



The inspiration and authority of the Bible is the bedrock upon which our faith is built. Without it, we are doomed to uncertainty, doubt, and a hopeless groping in the darkness of human speculation.

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# ILLUMINER

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**JULY 2022**

## Britain at the Crossroads

**T**he United Kingdom is again at a crossroads as its Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced that he would be stepping down as leader of the ruling Conservatives. A deluge of resignations by ministers and souring pressure from within the party culminated in Johnson's resignation. In his address at Downing Street, he offered to continue as the Prime Minister until his party elected a new leader to become the Prime Minister. But his resignation triggers a contest to replace him as head of his party. The winner will become the party leader and Prime Minister without needing a national election. Johnson had faced growing calls to go after claims that he lied about the circumstances in which he gave a vital role to an ally who was forced to quit last month over accusations that he had groped men.

Johnson's premiership has been embroiled in months of turmoil – last month, he survived a vote of confidence among Conservative MPs – but the Prime Minister's undoing was ultimately prompted by the scandal surrounding one of their numbers. Johnson appointed Chris Pincher as Deputy Chief Whip, a senior role involved in maintaining discipline among fellow Conservative MPs. He resigned last weekend after being accused by two men of drunkenly groping them at a private members' club in London. Johnson had promoted Pincher in February to the position with pastoral care responsibilities for colleagues. The Prime Minister refused to suspend Pincher from the party. After four

*Continue on Page 09*



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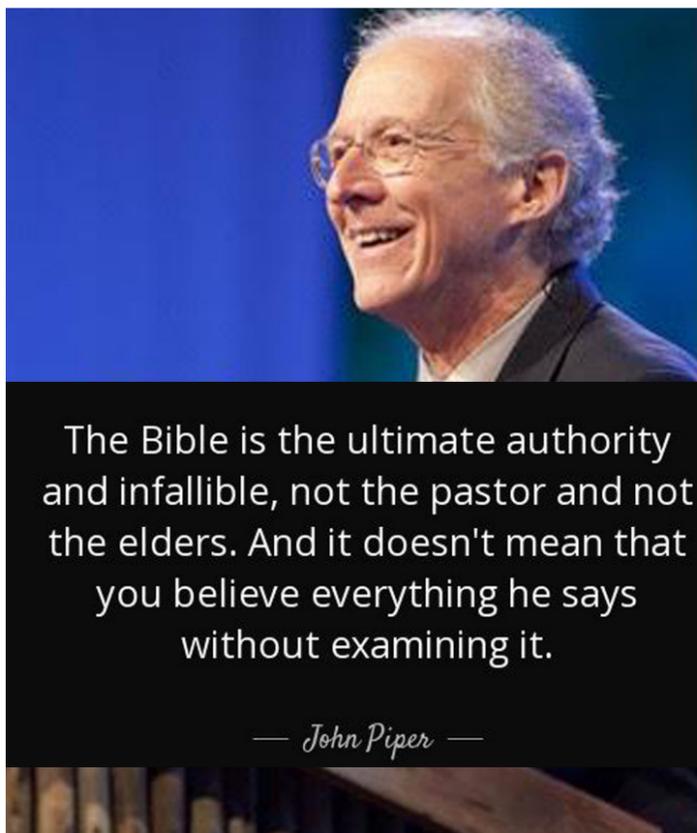
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**AUGUST**  
Salvation - Acts 4:12

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The Bible is the ultimate authority and infallible, not the pastor and not the elders. And it doesn't mean that you believe everything he says without examining it.

— John Piper —

## FROM THE editor



## A book like no other!

**T**he Holy Scriptures, which we call The Bible, is a book written by multiple authors over a span of more than 1500 years, under the inspiration of God so that His heart and intent be conveyed to man. The Divine Being breathed into His servants to pen the content so that it can be the means by which the sinner can be brought to repentance from sins, and the saint can be instructed to follow the Word closely for personal edification and transformation. God, the Master Communicator, spoke in various times and diverse manners by those who gave their ears and life in His Majesty's service; and finally spoke through His Son clearly for all world to see and hear the only Savior in whose name is the salvation from sins.

The Bible would have been yet another religious book had it not been for the Author being present when the authored is read. The Author opens the inner eyes to reveal the spiritual and practical insights of what is communicated. The content of the communication is two-fold; Right-living (righteousness) and Resurrection-life. Every instruction and correction are given so that the man of God may be brought into the perfection of right intent and proper conduct, as standardized by God. Every promise in the Scriptures points the saint to the reality of living a life that demonstrates what it means to be made alive to God from being dead in trespasses and sins.

**“The Bible would have been yet another religious book had it not been for the Author being present when the authored is read. The Author opens the inner eyes to reveal the spiritual and practical insights of what is communicated.”**

The Scriptural promises point to the hope of a bodily resurrection. Have anyone today witnessed the bodily resurrection of the dead wherein they die no more? None have had such an experience and have neither heard nor seen such. But we still hope for the resurrection from the dead; why so? It is because we understand from the Scriptures that God raised Christ Jesus from the dead; and because we have personally experienced the spiritual resurrection from being dead in sins. Since we are made alive to God by the indwelling seed of the Word, we know for certain that the sinless Savior and bodily resurrection from the dead are not only the written (logos) Word but also the revealed and experienced Word. Let the written and the revealed Word of God be the basis of our belief and the foundation of our trust in God for time and eternity!

## “THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO”: THE USE AND ABUSE OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

**T**he famous hymn “Jesus loves me this I know ...” composed by Anna B. Warner in 1822 reflects an era where the authority of the Bible was undisputedly accepted, an era that laid the foundation for the morality and ethics of Western civilization. At present, despite the spiritual revolution taking place in the West that relegates Christianity to the periphery, the core ethical norms, rooted in Christian principles hold a major role in the West. The authority of the Bible was rarely challenged before the rise of rationalism and critical thinking. At present, in a pluralistic world, where most major religious traditions claim the divine origin and authority of their scriptures, it is highly essential to understand the unique authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, its use and abuse.

The word ‘authority’ can be defined as, “the power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behaviour”. “The power to give orders or make decisions, the power or right to direct or control someone or something.” Regardless of doctrinal differences, all Christian denominations accept the authority of all sixty-six books of the Bible (except for Roman Catholics who include the apocryphal books) and its

normative role in the day-to-day life of individuals in making choices and decisions, encompassing all major areas of life. The authority of the Bible is founded on its divine origin and authorship handed down to the present generation transcending time, culture, socio-political, and geographical boundaries. Through various literary forms, it conveys God’s will for humanity (the good pleasure and heart). The Bible is a unique library with selected literature of different genres: narratives, history, poetry, prophecy, apocalyptic literature and letters that originated and circulated in different geographical locations with different historical contexts over a span of fifteen hundred years yet holds together as a coherent whole with no contradiction to its central message. It is a record of the progressive revelation of God from the time of creation until the death and resurrection of Jesus and points further to the future, deeply embedded in the lives of people in different settings from the poorest to the richest, peasants to the princes. Therefore, any reader at any point in time would be able to draw numerous principles pertaining to different situations in life. The socio-cultural, political, economic, and spiritual dimensions transpire through the collection of literature help one to determine the crucial questions of right and wrong or good and bad that pervade every single aspect of life. More significantly, it points toward the truth.

While its normative and formative function is vividly evident, the right use of its authority is crucial. Unless one reckons the true meaning and purpose of the literature included in the Bible by understanding them from the historical context in which it evolved, it leads to abuse of its authority. It can be a tool for exploitation, manipulation, and control in the hands of those who fail to understand its true essence or those who want to advance their vested interests. History reveals that ecclesiastical institutions, a segment of society or even individuals have misused the authority of scripture for their advantage. Consequently, the authority of the Bible was solicited on both ends of the argument. For instance, while one group used the Bible to defend slavery another group used it for its abolition, defending the war or ceasing it.

The authority of the Bible lies in the timeless principles and values conveyed through all the sixty-six books that applied to all aspects of life from birth to death and beyond. It guides one’s personal choices, social engagements, and relationships. However, it is highly significant to understand how all the parts of the Bible connect for the right exercise of its authority. The present world is beginning to see the consequence of rejecting the divine principles laid out in the scripture.

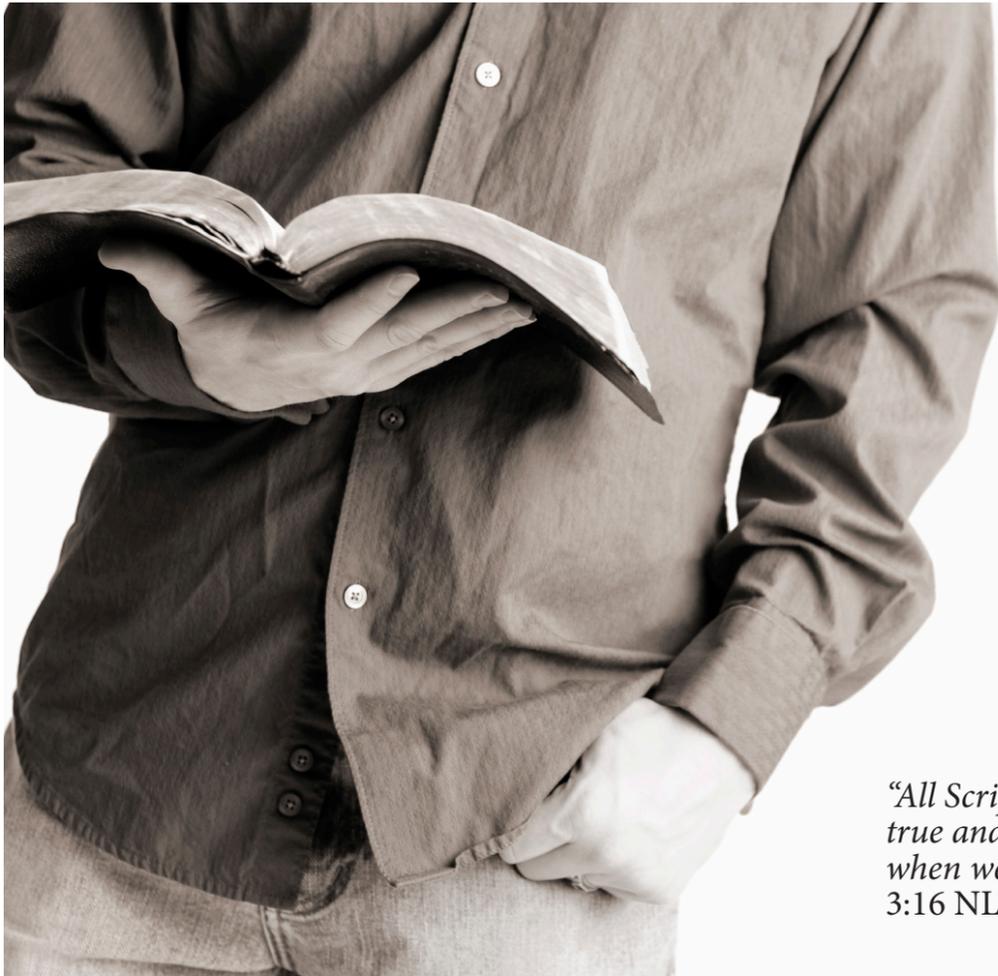
**“The authority of the Bible lies in the timeless principles and values conveyed through all the sixty-six books that applied to all aspects of life from birth to death and beyond. It guides one’s personal choices, social engagements, and relationships. However, it is highly significant to understand how all the parts of the Bible connect together for the right exercise of its authority.”**



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BROKEN BREAD



## THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right” (2 Timothy 3:16 NLT).*

**T**he Scripture is “God-breathed” (Gk. *theopneustos*), implying that it is the “Word of God.” The ultimate origin of inspired writing is the desire of God to communicate with man. God used the agency of human personalities to convey His message. As a result, the writer’s inscriptions are empowered with divine authority and are provided to the believer for faith and practice.

Several external and internal pieces of evidence endorse the divine inspiration of the Scripture. More formal evidence is its unity and uniqueness. It is composed of sixty-six books, written over a period of fifteen hundred years by nearly forty authors from thirteen different countries, using several languages and comprising several topics. Yet, it comes together as a single literary masterpiece with one central theme – Jesus Christ and the redemption of humanity. It is written by men who had no explicit knowledge of the book’s overall structure. Yet, like a symphony, each individual part of the Bible contributes to an overall unity orchestrated by a Master.

The transforming ability of the Bible is also vital evidence since the Bible has influenced and changed the lives of more people than any other book in existence. The writer of Hebrews says, “The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword” (4:12). God vindicates the Scripture’s authority

**“THE INTEGRITY AND SINCERITY OF THE HUMAN AUTHORS, WHO WERE EVEN WILLING TO FACE EXCRUCIATING TORTURE AND DEATHS, WERE CONVINCED THAT GOD HAD SPOKEN TO THEM. THEIR HONESTY VOUCHES FOR THE DIVINE AUTHORITY OF THEIR WRITINGS.”**

by its evangelistic and edifying powers.

A compelling external testimony to the divine inspiration of the Scripture is its fulfilled prophecies. Hundreds of predictions have been fulfilled, some of them given hundred years in advance. There were over 300 prophecies regarding Jesus’s first coming. The time (Dan. 9), city (Mic. 5:2), nature of Christ’s birth (Isa.7:14), His life, and His death (Psalm 22:16; Zec 11:12; 13:6) were foretold in advance. Different people proclaimed these prophecies in different centuries. The fulfilment of these was beyond human control. In the book *Science Speaks*, Peter Stoner says that the probability of just eight Messianic prophecies to be fulfilled in a man’s life is 1 in 1017. Yet many prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus. Numerous other prophecies such as the destruction of Edom (Obad. 1), the curse on Babylon (Isa 13), the destruction of Tyre (Eze. 26) and Nineveh (Nah. 1-3), the prophecy about Cyrus (Isa. 45:1), and the return of Israel to the Land (Isa. 11:11-12), etc., have been already accomplished and the list still goes on.

Archaeological excavations in the biblical land have provided

authentic evidence that would strengthen the accounts of biblical authors and validate their accuracy. Many sceptics regarded the Bible as a mythological book encompassing fictitious characters. But archaeological evidence proves that it is the most carefully and meticulously preserved ancient writings and contains historically validating events and personalities. The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Tel Dan Stele inscription of Israel and the house of David, Hezekiah’s tunnel and the second wall, the discovery of the Hittite civilization, etc., are a few among them. The latest addition is the discovery of the “cursed” tablet at the site of Joshua’s altar on Mt. Ebal. It features the Hebrew word for God, YHWH, the earliest reference to the name Yahweh found in ancient Israel. It proves that Bible could have been written as early as it claims.

The integrity and sincerity of the human authors, who were even willing to face excruciating torture and deaths, were convinced that God had spoken to them. Their honesty vouches for the divine authority of their writings. When all the evidence is viewed in perspective, they form a convincing

argument that the Bible is indeed the Word of God; no other book has such extensive and unique support for its claim to be the inspired Word of God. If it is the Word of God, we are bound to obey and lead a life as it instructs. In His prayer for the disciples in John 17:17, Jesus prays to the Father, “Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.” So, as David prays, let us also pray, “Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me” (Psa.25:5).



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## THE BIBLE- THE ONE AND ONLY SCRIPTURE FOR MANKIND

**“A true follower of God will read the Bible and obey the Almighty God and His son, Jesus Christ, whose followers are called Christians.”**

**B**oth the eminent thinkers and scholars of the bygone era and those eminent thinkers of our day consider the Bible as one of the greatest books of all time. But they consider the Bible only as a book and not as the Word of God. Apparently, many may proclaim in one accord that the Bible is a religious book belonging to the Christians. In order to understand more about the Bible, its relevance and importance for mankind, we should first understand that Christians are not the real custodian of the Bible. The real Christians follow and obey the Bible - the Word of God, which was written for all generations.

The Bible is given for the entire mankind - for all generations of people and even for atheists to learn more about God and His purposes on this earth. The world considers and calls those people who follow and obey the Bible, “Christians”. And they consider Christianity as a religion, but I must disagree on this point. As a matter of fact, this is the biggest mistake and misunderstanding people harbour towards Christians. That is why Christianity as a religion has

become a debating issue for millions of people throughout the world. Therefore, the perspective through which one sees Christianity should be changed.

As I mentioned earlier, the Bible is given to all people, nations and for all the generations. Obeying and following the word of God written in the Bible brings a man in to salvation. The Bible explains how a man can reach salvation. God made the first man in His own image and gave guidelines to follow. But the sinful act against God forced the man to be expelled from His presence. The Bible clearly explains the battle of God to bring back paradise for mankind, which was lost in the Garden of Eden because of man’s disobedience. The first man named Adam did not belong to a religion. He was called the child of God.

It is the man who made religion and divided the people according to his whims and fancies. This has nothing to do with the Bible. Each book in the Bible was written by God’s chosen people and all the scriptural words in the Bible came from God and they are all spirit-filled and therefore they are useful

for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Old Testament portrays the Almighty God as Jehovah, the Heavenly Father. Throughout the Old Testament, it was not Christianity that ruled over people, but only the Word of God. Even the sacrificial acts suggested by Almighty God did not make a man qualified before God. Finally, the Almighty God decided to redeem mankind by sending His own Son, Jesus Christ to the world. The New Testament, the second part of the Bible, deals with the teachings and the person of Jesus Christ and it is the fulfilment of the promise of the Old Testament. So, a true follower of

God will read the Bible and obey the Almighty God and His son, Jesus Christ, whose followers are called Christians.

Religion says salvation is something one must do; but the word of God says salvation is something only God can do (Eph. 2:8-9). In the name of religion, man is trying to do different things in the flesh to please God and earn His favour. (Romans 8:8). The Word of God reiterates that one cannot please God without faith in God. Salvation is a gift for those who follow God and His principles. God will not be pleased in religious rituals. So, man needs a real relationship with Him. To build that relationship with the Lord our God we need the word of God, the Holy Bible.



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LENS IN THE LIGHT



**“IN THE DIN, THE BIBLE REMAINS FORGOTTEN, DUST-COVERED, AND MOTH-EATEN ON THE LECTERNS IN ‘ROBBERS’ DENS’ THAT TODAY’S CHURCHES HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF THE WRONG CUSTODIANSHIP.”**

## Bible: A Victim of the Wrong Custodianship

**E**very faith has its scripture which its followers adopt. Christians are blessed with the Bible. The Bible is to a Christian as the compass and lighthouse are to the seafarer. As a signboard is to a traveller at unfamiliar crossroads. Ideally,

66 books make up the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible. 39 books constitute the Old Testament. 27 the new.

What necessitated two testaments? The Old Testament evolved between Jehovah God and His ‘chosen people’ as they were led by Moses from captivity in Egypt under Pharaoh to the ‘promised land. This testament was riddled with umpteen laws. Observing them rendered that testament grossly ritualistic, and procedural. Ironically, as they are wont to, ritualistic laws prescribed in the Old Testament and observed mechanically tethered the chosen’s hearts to their letter. The spirit of observing them went begging. This distanced the ‘chosen’ from God. A curtain of separation between God and His chosen resulted.

The pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day which led the chosen out of pharaoh’s brutal captivity were conveniently forgotten by the

chosen in their rigid observance of the testament, which fell into the wrong hands-that of blind adherence to the letter of the law bereft of the spirit behind such an exercise. The curtain persisted. God sent his own Son to infuse proximity and warm up hearts between Him and His chosen. Christ his Son defied orthodoxy and ritualism. ‘Love for one’s neighbour even unto death’ formed the crux of the new order. ‘Eye-for-an-eye’ made way to ‘turning the other cheek’. Rigid observance of the Sabbath made way to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick and visiting a prisoner even on Sabbath. The New Testament was thus born.

However, orthodoxy, ritualistic worship and mechanical observation of God’s tenets stuck to Judaeen religiosity like a leech. Custodians of the Old Testament, now new - the priestly lineage of Aaron refused to let go of the conveniences the high pedestal of a rigid system had placed them, and the luxuries that existed therein.

God’s Son paid the price for revolutionizing the old. For infusing the true spirit of God into the Old Testament. He was murdered by the orthodoxy of a

system that had become the curse of Abrahamic Zionism that the land of milk and honey ultimately adopted. The curtain between God and His chosen was torn from top to bottom when Christ cried, ‘Father, into Thy hands I commit my Spirit’ from a cross to which He was mercilessly and vengefully nailed under the hot sun on the arid hill of Golgotha.

But the fate that sullied the Old soon befell the New too - that of falling into wrong custodians. At the time of writing, the New Testament too has been usurped by self-serving, and not uncommonly self-appointed custodians - the priests, bishops and a blind laity following them. Christianity, now fuelled by the New Testament too was misinterpreted to the convenience of its custodians- the priests, and even the Church. The Bible, in the meantime, was rendered a mere bystander. A document to be broken than observed. Those who were instructed to throw stones only if they were sinless continued to throw them regardless. ‘Turn the other cheek’ and ‘love thy neighbour’ remained theoretical. While Christ Himself was buried in a borrowed tomb, modern-day



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bishops and ‘men of God’ had memorials erected for them. While He rode on donkeys, modern-day custodians of Christianity would have nothing less than luxury cars, preferably in multiples of two. The temple from which Christ drove out traders and toppled their tables became the ‘den of robbers and moneychangers through observance of feasts and Harvest Festivals. Churches have been split by schisms of factionalism, resulting in street violence.

In the din, the bible remains forgotten, dust-covered, and moth-eaten on the lecterns in ‘robbers’ dens’ that today’s churches have become victims of the wrong custodianship.



# God's love for His people!

**“F**or God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3: 16

## What exactly is Love?

Love defined in the dictionary is - a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person. Love expects nothing in return, but more of a dedication towards another individual.

## Then what is Love in the Bible?

Jesus is the reason that we know what even the biblical definition of love means! He humbly laid himself down on the cross for our sins. Love is self-sacrificing, generous, unending, not a temporary feeling or attraction.

## Different Types of 'Love'

Greek language has 4 words for 'love'.

1. Storgē
2. Philos
3. Eros
4. Agape

## Let's look at 'Agape' Love

What is Agape Love? The Greek word agape means unconditional love, “the highest form of love, charity” and “the love of God for man and of man for God”. An example from the Bible of God showing his love towards others is seen in Jesus. Even though Jesus was a person, who was pure at heart and had done nothing wrong, yet he died for us on the cross. He gave his life for the people, so that we don't get punished even for our smallest mistakes.

The Bible says in Colossians 1:12-14 - and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He redeemed us from our sins, brought us out from the Dominion of Darkness to the Kingdom of the Son he loves! He loves us so much that he shed his very last drop of blood for us on Calvary. You must also remember that the cross is not only where our sins were paid for, but it is also where the devil is conquered. If not for Jesus's love at the cross, if not for him shedding his last drop of blood for us, today

the devil would've taunted us and accused us of every single mistake or sin that we made. But thanks to Jesus, who forgives all our sins, who disarmed Satan's power to accuse us of our mistakes at Calvary! Colossians 2:15 says - And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.



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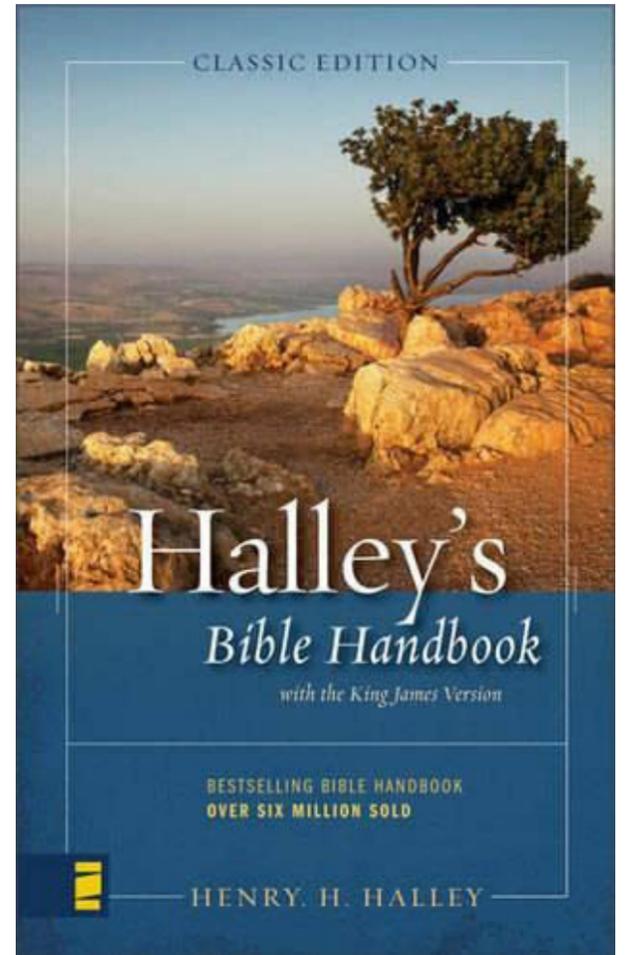
Febin is a secondary school student. His passion is reading the bible and sharing the good news of God with others. He is a member of Ebenezer Malayalam Fellowship in Singapore

FROM THE HISTORY

## HENRY HALLEY OF HALLEY BIBLE HANDBOOK

**H**enry H. Halley, the author of the handbook, was born on, April 10, 1874. He was ordained as a pastor in 1898 but had to leave the pulpit for a time because of ill health. During this enforced time off, he memorized large portions of Scripture. Eventually, he memorized the gist of every book of the Bible. The idea for the handbook came almost by accident. One day he was invited to preach at another pastor's church. He forgot to bring his notes. What should he do? He decided to recite some of the Scripture he had memorized, linking together related passages. The audience loved it. They invited him back to recite more passages. Other churches also invited him. Before reciting a passage, he always explained its context. People tried to jot down what he said. One pastor even went so far as to hire a stenographer to take notes. Halley found her typing and shuffling so distracting that he made up his mind to hand out his own notes. The first notes were only sixteen pages long. But as he added more, the handouts grew and grew. By his 90th birthday, they amounted to almost a thousand pages! The Handbook was now a published work on sale

in bookstores. And it sold well. Its popularity owed not only to its usefulness--it featured maps, outlines of Bible books, archaeological discoveries and much more--but to the honour, it accorded to God. Halley emphasized that the Bible is God's word. And he recognized Christ Jesus as the heart of that word. Consequently, Halley insisted that every Christian should be a constant and devoted reader of the Bible. His handbook was not designed as a textbook, but rather as a handy, brief manual of a popular nature, for the average Bible reader who has few or no commentaries or reference works on the Bible. One reason for its success was that Henry tried to stick to the facts presented by the Bible itself and the facts of history and keep his own opinions out of the book. When Henry Halley died in 1965, he was buried in Lexington, Kentucky. New editions of the Handbook were issued by his family.



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Continued from Page 01

## Britain at the Crossroads

more allegations were reported, pressure began to build; including accusations that he had groped two Conservative MPs. Pincher has denied the allegations. Johnson apologised earlier this week after he had been briefed that Pincher was the subject of previous sexual misconduct complaints before he appointed him, which the Prime Minister said he had forgotten.

The eventful tenure of the party's rule witnessed several unprecedented circumstances. After

Johnson led the Conservatives to a landslide general election win in 2019 over the opposition Labour party, the prime task was finalising Britain's departure from the European Union. The newly formed government soon faced the challenges raised by the pandemic. Johnson claims to his credit successfully navigating the nation through the turbulence by the fastest rollout of vaccines and a quicker exit from the lockdown, which was essential for the country's economic wellbeing.

Johnson's leadership also faced the refugee crisis triggered by the Afghan war and, most recently, the nation's involvement in combating Russia's onslaught on Ukraine. The nation's anticipation for the new prime minister is heavily burdened by the rising cost of living and tax hikes. The country is again at the juncture of a major political dilemma and all other challenges.

WHEN THE  
GODLY ARE  
IN AUTHORITY,  
THE  
PEOPLE  
REJOICE, BUT  
WHEN THE  
WICKED ARE  
IN POWER THEY  
GROAN.

Proverbs 29:2



## GUN CULTURE MUST GO

In a country where shootings are rare and strict gun ownership laws prevail, how Japan's former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead becomes really enigmatic, shocking and incredible. Japan is comparatively a peaceful country with 125 million people and it is quite incredible to learn that only nine deaths from firearms were reported in the year 2018 compared with the firearm killings in the USA, where the firearm killings shot up to 39740 in 2018. The country also had the lowest number of guns per capita among developed countries. However, American society has not yet prepared to abandon gun culture, and it seems it would cling to it like a limpet as per the latest report is to be believed. The Supreme Court of the USA recently said that Americans have a right to carry guns in public, a major expansion of gun rights.

What happens when everyone is toting guns in society? One tends to defend himself even at the slightest provocation, which is what

we witness in America. Just think about the great number of precious lives lost due to this gun culture. One inherent and yet conspicuous drawback the American society faces today is their reservedness or rather they are reclusive by nature with an intention to mind their own business without bothering to know what is happening in the neighbourhood. Admittedly, we need privacy and freedom, but too much of anything is good for nothing. So, Americans' craze for guns can only be reduced when people develop a gregarious and affable nature towards others. Basically, the bug of gun-hating transition must bite every American and only then will it be reflected in society, and ultimately in the judiciary too. It is pertinent to note that in the strictest gun-ownership-laws, the most horrible act of shooting takes place. Then how can the authorities contain this kind of violence in a country, where ownership of guns is legalised? This is a matter of great concern being faced by peace-loving people.

India declared a day of national mourning on July 9 as a mark of respect for the former Premier of Japan. It may be recalled that Abe visited India several times, and a special camaraderie between Modi and Abe was developed in course of time. Needless, Abe's unstinted support could make India reach the technological zenith to face China's technological challenges. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "I am shocked and saddened beyond words at the tragic demise of one of my dearest friends, Shinzo Abe. He was a towering global statesman, an outstanding leader and a remarkable administrator." Meanwhile, the police arrested shooting suspect Tetsuya Yamagami aged 41, who admitted to shooting Abe. According to police, Yamagami said he holds hatred toward a certain group, which he thought Abe was linked. Thus, he planned to kill Abe and bided his time to wreak revenge. He used a homemade gun for the purpose, and later the police searched his apartment and

confiscated several handmade pistol-like items. Basically, man's mindset with regard to gun culture has to change drastically. Further, it should be born in our mind that guns are carried by us to use whenever it is necessary-precisely speaking, to kill someone who tries to harm us. In the practical sense, the use of guns will destroy another man's life. Considering its destructive application, ownership of guns by the public must be banned at any cost.



TK NANDANAN  
Freelance writer

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# ESSENTIAL DIAGNOSTICS

**S**ound travels at a speed of 1540 meters per second. Humans can hear sound waves with frequencies between 20 Hertz to 20 Kilohertz. Ultra sound (USG) represents sound waves with a frequency higher than 20 Kilohertz. Ultrasound is used in various fields. In medicine USG is used extensively especially as a tool for investigation.

An over simplistic understanding of how this tool works is to say that USG waves are sent from a probe, which contains a crystal that is electrically stimulated to vibrate the formation of the waves (transducer); these waves are directed towards a field of interest. The reflected waves are captured back at the probe, these are then processed and analyzed to obtain useful information without any significant harm.

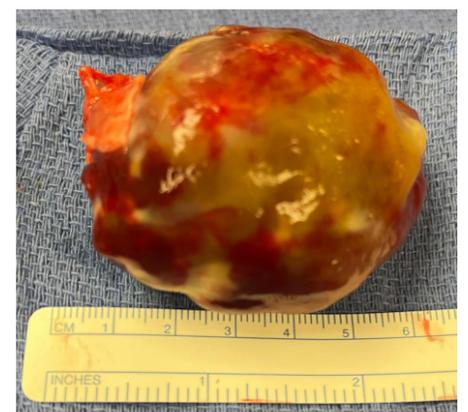
Recently I had seen a middle aged man in my office with complaints of getting short of breath lately, when he walked fast or climbed stairs. Even though his symptoms were pronounced only for a week, on further interrogation he could reveal that he noted other symptoms like feeling a plop when try to lie down or felt something when he turned to his side upon lying

**“THE REFLECTED WAVES ARE CAPTURED BACK AT THE PROBE, THESE ARE THEN PROCESSED AND ANALYZED TO OBTAIN USEFUL INFORMATION WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT HARM.”**

flat. His physical exam was with subtle findings. But an USG of the heart (Echocardiogram) revealed the diagnosis. He underwent a successful cardiac surgery and a 6 cm mass was removed from his heart. Below I have attached the images of both his ultrasound and surgical specimen. He is very fortunate that he did not present late with a stroke or cardiac arrest. His diagnosis could have been made much earlier if he had paid more attention and presented himself for investigation.

The Echocardiogram (USG) is a non-invasive test, but it revealed what was deep within him. In Hebrews chapter 4 the author writes in verse 13 “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes.” As believers we acknowledge the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of God, along with his graciousness and merciful nature. So, in order to live a healthy

accountable spiritual life it becomes essential to have regular diagnostic testing, treatment and nurturing of our spiritual lives. The Word of God is the lively tool for this (Heb 4:12). Let us be refined by His word. God Bless



**DR SAJI ABRAHAM**  
NEW YORK

Dr Saji (MD, FACC) is a Consultant Cardiologist/ Assistant Professor at NYU Langone, New York. He is married to his beautiful wife Renee and they are blessed with 3 wonderful kids, Hannah, Victoria and Luke. He ardently believes that there is nothing impossible with God.

## Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa flees the country



Embattled Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was flown to an airbase in Colombo, which is near Sri Lanka's main international airport, from where he flew to the Maldives with his wife and two security officials. He reportedly fled his official residence as protesters surrounded the building and later entered the premises. Although the president had pledged to resign by Wednesday, no official resignation letter has been received yet. His arrival in the Maldives triggered protests there



## Shinzo Abe's party scores a major victory after his assassination

Japan's governing party and its coalition partner scored a major victory in a parliamentary election after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its coalition partner Komeito increased their combined share in the 248-seat chamber to 146 in the elections for half of the seats in the less powerful upper house. With this upper hand, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will be able to rule without interruption until the scheduled election in 2025; and allows Kishida to work on long-term policies such as national security, economic policy, and also amend the U.S.-drafted postwar pacifist constitution. Abe, 67, was shot while giving a campaign speech in the western city of Nara and died of massive blood loss. He was Japan's longest-serving political leader; and was deeply involved and influential in the LDP even after stepping down in 2020 after serving for over two terms in office. Abe's killing may have resulted in sympathy votes as seen in the turnout which was at 52% and is 3 points higher from 48.8% in 2019. Abe's body has been returned to his home in Tokyo's upscale Shibuya where many top party officials paid tribute.

also; it is understood that Rajapaksa intends to travel to a third country and will not remain in the Maldives for long. The protests in Colombo have been caused by a major economic crisis in Sri Lanka which caused an unprecedented shortage of essentials such as food, fuel, and medicine. The president's decision to flee comes just days after Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the country was bankrupt and the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had failed. Thousands of protesters gathered in Colombo, and footage from a Facebook live stream shows hundreds of protesters inside the president's residence. Millions of Sri Lankan rupees in cash left behind by the president when he fled his official residence were handed over to court on Monday.



## Abbott reopens Michigan baby formula plant

Abbott, which is one of the nation's largest suppliers of baby formula has reopened its Michigan plant after severe flooding forced it to temporarily shut down in mid-June. The Abbott Nutrition facility began producing EleCare, its specialty baby formula. Abbott is one of the four companies in the U.S. controlling roughly 90% of the multibillion-dollar infant formula market. Previously, Abbott had shut down the Sturgis, Michigan plant and recalled baby formula products in February after a bacterial contamination was found in infants who consumed the formula which resulted in two infants getting sick and two dying. The closure contributed to the nationwide shortage of baby formula which prompted several efforts from the Biden Administration to import formula from abroad and using the Defense Production Act to speed up production. The Sturgis plant, which is also known for manufacturing the leading brand Similac, is Abbott's largest baby formula facility in the U.S.

## World News

### New COVID Omicron Subvariant in Shanghai

A COVID-19 case with a new subvariant Omicron BA.5.2.1 was discovered in the city of Shanghai signaling the complications China faces to keep up with the new mutations. This case found in the financial district of Pudong is linked with a case from overseas. It is at the start of June that Shanghai emerged from a lockdown which lasted for around two months. Zao of the Shanghai health commission warned that the risk of epidemic spreading through society remains very high, and the residents in several major Shanghai districts would undergo two rounds of COVID tests in a bid to bring new outbreaks under control. Variant BA.5 is seen to have an accelerated rate of transmission and an improved immune escape capability.

Source: Reuters



### Yosemite wildfire threatens sequoias

A wildfire in California's Yosemite National Park is threatening some of the world's oldest giant sequoia trees, and have expanded five-fold over the weekend as smoke chokes the park's view and air quality. As of Sunday, the fire has burnt 1,600 acres of timber and brush at the southern end of the park. National Park Service immediately closed the Mariposa Grove which is home to more than 500 mature giant sequoias and evacuated the adjacent community of Wawona. The park's best-known attractions, including the Yosemite Valley remains accessible to visitors. Federal wildlife officials warned that air quality for particulate matter had reached unhealthy levels across much of the park. While flames stoked by extremely dry and hot conditions worsened on Sunday, none of the landmark sequoias in the park has yet been lost.