

Stepping Into...

God's Word

Psalm 138:2

'I will worship toward Your holy temple,
And praise Your name
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;
For You have magnified Your word
above all Your name'.

ComRes Survey for Archbishops Council

March 2021

6% British adults read or listen to the Bible

55% of those who described themselves as Christians answered 'never'
(14% said at least once a month)


'Every Christian is called
to be a Theologian'

Karl Barth



KJV

I will never
leave thee, nor
forsake thee



MSG

Never gonna give you up
Never gonna let you
down
Never gonna run around
and desert you

[illegible][illegible]

quoniam ad hoc illo lege agitur: legationem
venerunt rogare et quod posuerunt. Sic quod
et vobis quod non remittatur vobis: et possident
non potest me: et discipulus. Vnde et talis. Si
autem hoc enumeratum quo conuenit: Vnde
in terra neque in hereditatibus vnde et fecit
seorsum inter. Vnde habet vnde. Auditis
audiat. **1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816.**

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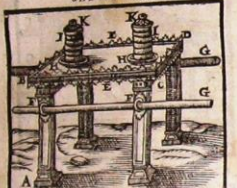
The Table of the shew bread.

19 And the one Cherub shall make at the one end, & the other Cherub at the other end: of the manner of the Mercieseat thou shalt make the Cherubims, on the two ends thereof.

20 And the Cherubims shall stretch their wings on his, covering the Mercieseat with their wings, & their faces one to another, to the Mercieseat ward shall the faces of the Cherubims be.

21 And thou shalt put the Mercieseat above upon the Arke, and in the Arke thou shalt put the Testimonie, which I will give thee, and there I will declare my selfe vnto thee, and from above the Mercieseat betweene the two Cherubims, which are vpon the Arke of the Testimonie, I will tell thee all things which I will give thee in commandement vnto the children of Israel.

THE TABLE OF THE SHEW BREAD.



- A B The height a cubite and an halfe.
- B C The length two cubites.
- C D The breadth a cubite.
- E A crown of golde above and beneath separated the one from the other by a border of an hand breadth thicke, which declareth that the table was an hand in each thicke.
- F The four rings.
- G The barres to carie the table, which were put through the rings.
- H Dishes wherein the shew bread was put.
- I The twelve cakes or loaves called the shew bread.
- K The glasses or coverings, the incense cups.

23 ¶ Thou shalt also make a table of Shittim wood, of two cubites long, and one cubite broad, and a cubite and an halfe high: and thou shalt cover it with pure golde, and make thereto a crowne of golde round about.

24 Thou shalt also make vnto it a border of four fingers round about: and thou shalt make a golden crowne round about the border thereof.

25 After, thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and shalt put the rings in the four corners that are in the four feete thereof.

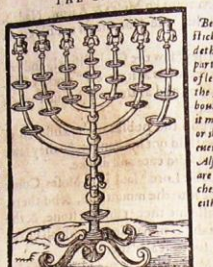
26 Over against the border shall the rings be for places for barres, to beare the Table.

27 And thou shalt make the barres of Shittim wood, and shalt overlaye them with golde, that the Table may be borne with them.

28 Thou shalt make also dishes for it, and incense cups for it, & coverings for it, of fine

Exodus.
lers, wherwith it shalbe couered, even of fine gold shalt thou make them.
30 And thou shalt set vpon the Table shew bread before me continually.

THE CANDLESTICKE.



Because the golden candlestick is so plain, it needeth not to describe the partes thereof according to letters. Only what is the 24. Verse, that the bowls be as cups, that is, it must be vnderstanden, or shake: for there can exceede one of the other. Also the knops of the are a hose which are as ches as they shew out either side.

31 ¶ Also thou shalt make a Candlestick of pure golde: of worke beaten out with the hammer shall the Candlestick be made, his shaft, & his branches, his bowles, his knops, & his floures shall be of the same.

32 Six branches also shall come out of the sides of it: three branches of the Candlestick out of the one side of it, & three branches of the Candlestick out of the other side of it.

33 Three bowles like vnto almondes, one knop and one floure in one branche: and three bowles like almondes in the other branch, one knop & one floure: so throughout the fixe branches that come out of the Candlestick.

34 And in the shaft of the Candlestick shall four bowles like vnto almondes, his knops and his floures.

35 And there shall be a knop vnder two branches made thereof: and a knop vnder two branches made thereof: and a knop vnder two branches made thereof according to the fixe branches coming out of the Candlestick.

36 Their knops and their branches shall be thereof, all this shalbe one beaten worke of pure golde.

37 And thou shalt make the seven lampes thereof: and the lampes thereof shalt thou put thereon, to give light toward that is before it.

38 Also the snuffers and snuffedishes thereof shall be of pure gold.

39 Of a talent of fine gold shalt thou make it with all these instruments.

40 ¶ Look therefore that thou make them after their facion, that was shewed thee in the mountaine.

CHAP. XXVI.

The forme of the tabernacle and the appoyntment. The place of the Arke of the Testimonie, of the Table, and of the Candlestick.

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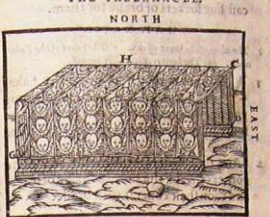
¶ The forme of the tabernacle, and the appoyntment.

¶ The place of the Arke of the Testimonie, of the Table, and of the Candlestick.

The Tabernacle three coverings

twined linen, and blew filke, & purple, and skarlet: and in them thou shalt make Cherubims of broyered worke.

THE FIRST COVERING OF THE TABERNACLE.



A B C D The ten curtains, which were eight & twenty cubites long of Cherubims worke.

A E The breadth of a curtain was four cubites, and for the ten were forty cubites.

G Two curtains & an halfe: so that the whole laid together declareth that the tabernacle was four cubites long and twelve broad.

H Two curtains to tie the curtains together.

1 The length of one curtain shall be eight & twenty cubites, and the breadth of one curtain, four cubites: every one of the curtains shall have one measure.

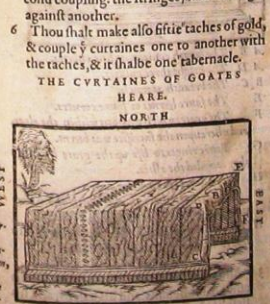
2 Five curtains shall be coupled one to another: and the other five curtains shall be coupled one to another.

3 And thou shalt make fringes of blew filke vpon the edge of the one curtain, which is in the selvedge of the coupling: & likewise shalt thou make in the edge of y other curtain in the selvedge, in the second coupling.

4 Fiftie strings shalt thou make in one curtain, and fiftie strings shalt thou make in the edge of the curtain, which is in the second coupling: the strings shall be one right against another.

5 Thou shalt make also fiftie taches of gold, & couple y curtains one to another with the taches, & it shalbe one tabernacle.

THE CURTAINES OF GOATES.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

¶ The curtains of goats, which were eight & twenty cubites long, and the breadth of one curtain, four cubites: every one of the curtains shall have one measure.

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Chap. XXVI.

for the Tabernacle.

8 The length of a curtain shall be three cubites, and the breadth of a curtain four cubites: the eleven curtains shall be of one measure.

9 And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, & the six curtains by themselves: but thou shalt double the fix curtain vpon the fore front of the covering.

10 And thou shalt make fifty fringes in the edge of one curtain, in the selvedge of the coupling, & fifty fringes in the edge of the other curtain in the second coupling.

11 Likewise thou shalt make fifty taches of brasse, and fasten them on the fringes, and shalt couple the covering together, that it may be one.

12 And the remnant that remaineth in the curtains of the covering, even the halfe curtain that remaineth, shall be left at the backe side of the Tabernacle.

13 That the cubite on the one side, & the cubite on the other side of that which is left, they were left, in the length of the curtains of the covering, may remaine on either side of the Tabernacle to cover it.

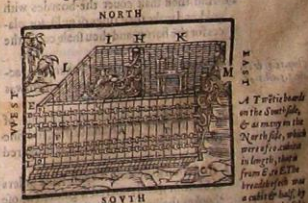
14 Moreover, for that covering thou shalt make a covering of skins, of red, & a covering of badgers skins about.

15 ¶ Also thou shalt make boardes for y Tabernacle of Shittim wood to stand vpon.

16 Ten cubites shall be the length of a board, and a cubite & an halfe cubite the breadth of one board.

17 Two rems shall be in one board set in order as the steps of a ladder, one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the

THE TABERNACLE.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

¶ The Tabernacle, which was four cubites long and twelve broad.

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2 Timothy 4:13 NKJV

'Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments'.

So will I

'On a hill You created
The light of the world
Abandoned in darkness
to die'

Ephesians 4:11-14 NKJV

¹¹ 'And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting'

Stepping Into...

2 Timothy 4:3

³ 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers'

Christians getting ready to discuss theology, with 'love and grace', in comment sections:



Stepping Into...

The Internet

Stepping Into...



Stepping Into...

Jude 3-4 NKJV

³ 'Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ'.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work'

Psalm 119:7-11

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting (restoring) the soul;

The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired *are* they than gold,

Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned,

And in keeping them *there is* great reward.

Brian Greenaway
Preaching Notes Stepping into....God's word
(BCC – 22 May 2022)

Psalms 138:2

God's word is tied to His character.

Reading God's word is vital to the believer. It's the primary place where we learn about God.

ComRes survey March 2021.

6% of British adults read or listen to the Bible, (poll of 8150 adults - Archbishops' Council Evangelism Task Force.

55 per cent of those who described themselves as Christians 'never' read their Bible, while 14 per cent said at least once a month.

Karl Barth : 'Every Christian is called to be a theologian'

We all need to be regularly reading God's Word.

The church has two dangers, external and internal

External – persecution.

Internal problems can destroy.

The worst situation is where 'believers' water down the truth.

The Word of God is the backbone of the church.

We live by what we believe.

We are all the product of what has gone before, history and tradition. More than we realise.

Such as church tradition or canon law. How we do church today and how we interpret scripture.

How do we learn what we know about the Bible?

We read the Bible

You need to read a good version

For over 1,000 years the Latin Vulgate was the Bible of choice for the whole Western church. – its influence cannot be overestimated.

By the 16th the Geneva Bible became the historically significant English Bible. It was the Bible of Protestantism.

Theodore Beza's '*Annotations* to the New Testament' in the Geneva Bible became the most popular Bible translation among the Puritans. It was Beza who was influential in helping people respect the literal interpretation of the bible – after many years of over-allegorising.

We read books about the Bible

Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. 2 Timothy 4:13

We sing – sung worship teaches us more than we realise, that's why it's important to sing good songs, that are Biblical.

Do we think about that we sing?

Here is half a verse from the Hillsong song called 'So will I'

'On a hill You created
The light of the world
Abandoned in darkness to die'

Note: There has to be a pause (or comma) after created.

Stepping Into...

We listen to preaching or teaching

Hermeneutics – Is the science or art of interpreting the Bible.

Greek word – hermeneuein - - to explain, interpret or translate.

We need to apply ourselves to interpreting the Bible:

Ephesians 4:12-14, 2 Timothy 4

We discuss

Healthy discussion is good

The Internet

Everyone has googled a theological question about the Bible

There are myriads of crackpot theological theories and they are like sour milk or stagnant water for the believer. They will blunt and stall your walk as a believer.

When we read our Bibles, we do it with the Spirit of God, the divine author of the Bible dwelling in us.

Our reading of the bible must not become dry we need to apply the intellect and seek the Spirits infilling.

- **Too much word – you dry up**
- **Too much spirit – you blow up**

We need to engage our minds and hearts in approaching the Bible.

Lack of a good grounding in the scriptures causes superficiality.

Research by George Barna of the Cultural Research Centre in Arizona discovered that only 37% of US pastors hold a Biblical worldview.

We need to contend for the truth and commit ourselves to God's Word.

Jude 3-4

Gresham Machen 'It is impossible to be a true soldier of Jesus Christ and not fight'

Most believers cannot explain why they believe what they believe.

Fundamentals are non-negotiable but they still need to be examined and understood.

It is ok to admit a doubt or to ask questions to better understand the fundamental truths of our faith.

We have to prayerfully examine why you believe what you believe – scripture always has the highest authority.

The base context of all that we believe is in the Bible.

Stepping into...

The Bible was written by around 40 authors over about 1500 years. But we also believe that the Holy Spirit inspired it.

2 Timothy 3:16

Principle : Scripture points to God and to the Messiah

Paul did not invent any theology from thin air. His theology, (NT theology) is based on the law and the prophets. We cannot understand the New Testament without the First Testament.

And all scripture points to Jesus, it is Messianic. It points to the Messiah – His first coming and then His second coming.

Luke 24:44 "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

Jesus divides the Bible into three parts. Law, Prophets Psalms – because the Hebrew Bible – the one Jesus used has three divisions:

1. Law, Prophets, Writings
2. Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim (TaNaKh)
3. Jewish order of the First Testament is different.
4. Tanakh – The Law, The Prophets, The Writings.
5. T – Torah, N for Nevi'im and K for Ketuvim.

In ancient literature a collection of Books was often known by its first book, and Psalms is the first book of Ketuvim. Psalms in Luke 24 means the Writings.

So even Jesus said that to find about Him you have look in the bible.

Conclusions should always be drawn from scripture.

Eisegetical approach means that you have proposition or a belief and you use scripture selectively to justify your belief. But Scripture interests scripture

Q: What is your attitude to the Bible?

If you do not love the Bible then it is unlikely that you will respect it or want to live by it.

Obedience is key

Concept of Torah (law) – taking aim.

There are 613 commandments in the First Testament

Psalms 119 – every verse speaks of laws, precepts, truth, testimonies, ways, statutes, commandments.

97 Oh, how I **love Your law**! It is my meditation all the day.

How many laws in the NT? 1050

Psalms 119:8-11

The law was Gods act of grace, Israel rejoiced as it brought order where there was chaos

Make room for what's important.

In John 14 Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to go away, and whilst they are distressed about that, He tells them it is to their advantage. John 14:25-26

If we do not learn the Word then the Holy Spirit cannot remind us

Do we really believe in the supernatural, inspiration nature of the scriptures?

The Bible that we use was written over 1900 years ago, some most of it much older.

The world has changed

Socially, economically, politically, philosophically, scientifically, technologically

If we are to make an impact on this world then we need to have a high view of scripture.

The Word must not be subject to the Church.

If we subject the Bible to our therapeutic needs, then it ceases to be what it should be

If we respect, love, value and most of all live in the scriptures – then it will be what it is:

The transcendent – Holy Spirit – inspired Word of God.