical scholars: Law (5), History (12), Poetry (5), and Prophecy (17). The twenty-seven books are grouped as follows: historical and biographical (5), letters (21), and revelation (1). From Genesis to Revelations, 40 authors who mostly never met each other wrote these 66 books of the Bible over a period of 1500 years. However, the continuity and consistency of the Bible are unique despite the fact that in the long list of authors, on the one side, there are professionals and educated people like Moses, Daniel, and Paul; there are uneducated fishermen and shepherds on the other side as one among its authors. The Bible gives us a clear picture of God's grand narrative of His love and human salvation. The only possible reason for this uniqueness is, as Paul says, "All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3: 16). The Bible "never had its origin in the human will" (2 Peter 1:21). God inspired the human authors with His Holy Spirit to write what he wanted to speak with his people. Thus, God is the ultimate Author of the whole Bible.

Sadly, some Christians prefer to read only a few books of their choice, not the whole Bible. Some others do not even attempt to read certain books of the Bible. God says, "I wrote for them the many things of my law, but they regarded them as something foreign" (Hosea 8:12). God's Word is not strange to those who sincerely seek Him. His Word is a priceless treasure. It helps us live godly lives. When we taste it, we realize that it is sweeter than honey. The Bible is worth studying and memorizing. The time we spend on God's Word never goes in vain. The psalmist says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul" (Psalm 19:7). The Bible is the only book whose Author is always present when it is read. This makes reading the Bible interesting every time we open it to read. Like Ezra, shall we devote ourselves to regular reading, studying, and practising God's word? GODependence Bible Reading challenges give you opportunities to start this spiritual exercise.

Let us continue to read and reason together....

- Bro. Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore.

Our Vision

To enlighten, enrich, and empower people to become dependent on God.

Our Mission

GODependence seeks to help people become dependent on God by engaging with God's Word and prayer.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I extend my heartfelt New Year wishes to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, on behalf of the GODependence team. It brings me great joy to connect with you once again through this newsletter in this New Year.

The New Year is all about God's promises and our resolutions. We always desire to fulfil the resolutions we make. However, our own devotion or strength alone is not sufficient to do so. We need God's grace and strength for this.

As Paul says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Let us also claim these words and be encouraged to fulfil the resolutions we have made for this year.

Christ who Strengthens: The Bible says, "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Therefore, it is God Himself who helps us make good resolutions on the New Year's Day. He will also strengthen us to fulfil them (Ref. Isaiah 40:29).

Doing All Things: As we step into this year, we long to achieve so many things. However, we must test whether our desires and resolutions align with God's will. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). So, it is important that we discern God's will before making resolutions.

Having the Strength: If we make good resolutions but do not take action, those very resolutions will discourage us (Ref. Proverbs 21:25). Just as faith without works is dead, resolutions without action are meaningless. If we find ourselves losing momentum in our resolutions as the days pass, let us remember that Christ is the one who strengthens us. We must wait upon Him daily for His strength (Ref. Isaiah 40:31).

Let us dedicate ourselves daily to fulfilling our resolutions with Christ's strength. If we do so, when we look back at the end of the year, we will see the fruit of our efforts.

- On December 16, 2024 we celebrated International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR2024). We thank God for those of you who participated individually, as families, as groups, and as churches in the initiatives we suggested for IDBR 2024 and also those who actively participated in the activities conducted by GODependence Team.
- We also thank God for all who read and shared their thoughts on our GODependence newsletters. We appreciate each one who has enthusiastically participated in Bible Crossword Puzzles and Lets Play Bible Games.
- Please continue to pray for this ministry and introduce its services to others. May the name of the Lord be glorified.



**In Christ's service,
Dr. Pethuru Devadason**

PRAISING & PRAYER POINTS

Let's Praise God:

1. For God's protection and guidance throughout the entire year of 2024 in our personal lives, families, workplaces, and ministries, and for His abundant grace in all these areas.
2. For enabling us to celebrate International Bible Reading Day on December 16 in a meaningful way.
3. For His help in conducting events such as the Mega Online Quiz, Children's Quiz, and Readathon to mark International Bible Reading Day.
4. For initiatives like these events that emphasize and encourage the importance of Bible reading.
5. For His grace in enabling us to host meetings in three languages—English, Tamil, and Hindi—on Zoom.

Let's Pray:

1. For everyone who participated and contributed to events like the Mega Online Quiz, Readathon (on December 16), and the Children's Quiz (on December 15).
2. For those who attended the Zoom meetings in English, Tamil, and Hindi to hear God's Word.
3. That everyone may understand the importance of Bible reading and that efforts be made to spread awareness leading up to International Bible Reading Day on December 16, 2025.
4. That God grants wisdom to execute the plans made for the GODependence ministry in 2025.
5. That everyone grows closer to God through Bible reading and prayer, receiving new grace for the new year.

Good and perfect gift from above

- BRO. ARPUTHARAJ SAMUEL



Good and perfect gift from above

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).

“What is the promise verse you get?” and “What resolution did you make this New Year?” are the common questions Christians ask one another as they exchange their New Year greetings. Sadly, in a few days or weeks, many Christians forget these two things they were keen to know at the beginning of the year. However, God still speaks to us and actively participates in our daily lives, for he is the Living God. When we think about our present lives and look for a bright future, we must remember that our God is GOOD. He is the source of all good things in our lives. You may ask why bad things happen to me?

Here, James writes his letter to Christians living in different parts of the then world. They might have struggled with the questions about temptations, sin, and evil things as they went through severe persecution. They must have asked many “Why?” questions about their lives. Sometimes, we also may ask why God allows such temptation or sin to corrupt us. James clearly writes that God will never tempt us. No temptation comes from God. It is not God, but our desire misleads to the misdeeds. If we allow ourselves to gratify our own evil desire, eventually, it leads us to sin and causes us to think that God does not help us. James warns us, “Don’t be deceived” (James 1:16). We should not try to run away from the light to escape from the darkness of our lives.

When we make a list of good things in our lives or when we count our blessings, we will know they are all from God.

James writes, “Every good and perfect gift is from above.” We cannot say that we received/earned something good from God because we deserve to receive it. God is the great giver. He is the source of all our blessings and whatever good or blessed things we have in our lives. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Sinful temptations never come from God.

The greatest gift God gave us is His son, Jesus Christ, “who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin” (Heb.4:15). Therefore, let us continue to behold God and His word of truth. He is the unchanging, eternal God. His words never change. “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

When we hear, obey, and listen to the great shepherd and follow him, He leads us beside quiet waters. We will have everything we need. For the Bible says: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Is there any better promise than this!?

Our God is willing to give us His blessings; are we ready to receive from Him?

“ We cannot say that we received/earned something good from God because we deserve to receive it. God is the great giver. He is the source of all our blessings and whatever good or blessed things we have in our lives. ”

- Bro. Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore

BIBLE READING CHALLENGES - 2025

“You need to re-organize your life if you are not able to spend time with God's word for half-an hour in a day.” - R. Stanley

A PLAN TO READ THE BIBLE DAILY IN 2025

We have entered the new year 2025 and crossed few days. If you have not read the whole Bible before or if you are wondering what your Bible reading plan will be in 2025, GODependence invites you to join one of the “Bible Reading Challenges” that start from 01 January 2025 onward.

Its Special Features are:

Your choice of Challenge Duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year [Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months / 3 months / 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].

Your choice of Language group from 10 Languages [English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali].

Bible Reading Portion is given daily on the previous night.

Daily Motivational Quotes or Clips on reading the Bible.

Weekly, BiWeekly & Monthly Reviews to ensure progress.

If you fall behind, jump back in! Our reading plan includes Catch-up days & Changing of Plans because we understand real life!

User-friendly WhatsApp groups regulations.

Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (*Conditions apply)

_ What do the recent successful participants say about this plan?_

“Reading the Bible through GODependence Bible Reading Challenge gives a great experience of reading the Bible regularly instead of reading it occasionally when time permits or dutifully reading it without any interest.” - Sahaya Antony J

“I desired to read the whole Bible at least once; the GODependence Bible Reading Challenge helped me accomplish my dream of doing it in a great way.” - C. Gnana Jeya

“GODependence Bible Reading Challenge inspires and encourages me to read the Bible regularly; it instills a desire to read the Bible more and more. GODependence Bible Reading Challenge is designed in a way that facilitates reading the Bible easily.” - E. Deva Anbu

So if you are interested in completing Reading the whole Bible, join in one of the Challenges we designed for your convenience. Please make your choice of convenient **Duration plan** and **Language group** and inform us of your decision along with your **Name** (as to be printed in the Appreciation Certificate on successful completion of the Challenge) and **Age** to the WhatsApp number **+91 95255 95265** by clicking this link: <https://wa.me/919525595265>

Thank you. God bless you. Amen.

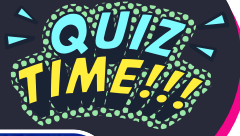
- Team GODependence



The poster features the GODependence logo at the top left with the tagline "True freedom is being dependent on God". The main title "BIBLE READING CHALLENGES" is prominently displayed. Below it, the quote by R. Stanley is repeated. An image of an alarm clock on a Bible is shown. A purple banner indicates the start date "01 January 2025 onwards". Three key features are listed with checkmarks: "Join one of our Bible reading plans", "Start reading at your own convenience", and "Scan the QR code to Join". Contact information for GODependence (+91 95255 95265) and a QR code are provided. At the bottom, instructions for sending a WhatsApp message are given in a specific format: "<Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>". The website URL "www.godependence.com/brc" is also included.

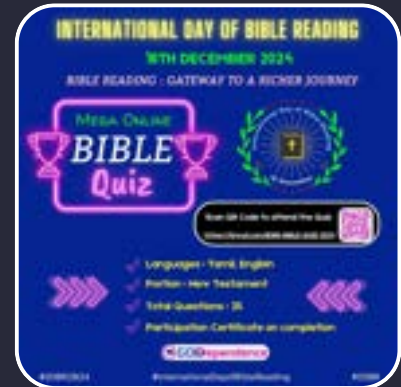
MEGA ONLINE BIBLE QUIZ - 16 DECEMBER 2024

As part of the International Bible Reading Day celebration on December 16, 2024, a Mega Online Bible Quiz was conducted. This online quiz was conducted in both Tamil and English over two days, December 15 and 16.



- Approximately 575 participants took part in this event, with 487 participants in Tamil and 88 participants in English. A total of 25 questions were given from the New Testament.
- E-certificates were sent via Email to all participants, and for those who requested, they were also sent via WhatsApp.
- Additionally, participants were encouraged to share their E-certificates on their social media platforms as a way of celebrating International Bible Reading Day. Many accepted this invitation and joyfully marked December 16 by sharing their certificates online.
- We thank God for each and every participant. In the coming year, we aim to conduct this online Bible quiz in multiple languages, along with Tamil and English. We seek your support and prayers for this initiative.

BRO. DARWIN NESAKUMAR A



BIBLE READATHON - 16 DECEMBER 2024



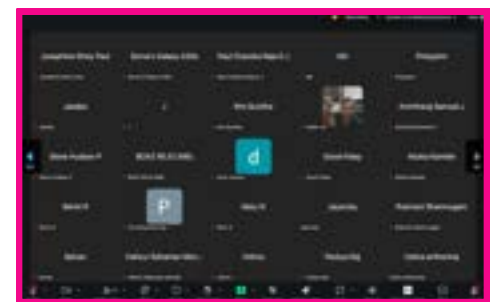
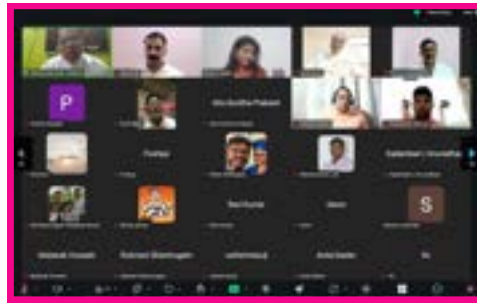

-MR. DENSINGH, KUWAIT.

- As part of the International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) observations, the Lord enabled the GODependence Team to conduct the Bible Readathon on 16.12.2024. The purpose of this Bible Readathon is to provide an opportunity to engage deeply with the Scriptures and grow spiritually.
- The Bible Readathon was conducted on 16.12.2024 for 8 hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. IST in English and Tamil languages simultaneously. The portion assigned for the Bible readathon was from the New Testament, the book of Matthew. In English, the participants could read until John Chapter 3, and in Tamil, until Luke Chapter 17.
- This event was conducted through Streamyard and live telecasted on GODependence YouTube channels. People from various countries were able to join and read the scriptures. The Bible Readathon gave the participants and listeners a fresh perspective on the scriptures. Many participants expressed this as an Ezra experience.
- God willing, in the future, GODependence is planning prayerfully to conduct the Bible Readathon in different languages and with different patterns.
- Click the link for Bible Readathon in English: [Click Here](#)
- Click the link for Bible Readathon in Tamil: [Click Here](#)

ZOOM MEETINGS ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIBLE READING - 16 DECEMBER 2024

- On December 16, 2024, as part of the International Bible Reading Day celebrations, a total of three Zoom gatherings were organized in English, Tamil, and Hindi respectively GODependence Team.
- In the English Zoom gathering, Dr. P. C. Abraham (Kerala), in the Tamil Zoom gathering, Rev. Dr. D. B. Kulothungan (Maharashtra) and in the Hindi Zoom gathering, Bro. Emerson Scott (Maharashtra) shared the Word of God.
- Additionally, special guests delivered their International Bible Reading Day greetings: In the English Zoom gathering, Rev. Dr. Rajasingh Elias, Rev. Dr. J. N. Manoharan and Bro. Sam K. John shared their messages. In the Tamil Zoom gathering, Bro. Watchman Nee Job was the special guest. In the Hindi Zoom gathering, Rt. Rev. Dr. Bishop Augustine Sukumar and Bro. Watchman Nee Job conveyed their greetings.
- During these sessions, a few participants who had been actively reading Bible through the GODependence Bible Reading Challenge shared their testimonies about their reading experiences. Additionally, a video on Mary Jones was screened in the respective languages. Members of the GODependence Bible Reading Challenge groups in different languages also attended these Zoom gatherings.
- All participants gained a deeper understanding of the importance of Bible reading and resolved to spread awareness about International Bible Reading Day to many others.



DID YOU KNOW?


The Bible gives a hint of DNA code

Psalms 139:13-16 (Bible): "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."


The Bible's metaphors of writing, weaving, and knitting human life together beautifully align with this concept:

- DNA is "knit together" in a double-helix structure.
- Genetic information is "written" in a way that determines every aspect of a person's physical and biological being.
- The idea of being "fearfully and wonderfully made" speaks to the awe-inspiring complexity of human life, which science continues to unravel.

Aren't you fascinated to read this ancient Book (Bible) whose knowledge surpassed its time?



Do you know?



The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton in the 13th century and into verses by Robert Estienne in the 16th century?

The Ark of Noah is described as being 300 cubits long, which is approximately 450 feet or 137 meters (Genesis 6:15)

16th December, is there any significance for this day, that it is celebrated as an international day of Bible reading?

Yes, there is...It is the birthday of Mary Jones, who was born on 16th December 1784 and inspired the founding of the British and the foreign Bible society.

Who was this Mary Jones? and what was her relation in regarding to Bible?

In a small village nestled in the Welsh countryside, Mary was born in a poor but deeply faithful family. Life was not easy, and material possessions were few, but Mary had something far greater than riches. She had a heart full of love for God.



Mary Jones

From a young age, Mary developed a longing to read the Bible for herself, but in those days, Bibles were scarce, especially in her native Welsh language. There was no Bible in Mary's home, and in her entire village, there was only one, and it belonged to a kind neighbour who allowed her to visit and read it when she could.

As Mary sat and read those precious words, her desire grew. She longed to own a Bible of her own, to hold it in her hands, to read it whenever she wanted, and to treasure it in her heart.

But how could a poor girl like Mary ever afford such a treasure? As a Bible cost far more than a family could afford.

Yet Mary was determined.

At just nine years old, she made a decision that would shape the rest of her life. She began saving every penny she could. For six long years, she worked tirelessly doing chores, running errands and helping neighbors, always setting aside the small coins she earned.

Finally, when Mary was 15 years old, she had saved enough money. But there was another challenge. The nearest place to buy a Bible was in the town of Bala, a full 26 miles away that is around 42 km distance. If she wanted a Bible, she would have to walk such a long distance.

And early one morning, Mary set out on her journey barefoot. The rough and stony paths hurt her feet, but Mary pressed on, her heart filled with hope and determination.

She walked for hours, crossing hills and valleys, until she finally reached Bala. There, she went to the home of Rev. Thomas Charles, a minister known for his work in spreading the gospel.

When Mary told him her story and offered her hard-earned savings, Rev. Charles was deeply moved. He had only a few Bibles left, but he made sure Mary received one.

As Mary held the Bible in her hands for the first time, tears of joy streamed down her face. Her dream had come true. She returned home, her Bible, a cherished possession that she would read, study, and treasure for the rest of her life.

Mary's story did not end there. Her determination and passion inspired Rev Thomas Charles to take action. She shared Mary's story with others, and soon, it sparked a movement to ensure that no one would have to go without a Bible. In 1804, just a few years later, the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded.

Mary Jones walked 26 miles barefoot to own a Bible. She saved for six years because she knew the value of God's word. Today, most of us don't have to make such sacrifices. We have the Bible in our homes, on our phones and in countless languages. But do we treasure it as Mary did?

As we celebrate the International Day of Bible Reading, let Mary's story inspire us to read, study and live out God's word. Let us be reminded that the Bible is not just a book. It is the living, breathing word of God, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Mary Jones' story is not just her own. It is ours. Her love for the Bible invites us to renew our own commitment to God's word and to share its message with the world that still longs for its light.

To Watch Mary Jones Video - [Click Here](#)

Scripture:
Luke

LETS PLAY BIBLE GAME - 3

Send the answers with Bible references.
You can use the Bible (NKJV) to find the answers



I. Find the Bible Incident

1

3

5

2

4

6

II. Find The bible Verse

1

3

1

3

5

III. What Jesus Said / Asked

2

4

2

4

<https://forms.gle/TydTBbuPwvJzr81JA>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 15/01/2025. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter

The first 3 people who sent in the correct answers were:

- Anshilin Iyyadurai
- Brigida S
- Anitha Peter

B. Whom does this object belong to? Answers with verse reference.

1. Pitcher of water - A man or master of the house (14:13)
2. Linen cloth - Young man (14:51), Joseph of Arimathea (15:46)
3. Oil of spikenard - A woman (14:3)
4. Platter - Herodias' daughter (6:22-25)
5. Colt - the people of Bethany (11:1-6)

A. Same names, but different persons. Answers with verse reference.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. John - 2 persons John the baptist (6:14) John the brother of James (1:19) | Simon the brother of Jesus (6:3) Simon the leper (14:3) Simon a Cyrenian (15:21) | 4. Joseph - 1 person Joseph of Arimathea (15:43) |
| 2. Simon - 5 persons Simon the brother of Andrew (1:16) Simon the Cananite (3:18) | 3. Mary - 2 persons Mary Magdalene (16:1) Mary the mother of James (16:1) | 5. James - 3 persons James the son of Zebedee (1:19) James the son of Alphaeus (3:18) James the brother of Jesus (6:3) |

C. Where is the parable in Mark? Answers with verse reference.

1. Lamp under the basket (4:21,22)
2. Old garment (2:21)
3. Vinedressers (12:1-12)
4. Fig tree (13:28,29)
5. Master of house (13:35)

Let's Play Bible
Game - 2
Scripture: Mark

GOdependence Bible Reading Challenges



Names of those who successfully completed the Bible Reading Challenges as on 30 November 2024



| 1 Month | 2 Months | 3 Months |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borun c Biswas Dorus G S Hebsi Willingston K. Latha Livingston R. Padmavathi R. Jeyanthi Shunmugiah. M T. HELAN JIJI Vanitha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andugula Keerthi Anna rose D. Grace Hepsiba Paul Indiraani. M M. Jaya Ms. Muthuraman P. Jamunarani P. MERCY DEVAPACKIAM P. Pavithra Sherine Ranjith Sukirta J. Sangeeta Janice Shekhar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Malathi David Samuel Parvathy S R Rani STANLEY GNANARAJ D Ga. Golda Tamarasi |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. H. JABASELVI J. L. Jershajustin Jenisha J L M johnofarc flora S. Thanapaul | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A, Salome Luciana A. Agnes Beulah Grace A. Jasmin Darathy ANUSHLIN BELCIYA D. Golden Janet D. PHILIP Jasmin M Aruldhas Mrs. A. Salome Luciana T. Valarmathy Jeyaraj W. Sam . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Umamakeshwari Godwyn Rajkumar Zebina violation In Geneva Florence Lavanya R T. Pethuchelvi T. Silas Dasan |
| 4 Months | 6 Months | 1 Year |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Correct Answers</p> <p>Across:</p> <p>3. Sower -Mark: 4: 14 4. Levi -Mark 2:14 6. Capernahum -Mark 1:21 8. Centurion -Mark 15:39 9. Messiah -Mark 8:29 10. Gethsemane -Mark 14:32 12. Sadducees -Mark 12:18 14. Faith -Mark 5:34 15. John - Mark 1:4</p> | <p>The first 3 people who sent in the correct answers were:</p> <p>Anshilin Iyyadurai Pradeepa k Rukmani</p> <p>Down:</p> <p>1. Judas -Mark 14:10 2. Legion -Mark 5:9 5. Bartimaeus -Mark 10:46 7. Herod -Mark 6:27-28 11. Nazareth -Mark 6:1 13. Sabbath -Mark 2:27</p> | <p>Editorial Team</p> <p>Pethuru Devadason Arputharaj Samuel J.I.A. Easter Raj Peter A R D. Densingh Darwin Nesakumar A Shoba Daniel Josephine Shiny Paul Catherine Suji</p> |
|--|---|---|

Bible Crossword Puzzle - 1
 Scripture: Matthew



Joanna

The Wealthy Woman Who Fearlessly Served Jesus

(LUKE 8:1-3; 24:6-11)

Joanna was the wife of Chuza (the manager of Herod). She was a wealthy woman and obviously would have had good connections with her society. Joanna was among the women Jesus healed of evil spirits and infirmities. She dared to follow Jesus and support His ministry out of her wealth.

As Herod was an enemy of Jesus Christ, Joanna's actions could have affected her husband. Because Jesus was executed on the charges of 'treason' (as King of Jews), his followers also could be arrested and executed. Even while His eleven disciples ran away and went into hiding, Joanna and the other women were with Jesus. Even after the burial of Jesus, Joanna was among the women who went to His tomb with spices.

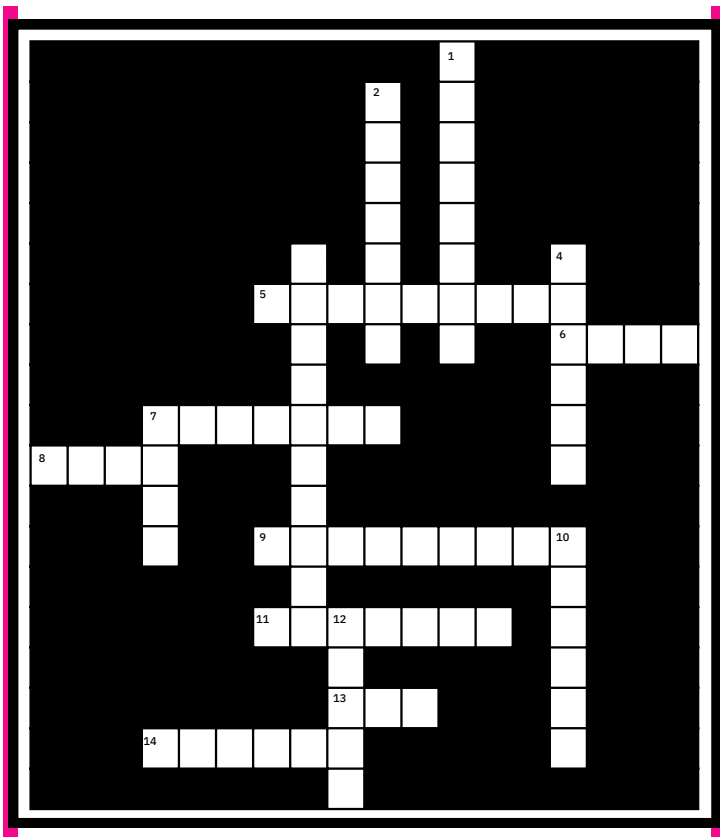
What does Joanna's life teach us?

- Jesus delivered Joanna, and out of her gratitude, she followed Him. We who are delivered from sins must wholeheartedly follow Jesus.
- We must serve Jesus Christ whatever the consequences may be.
- We must fear God and not people.
- We must use our wealth to support God's ministry.
- Despite our high rank in society, we must join the followers of Jesus Christ though they may be poor.
- We need not have extraordinary talents to serve the Lord. He can use anyone to further His kingdom.

Our priority should be to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.

- BRO. A. R. PETER

Bible Crossword Puzzle - 3



Scripture: Luke

Across

- 5 City Jesus wept over
- 6 Who has chosen the good portion which will not be take away from her
- 7 The Roman Emperor who decreed the census during Jesus' birth
- 8 Jesus raised this widow's son from the dead
- 9 The short ruler who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus and later repented
- 11 Jesus healed ten men afflicted with this disease
- 13 Parable of a lost coin involves this number of coins.
- 14 Jesus was teaching in this place when His parents found Him as a boy

Down

- 1 The name of the high priest during Jesus' trial
- 2 The rich man in the parable ignored this beggar at his gate
- 3 The place where Jesus prayed before His arrest
- 4 Where Jesus appeared after His resurrection
- 7 This prophetess spoke of Jesus in the temple
- 10 The angel told the shepherds that this had been born
- 12 The disciple who cut off the servant's ear during Jesus' arrest

Note: Send the answers with Bible references.
You can use the Bible to find the answers

<https://forms.gle/M5sy5s1ppjGL6Yat6>
Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 15/01/2025. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter

Gospel of Luke

Time of Writing: A.D. 6-61

Author of the Book: Luke

Time of Events: B.C. 7 - A.D. 26

Type of Book: Gospel

Introduction to the Book

- This book is dedicated to Theophilus, who is worthy of great honor. It is composed in good Greek style. The author has written this book with the intention of informing about the teachings and ministry of the church during his time. Although other books about Jesus had been written before this, he writes this book in a way that is proper and complete, confirming everything with historical reference (Luke 1:1-4). Since it is written for Gentiles, the Hebrew terminology is avoided in this book. Events that occurred when the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by fire are depicted in this book. The prophetic literary message regarding the Jerusalem temple found in the Gospel of Mark is transformed into a report about the destruction of the city (Luke 21:5, 20; 13:35). Therefore, it is certain that this book must have been written after 70 AD.
- The purpose of this book, like the other two synoptic gospels of Matthew and Mark, is to reveal everything that the Lord Jesus Christ did until the day he was "taken up to heaven" (Acts 1:1-2). Luke's Gospel is unique; it is a meticulous history. This book is structured as an "orderly" account (Luke 1:3) that aligns with Luke's medical mindset. Luke's work emphasizes his ministry and compassion towards Gentiles, Samaritans, women, children, tax collectors, sinners, and others who were considered outcasts in Israel.

Context and Purpose

- The purpose of this book, like the other two synoptic gospels of Matthew and Mark, is to reveal everything that the Lord Jesus Christ did until the day he was "taken up to heaven" (Acts 1:1-2). Luke's Gospel is unique; it is a meticulous history. This book is structured as an "orderly" account (Luke 1:3) that aligns with Luke's medical mindset. Luke's work emphasizes his ministry and compassion towards Gentiles, Samaritans, women, children, tax collectors, sinners, and others who were considered outcasts in Israel.

Key Verses

- Luke 2:4-7, Luke 3:16, Luke 4:18-19, 21, Luke 18:31-32, Luke 23:33-34, Luke 24:1-3

Summary of the Book

- Luke divides the history of salvation into three major sections: the period of the people of Israel until John, the time of Jesus, and the time of the church (16:16). While indicating the coming of salvation, he emphasizes the present reality of salvation (21:28) that has already been fulfilled in the life of Jesus (1:1, 4:21). In this book, Jerusalem serves as the focal point of God's plan for the world's salvation. This Gospel begins and ends in Jerusalem. The idea that "the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost" (19:10) stands out, with marginalized sinners, women, the poor, and Samaritans receiving

special attention. The activities of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' compassion, repentance, and the joy resulting from forgiveness of sins are emphasized. Prayer, responsible use of wealth, obtaining peace, and bearing the cross are highlighted as essential characteristics of discipleship.

- Often referred to as the most beautifully written book, Luke's Gospel begins by telling us about Jesus' parents, the birth of his relative John the Baptist, Mary's and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a manger, and through the stories of the Good Samaritan and Lazarus, it reveals Jesus' public ministry showcasing his complete compassion and forgiveness. Many believe in this unconditional love that transcends all human boundaries, while many others—especially religious leaders—challenge and oppose Jesus' claims. His enemies sought his death on the cross. Ultimately, Jesus was shown, interrogated, sentenced, and crucified. But the tomb could not hold him! His resurrection confirms the continuation of his ministry to seek and save the lost.

Jesus Christ in the Book

- Since Luke was a Gentile, his references to the Old Testament are comparatively fewer than those in Matthew's Gospel. Furthermore, most of the Old Testament citations are found in the words of Jesus rather than in Luke's messages. Jesus used the Old Testament to defend against the attacks of Satan, responding, "It is written" (Luke 4:1-13). To identify himself as the prophesied Messiah (Luke 4:17-21), he reminded the Pharisees of their inability to adhere to the law and the need for a Savior (Luke 10:25-28, 18:18-27).

Practical Application

- Luke's Gospel provides us with a beautiful portrait of our compassionate Savior. The poor were the primary focus of his ministry. During Jesus' time, Israel was a highly class-conscious society. The weak and marginalized were truly powerless to improve their lives. Especially the message that "the kingdom of God is near you" (Luke 10:9) is a message we must share with those around us. Even in comparatively wealthy countries—perhaps particularly so—the spiritual need is dire. Christians must follow Jesus' example and bring the good news of salvation to the poor and marginalized. The kingdom of God is near; time is running out every day.

Structure of the Book

Dedication: 1:1-4
Childhood Events: 1:5-2:52
Preparation for Ministry: 3:1-4:13
Galilean Ministry: 4:14-9:50
Journey to Jerusalem: 9:51-19:27
Jerusalem Ministry: 19:28-21:38
Jesus' Suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension: 22-24

 GODdependence

COLLECTION: BRO. DARWIN NESAKUMAR A

Praise the Lord...

My name is D.B. Matthew. I hail from a small village in Kerala called Karancheri. Currently, I reside and work in Kuwait. I was born into a Christian family, but I did not know the Lord personally until I was 26 years old. In 2011, I first started reading the New Testament to know more about God. As a result, God saved me. He gave me the grace to obey his commandment of water baptism.

Furthermore, he anointed me with the Holy Spirit. I thank the Lord for the gift of salvation that he has given me through his Son Jesus Christ. Right from the day of salvation, I understood that it is very important for a child of God to read the Word of God in an organized, systematic and consistent way. Sadly, I could never put this into practice in my life, at the beginning of the year I would start with the New Testament and by the end of the year I would not even have finished halfway through needless to talk about the Old Testament such was my state.

In 2022 during the Covid lockdown, I was introduced to the Godependence team and there was a Bible challenge to read the entire New Testament in two months. By the grace of God I was able to read the entire New Testament in two months I was pleasingly surprised and that was a source of encouragement for me, and in 2023 I joined the group to read the Bible in one year and for the first time in my life I can confidently say that I've read the entire Bible right from the beginning right from Genesis 1 until Revelations chap 22. I thank and praise God for all the inspiring efforts of the Godependence team. God had used Godependence to kindle the desire to read the word of God in my life. In 2024 I joined the same group. I'm almost going to complete the Bible once again by God's grace. I finished the New Testament I am aiming to complete the gospels and the eight Epistles once again before the year ends. If God permits, I would like to join the same group in 2025. My personal goal is to read the New Testament at least Thrice in 2025. I want to share the experience of reading the word of God. I read the Word of God early in the morning that's when my mind is decluttered from all the worldly information and my mind is like a sponge to absorb the things of God and that's a very precious moment to read the word of God in my life.

You may have read the same passage maybe 20 times 30 times but each time you read a particular passage; God specially speaks to you personally.

Therefore, it has never been boring to me. The more you read it the more is a desire to go back and read it. It's a sweet addiction, a positive addiction in my life, and there are a couple of reasons why I got motivated to read the word of God. First of all, the passage 1 Timothy 3:16 in the scriptures has motivated me. All scripture is given by the inspiration of God therefore even though they were written by ordinary people they were all breathed by the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament and the New Testament are equally important. Earlier I used to sideline the Old Testament thinking that they are more of history compared to the New Testament. Then God spoke to me both are equally important.

The Old Testament is a shadow of the New Testament and the passage in Psalm 19 mentions the preciousness of the Word of God and how much a person is warned and in keeping them there is great reward. It has been true in my life the word of God that is hidden in my heart gives me the strength to resist sin and lead a godly life. There is another statement made by a man of God that greatly inspired me. He said how much a person hears the voice of God depends on how much he reads the Word of God. That has been very true in my life. The more I read the word of God the more I lay up in my heart. God uses the same words to speak to me. He brings it up out of my heart into my mind and that's how He speaks to me. It's very true in my life.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to the Godependence team once again for their selfless service. This has been a tremendous blessing in my life. I invite others who have not joined to try Godependence and to try this for their benefit and spiritual growth. There is no other motivation behind it. I have been a regular member of this group for two and a half years. I thank you for all the selfless efforts you've been making. I encourage others to read the word of God. May God bless you mightily in the coming year and God bless all your efforts and surely there is a reward. Thank you. Praise the Lord.

CLICK THE FOLLOWING YOUTUBE LINKS TO SEE MORE TESTIMONIES

- **If you take a BIBLE TODAY; The BIBLE will Take You TOMORROW** [BRO. SAMUEL STAINESON](#)
- **Every Time The Word is New, Get a New Perspective On the Same Words** [DR. CHRISTIANA JOSEPH](#)
- **God's Word gave me Hope; I was very Blessed** [SIS. HANNAH SEB](#)
- **Without knowing GOD's Word how will we get to know the unseen GOD?** [SIS. CHARISMA ISRAELINE.](#)

PRIZES DISTRIBUTION FOR CHILDREN BRC 2023-24



More than 250 Students had enrolled in Children's Bible Reading challenge groups for the year 2023-24. They were reading Bible daily and memorising few verses per week. Competitions on reciting the Memory Verses for all the 3 Terms were conducted. Prizes for 14 winners from for these Memory Verses Competitions and 28 participants who had actively taken part in Weekly Quizzes were given by the end of December 2024.



BIBLE MEDITATION GROUPS (BMG) - 2025

GODdependence started the Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) for regular meditation on the Holy Bible in August 2020 and then in July 2022. These groups were held for about one year duration each. Now, we were planning to start them again in January 2025 and to conduct them continuously. Due to some unavoidable practical reasons, they will be restarted in April 2025. The trainings for the participants will be given in March 2025. Detailed information about this will appear in the subsequent issue. Pray for the Bible Meditation Groups.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIBLE READING (IDBR) DECEMBER - 16

GODdependence Team observed the 2nd International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2024 in a grand manner

- We had arranged separate Zoom meetings on 16 December in English & Tamil & Hindi.
- We conducted Mega online Bible Quiz – English & Tamil separately, which I was available to access on 15 & 16th December 2024.
- IDBR WhatsApp group in 3 Languages (English, Tamil & Hindi) for WhatsApp users to share their IDBR social media posts.
- In the IDBR WhatsApp Group Bible Quizzes for Children were conducted in Tamil and English groups on Dec 15 Sunday.
- Birthday wishes with the hashtag of IDBR 2024 to those who have Birthday on 16 December.
- 8-hour Online Bible Readathon in English & Tamil were conducted separately.

Team GODdependence



FOLLOW US!

GODdependence Bible Reading Challenges



+965 6596 2559 **GODdependence**



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CONTACT:

GODdependence Trust
105 Y/1A, Nalla Samarian Nagar,
Vallioor - 627 117,
Tamilnadu, India