

# A Biblical Treasure Hunt

By David Pleacher

The Bible verse from Matthew 6:19-21 states:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

And so I created this Biblical Treasure Hunt in which you must solve some puzzles to discover some of the treasures of Heaven. To "lay up treasures in Heaven" means people must prioritize the things they value here on earth. So these words of Jesus are about the priorities that we have in life – our attitudes, beliefs, codes, ethics, standards, ideals, principles, values, ideology, and morals.

If you are not a Christian, you can still do this puzzle and just use these treasures as guidelines for a good life. There are several references to Bible passages and to a passage from the Quran. If you do not own those books, you can do a Google search on the internet for those passages.

In the first eight puzzles, you will discover Treasures of Heaven.

In the last puzzles, you will solve for twenty-six variables from A to Z.

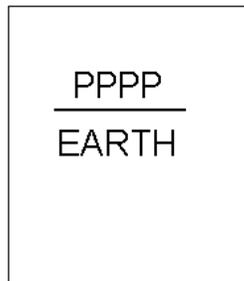
Then you will use the values of those variables to determine additional treasures in Heaven by replacing numbers with the corresponding letters.

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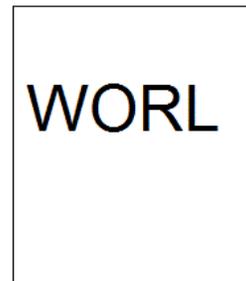
Solve these *Wackie Wordies* to discover three of the Treasures of Heaven



#1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 words)



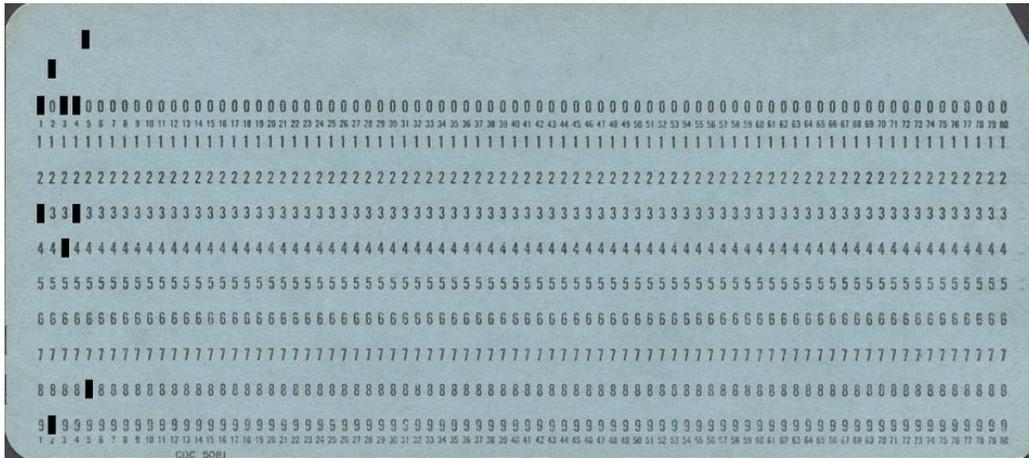
#2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(three words)



#3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(three words)

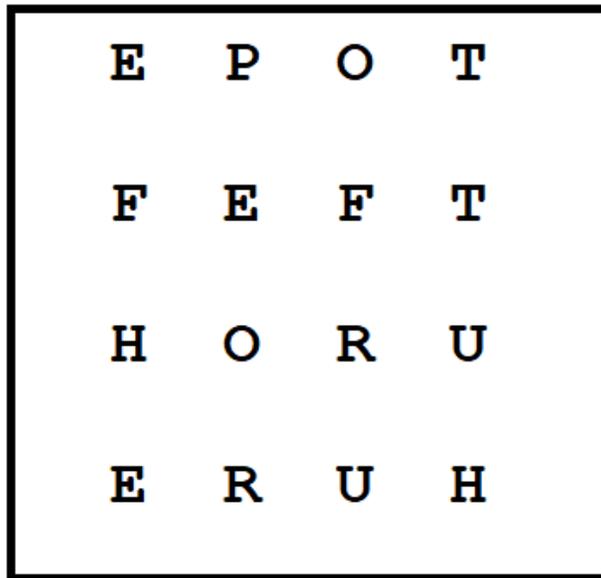
#4. \_\_\_\_\_ (one five-letter word)

Determine this treasure of Heaven from the punches below:



#5. \_\_\_\_\_ (four words)

Hint: Look in Albrecht Dürer's *Melencolia I* (or see Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*)



#6. \_\_\_\_\_ (two or three words)

The Quran shares some of the same views of Heaven as The Bible (there are also some differences). To determine one of the treasures of Heaven according to the Quran, you must first solve for the chapter (called the Surah) and verse (called the Ayah) in the following statement: The chapter number is eight times the verse number and the sum of the two is 99.

#7. \_\_\_\_\_ (one four letter word)

Use the ASCII code to determine this treasure of Heaven: 76 – 79 – 86 – 69.

#8. \_\_\_\_\_ (three words)

Unscramble each of the following groups of letters to discover a treasure of Heaven.

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Part 2.

Determine the answers to the following puzzles. Write down the answers to each of the variables from A to Z. Then at the end, replace each number with its corresponding letter to discover the rest of the Treasures of heaven.

In 1 John 4:9, what did God do with his son (but use the present tense for this four letter word)?  
Then place the word on the first line below.

In 1 Timothy 6:10, you will find a treasure of earth that is not a treasure of Heaven.  
Place that five letter word in the third line below.

$$\begin{array}{r} \_ \_ \_ \_ \quad (1 \text{ John } 4:9) \\ + \text{ M O R E} \\ \hline \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \quad (1 \text{ Timothy } 6:10) \end{array}$$

This forms a cryptarithm from Judas Iscariot with the word MORE.  
Now solve this addition problem for the values of the letters.  
(There are eight distinct letters whose values are between 0 and 9).

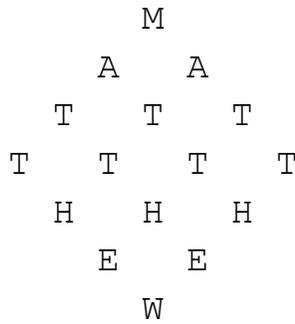
- D = \_\_\_\_\_
- E = \_\_\_\_\_
- M = \_\_\_\_\_
- N = \_\_\_\_\_
- O = \_\_\_\_\_
- R = \_\_\_\_\_
- S = \_\_\_\_\_
- Y = \_\_\_\_\_

Delilah, Jezebel, and Herodias plan to divide a pile of jewels among themselves in the morning. During the night, Delilah decides to take her share ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of the pile). A short while later, Jezebel awoke and took  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the remaining jewels. Still later, Herodias awoke and took  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the remaining jewels. In the morning, there were 8 jewels in the pile.

How many jewels were there originally?  
Let  $A$  = number of jewels originally.

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In how many ways can the apostle MATTHEW be spelled going from one letter to an adjacent letter?



Let  $W$  = the number of ways you can spell out Matthew.

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Two Gospel writers, Mark and Luke, are 20 miles apart. They begin running toward each other at speeds of 4 mph and 6 mph, respectively. A fly starts from Mark and flies toward Luke and then back to Mark again and so on. The fly continues flying back and forth at a constant rate of 25 mph until the writers collide and crush the fly. How far has the fly traveled?  
Let  $T$  equal the number of miles the fly traveled.

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In the Biblical game called crossball, a team can score either 3 points or 7 points. What is the highest score that a team cannot make?  
Let  $I$  (the letter eye) equal the highest score that cannot be obtained.

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Two input pipes will be used to fill an empty 68-gallon cistern. One pipe delivers at a rate of 4 gallons in one minute and the other pipe delivers at a rate of 1 gallon every 4 minutes.

How many minutes will it take them to fill the cistern?

Let  $J$  equal the number of minutes it takes to fill the cistern.

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When the Apostle Paul returned from his fishing trip, the other apostles inquired as to the length of his prize catch.

Paul answered,

"The head measured 9 inches."

"The tail was as long as the head and half the body."

"The body was as long as the head and tail."

How long was Paul's prize fish (in inches)?

Let  $P$  = the length of his fish.

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The Gospel of Luke chapter 2 correlates the date of the nativity of Jesus to the census of Quirinius:

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered."

A census worker asks a lady for the ages of her three children.

The lady replies that the product of their ages is 36, and the sum of their ages is the same as the next address to the north.

After looking at that address, the census worker returns and says that she needs more information.

The lady gives her one final clue and says,

"The oldest one likes frankincense and myrrh."

With that, the census worker was able to figure out the ages.

What is that address next door?

Let  $X$  = the address.

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Four disciples, Peter, Bartholomew, Andrew, and Thomas bought an old fishing boat for \$60.

Peter paid one-half of the sum of the amounts paid by the other disciples.

Bartholomew paid one-third of the sum of the amounts paid by the other disciples.

Andrew paid one-fourth of the sum of the amounts paid by the other disciples.

How much did Andrew pay?

How much did Bartholomew pay?

Let  $K$  equal the price that Andrew paid

Let  $G$  equal the price that Bartholomew paid

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"They counted the cats in Judea,  
Which number a third of a square.  
If a quarter were gone,  
Just a cube would stay on.  
How many, at least, must be there?"

Some clarification:

The number of cats in Judea is a perfect square divided by three.  
If one-fourth of the cats left town, then the number of cats would be a perfect cube.  
What is the least number of cats in Judea?  
Let  $Z$  equal the number of cats.

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In one section of Noah's arc, there are some birds and beasts.  
Determine the number of beasts given the fact that the lot has 36 heads and 100 feet.  
Let  $Q$  equal the number of beasts.

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In the traditional holiday carol called "The Twelve Days of Christmas," what is the total number of gifts given?  
Let  $H$  = number of total gifts.

Here is the carol:

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me eight maids-a-milking, seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking, seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me ten lords-a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking, seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me eleven pipers piping, ten lords-a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking, seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords-a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking, seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

Here is an explanation of the Carol:

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics.

It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element of the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ.

"Two turtledoves" were the Old and New Testaments.

"Three French hens" stood for faith, hope and love.

The "four calling birds" were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The "five golden rings" recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The "six geese a-laying" stood for the six days of creation.

"Seven swans a-swimming" represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.  
The "eight maids a-milking" were the eight beatitudes.

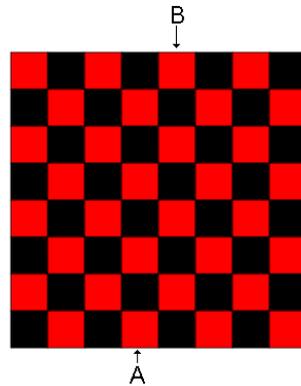
"Nine ladies dancing" were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit -- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.  
The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.

The "eleven pipers piping" stood for the 11 faithful disciples.

The "twelve drummers drumming" symbolized the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

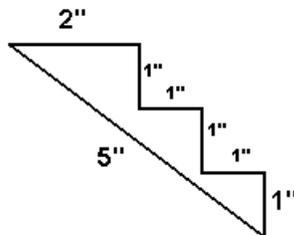
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The game of chess originated in northern India in the 6th century AD and spread to Persia.  
On the chessboard below, how many different ways are there to move a bishop from position A to position B?  
Let C equal the number of paths



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How many square inches are contained in the figure below?  
Let V equal the area in square inches.



Here is an Old Testament Game called 39 (named for the number of books in the Old Testament). You and your opponent alternate picking numbers from 1 to 6, and a running total is kept. If the object of the game is to be the player who makes the total exactly 39, and you go first, what number should you pick to guarantee a win for yourself?  
Let  $U$  equal your starting number.

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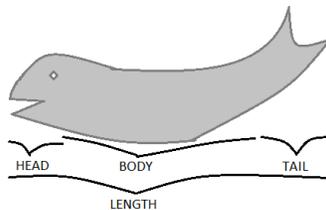
Determine the length of Jonah's whale if you know the following facts:

The HEAD is 6 feet long.

The TAIL is equal to the HEAD plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  the BODY.

The BODY is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length.

Let  $F$  equal the length of the whale in feet.



Said a certain young lady named Gwen  
of her tally of smitten young men,  
    "One less and three more  
    Divided by four  
Together give one more than ten."

How many boyfriends had she?

Let  $B$  = number of boyfriends.

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Jacob and his wife have thirteen children (twelve sons and daughter Dinah) born at intervals of one year and a half.

At one point, Reuben, the oldest child, is seven times as old as Benjamin, the youngest of the brood.

How old is Reuben?

Let  $L$  equal Reuben's age.

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Part 3 Discovering the rest of the Treasures of Heaven.

Now use the values of each variable from A to Z from the problems above.

Replace each number below with its corresponding letter.

#9.  $15 - 5 - 6 - 5 - 8 - 0 - 9 - 11 - 50 - 2$

"God loves a cheerful giver" Corinthians 9:7

#10.  $27 \quad 7 - 5 - 9 - 11 - 8 - 5 \quad 50 - 0 \quad 48 - 0 - 21 - 21 - 0 - 20 \quad 16 - 5 - 9 - 4 - 9$

"Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me." Luke 18:22

#11.  $9 - 5 - 8 - 3 - 5 \quad 35 - 364 - 8 - 11 - 9 - 50 \quad 42 - 2 \quad 9 - 5 - 8 - 3 - 11 - 6 - 15$

$0 - 50 - 364 - 5 - 8 - 9$

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35-40

#12.  $72 - 8 - 27 - 2 - 5 - 8$

#13.  $27 \quad 72 - 21 - 27 - 35 - 5 \quad 11 - 6 \quad 50 - 364 - 5 \quad 364 - 0 - 4 - 9 - 5 \quad 0 - 48$

$50 - 364 - 5 \quad 48 - 27 - 50 - 364 - 5 - 8$

"In my Father's house are many mansions." John 14:2

#14.  $16 - 4 - 9 - 50 - 11 - 35 - 5$

#15.  $0 - 72 - 72 - 0 - 8 - 50 - 4 - 6 - 11 - 50 - 2 \quad 48 - 0 - 8 \quad 5 - 3 - 5 - 8 - 2 - 0 - 6 - 5$

$50 - 0 \quad 42 - 5 \quad 72 - 8 - 0 - 7 - 4 - 35 - 50 - 11 - 3 - 5$

#16.  $72 - 8 - 0 - 3 - 11 - 9 - 11 - 0 - 6 \quad 48 - 0 - 8 \quad 5 - 3 - 5 - 8 - 2 - 0 - 6 - 5 - 9$

$6 - 5 - 5 - 7 - 9$

#17.  $8 - 5 - 9 - 72 - 5 - 35 - 50 \quad 48 - 0 - 8 \quad 50 - 364 - 5 \quad 7 - 11 - 15 - 6 - 11 - 50 - 2$

$0 - 48 \quad 5 - 3 - 5 - 8 - 2 \quad 72 - 5 - 8 - 9 - 0 - 6$

#18.  $48 - 0 - 8 - 15 - 11 - 3 - 5 - 6 - 5 - 9 - 9$

#19.  $12 - 5 - 5 - 72 \quad 50 - 364 - 5 \quad 50 - 5 - 6 \quad 35 - 0 - 1 - 1 - 27 - 6 - 7 - 1 - 5 - 6 - 50 - 9$

#20.  $9 - 5 - 5 - 12 \quad 27 - 48 - 50 - 5 - 8 \quad 50 - 364 - 5 \quad 12 - 11 - 6 - 15 - 7 - 0 - 1$

$0 - 48 \quad 15 - 0 - 7$

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33