



# BIBLE Passages

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# Journal

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our world is plagued with problems. Many are suffering and longing for help, and most are asking “why?” Why does a loving God allow you to suffer? In part, it occurs because of the personal wrong choices of others. At other times, suffering may be the result of your own wrongdoing. For example, lung cancer may be the result of years of smoking; a child may die in a car accident because someone else has chosen to be drunk. Suffering may also occur because of the consequences of sin brought on by former generations (e.g.

the children of Judah born into captivity because their parents practiced idolatry; cf. 2 Kings and Ezekiel). In all of these cases suffering has occurred because God gave human beings the freedom to choose. On other occasions, however, the reason for our suffering isn't always as clear. The book of Job, for example, teaches us that there are times when we may not know the reason for our suffering. In either situation, we must always remember that God is all-knowing and all-loving, and that He knows what is best. God is sovereign and omniscient, and we must learn to trust Him.

We come to trust God by knowing Him. So: who is God? The Bible, of course, answers this question. Because of scripture we are allowed to peer through the heavenly portal into the eternal character of God; and, as we do, it is easy to see that God is powerful and yet intimate. He hates iniquity but loves the sinner (cf. Hebrews 1:9). He is in need of nothing, but yearns for fellowship with His creation (Acts 17:25; Exodus. 29:45). He is a God of both justice and

mercy. He pours out his wrath and lavishes His grace (Ephesians 2:3). He is holy, but not merely holy; He is *holy, holy, holy*—the only attribute of his nature identified in this repetitive way (Isaiah 6:3). His holiness is worthy of our most contemplative powers, intellectual analysis, and emotional acuties. His greatness can also be seen in His powerful and perfect love as a Creator who both sympathizes and empathizes with the sufferings of man. It can also be seen in His perfect plan to consecrate and purify sinners, thus enabling them to stand in His presence.

He invites humanity to draw near unto Him (Hebrew 4:16; 7:25; 10:22), but also provides a means of reconciling and purifying sinners unto Himself through the sacrifice of his only begotten Son (2 Corinthians 5:19; Hebrews 1:3; John 3:16). In this act of perfect love, God declared to the world that He was both just and the justifier of sinners, thereby declaring them (the sinner) righteous (Romans 3:23-27). He proved Himself righteous, holy, and a God above all gods (Psalm 135:5; Romans 1:16-17; Hebrews 2:5-18).

### 2021 Schedule:

July-October

BVBI 1st Quarter

September 16-19

Bear Valley Lectures

Denver CO

October 14-17

Linder Road Lectures

Meridian, ID

October 24-28

WVSOP Lectureship

November 5-7

Cold Harbor Road Lectures

Cold Harbor, VA



Texas home and U-Haul in our rearview mirror, headed back to Denver!

At the cross and in the incarnation, Jesus declared something else. By God coming to the earth and dwelling among us, He demonstrated to the world that He loves and understands. Our Lord and friend hungered. He wept. He hurt. He labored. In the body of His flesh He suffered and was in every way tempted like we are (Hebrews 4:14-15). Through Christ we come to understand that God knows the pain of loneliness and isolation (Matthew 4:1; 13: 55-56; 26:36-40). He endured the emotional agony of separation (Matthew 27:46), and the torture of a bloody scourge and cross. He tasted of death for all (Hebrews 2:9) and revealed Himself as a compassionate and loving God; able to help those who are suffering (Hebrews 2:16-18), and ready to save those who obey (John 3:16; Hebrews 5:8-9).

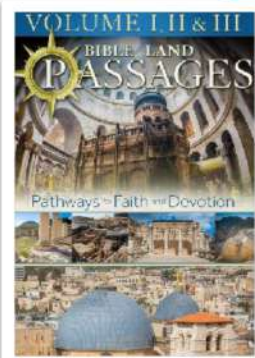
The message about a loving Creator who loves and cares deeply about us, especially during our time of pain, is what our world needs like never before. While others may let you down, or even hurt or or harm you, God cries out from heaven saying “I love you” and “I will never leave nor forsake you,” (John 3:16; Hebrew 13:5). The work of Bible Passages is dedicated to making known this message. We are committed to making known to others the unsearchable riches of Christ and defending His word. While we are far from perfect, we are trying to point others to the One who is. God is perfect and we are so blessed to be workers in His everlasting Kingdom of love.

During the month of July, God continued to bless us with many opportunities to serve. Our first major effort included a weekend marriage seminar at the Gabriel Oaks congregation in Georgetown, Texas. Patrick and Melissa Hammack are working with this good congregation and involved in an excellent work. After the seminar, I was privileged to teach Bible class and to preach on Sunday. Later during the month, we travelled to Mesa, Arizona and conducted a private weekend pre-marital counseling session. During our stay I preached at the Sun Valley congregation on Sunday morning, and we were also blessed to spend some time with Evan and Crystal Todachine, who are missionaries in the Phoenix area and on one of Arizona’s Navajo reservations. Between seminars and preaching appointments, I wrote and recorded several more episodes of

the new “Connections” videos at World Video Bible School. I also wrote a manuscript for Four Seas Bible College in Singapore, to be delivered later this year, and preached at the Dripping Springs congregation. Finally, in addition to preparing for classes at Bear Valley, we packed up some of our belongings and books and headed for Denver on July 27<sup>th</sup> where we will begin working once again with the great Christians at the Bear Valley Bible Institute.

Our dear friends and brother and sisters in Christ: Thank you for your support. Without you, this work would not be possible. We are exceedingly grateful and so honored to be in the ministry.

In Him, *John*



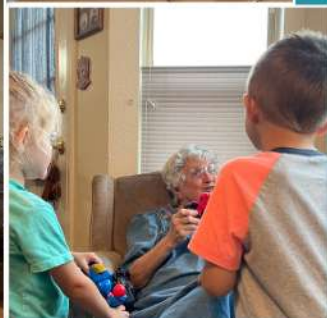
The complete set of Bible Land Passages documentaries is now available in one set through WVBS!

Coming Soon!





L-R: With the Todachines and Mableys in Mesa, AZ...we attended virtual graduation for the Bear Valley Cambodian extension school... Loved the quick visit from Bill & Tammy Hyde from Dripping Springs as they went through Denver...flight home from Phoenix was delayed for hours but we found an empty gate- John can sleep anywhere...Packing up Mom's house to prepare for her move near to my brother...John speaking in Georgetown, TX...Jackson and Emmy visit MomMom...We enjoyed lunch (after the marriage seminar in Georgetown) with Patrick and Melissa Hammack and John's mother's hospice nurse, Natalie, who has become a sweet friend...speaking of Patrick, this is some of his excellent graphic work that is being used by WVBS in the new "Connections" videos.



## Carla's Comments

### Dear friends,

I'm nearing the end of the book of Acts in my scripture writing for this year. I hate for it to end. I feel like I have been on a thirty year journey with Luke, Peter, Paul, Barnabas, the apostles, Cornelius, some really jealous, vindictive religious leaders and some shady Roman officials. I have listened to and learned from sermons spoken by Peter and Paul. I've imagined what it would've been like to be in the room when it filled with the noise of a violent rushing wind, and I pictured the astonishment that must have been on faces that heard their own native dialects coming from the mouths of Galilean fishermen. I've pictured jail cells in Jerusalem, Philippi, and Caesarea, and imagined the smell of hundreds of horses as they thundered away from Jerusalem; their riders guarding Paul from murderous Jews. I laughed when Rhoda accidentally left Peter at the gate. In my mind I've seen Lydia and the group of women sitting by the riverside as their faces reflected joy, listening to Paul's words of life. I've been angry for Paul as he was hounded by relentless Jews who chased him from city to city, lying about him. I've seen the humanity of Paul and Barnabas, disagreeing over John Mark...going their separate ways, yet remembering and continuing to work toward their common goal. I imagined Tabitha's friends, worried about her as she grew sicker, and then lamenting over her death. Then my mind's eye saw Peter presenting her alive again. Can you imagine the happy tears and loud rejoicing? I've imagined the huge fanfare as Agrippa and Bernice paraded in to hear Paul's defense. As I wrote Stephen's impassioned sermon, I could feel the bitter hatred of those who rushed at him, drove him from the city and assailed him with stones. I wondered about the expression on Saul's face as he guarded their robes. I've considered his heart, years later, as he remembered this painful scene. I have seen how God used people over and over and over and OVER to try to save the Jews. I noticed the great change in Peter, from an impulsive, easily flustered, cowardly apostle, to the determined, powerful, faith-filled man of God who could not stop speaking of what



Our sweet little Turner Elizabeth!

he had seen and heard. What interesting conversations did Jewish Peter (and those from Joppa who accompanied him) have with Cornelius' Gentile servants on their two-day journey between Caesarea and Joppa? In a couple of weeks, I'm going to be shipwrecked with Paul!

But most of all, I've seen how God's plan is for ALL mankind. I've seen it in action. I've heard how it started and how it continues. I feel a kinship with these people who God wanted me to know from scripture. They are my brothers and sisters. They left an example for me that I will never forget. I will meet many of them someday. I hope I get to hear more of the details that my mind just couldn't quite imagine. Writing scripture was the key for me. I hope you'll do it, too! Love, *Carla*



I'm "official" now with a nameplate on my office door!