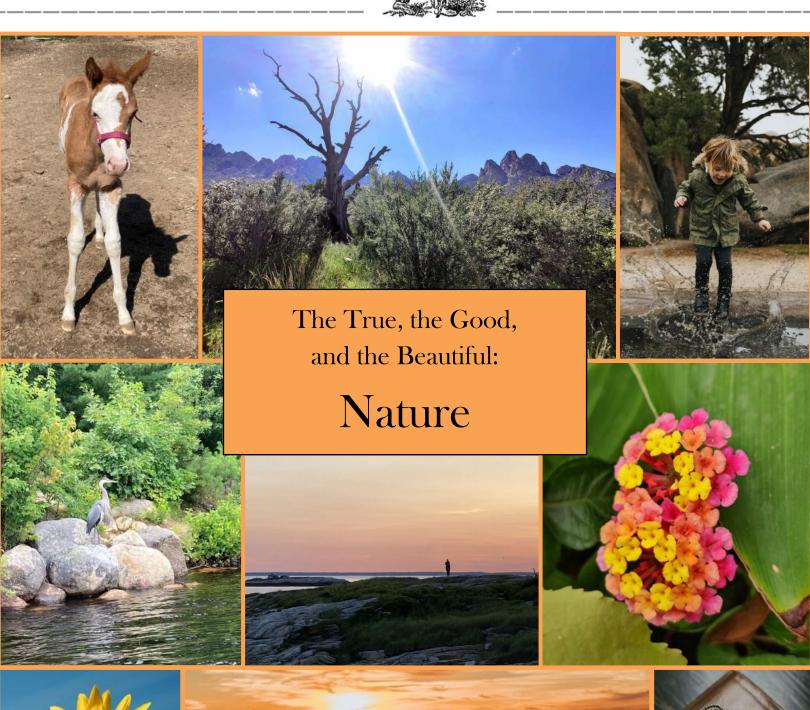
LOGOSOPHIA

A Pilgrim's Journal of Life, Love & Literature

Issue #18 Spring 2024









Greetings, fellow pilgrims!

Welcome to our eighteenth issue of LogoSophia Magazine, based on the True, the Good, and the Beautiful: Nature! It seems like nature is a good inspiration for poetry, for this issues contains many poems, as well as some thoughts on pigs, Fibonacci numbers and stewardship, and more! Please enjoy, and let us know what you think. Happy Spring!

Sarah Levesque Editor in Chief

WANTED

- Readers & listeners of any faith to interact respectfully with writers and other readers through book/media suggestions and letters to the editor, as well as comments on LogoSophiaMag.com and social media
- Writers of Christian faith to augment the works of our Staff
- Artists to help us beautify our issues and blog
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Happy Spring!



Letters to the Editor & Others

This is where we will be putting anything you send in:
letters to the editor, notes to authors, questions,
agreements and disagreements...
we can't wait to see what you have to say!

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article you're responding to!

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Bible Verse

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

(Psalm 95:4-5)

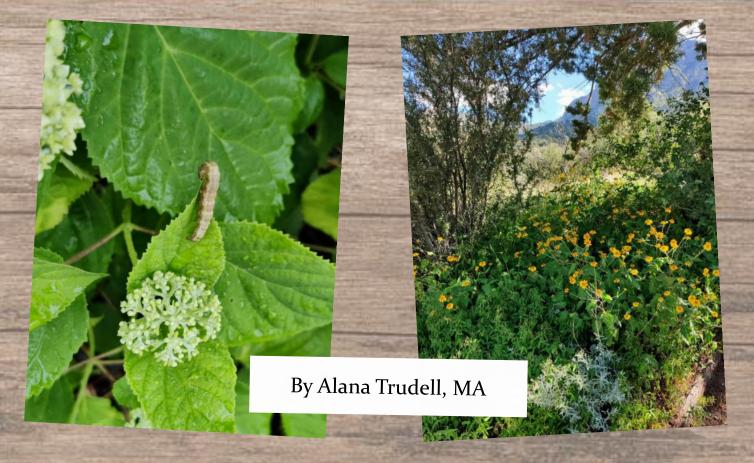
Psalm 8: A Hymn of Thanksgiving for Nature

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants. you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings[b] and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field. the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Spring Photo Contest Entries



By Lyn Wilson, NY



Spring Photo Contest Entries



Spring Photo Contest Entries



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SUMMER

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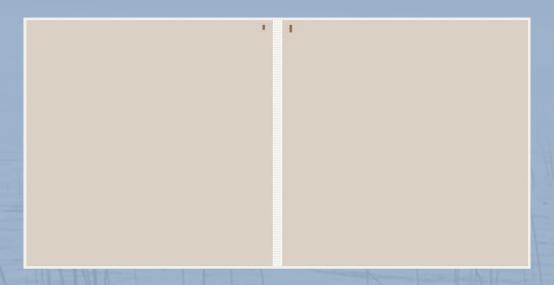
Following Nature's Pointing Finger

By Sarah Levesque

In many of the ancient mythologies, the ancient gods were often personifications of some aspect of Nature, as it is so powerful and was so puzzling to our great ancestors, and often still is to us today. There are still some today who think of Mother Nature as a sort of goddess because we get a sense of grandeur, of power, of more from nature. This, I argue, is because it points to God Himself.

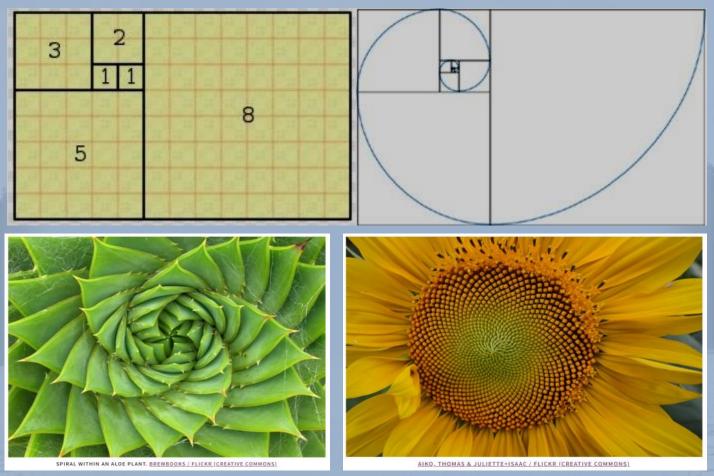
How? Well, nature points to God in more ways than I can name. To keep this article short, let's look at three that always strike me with particular intensity, starting with the amount of carbon needed for life, then looking at the Fibonacci numbers so many of the plants and animals use, and finally looking at mankind.

Did you know that life could not exist without carbon? That too much or too little carbon in the air would make our planet uninhabitable? It's true. And the window for the right amount of carbon dioxide is far from large—between 280 and 350 parts per million (1, 2). That's really hard to imagine for most of us, so here is a visual. Each square represents one million parts.



The dark brown line in the left square is 200 parts per million. The dark brown line in the right square is 300 parts per million. In the diagram, there is a difference of 100 parts per million. In the actual carbon dioxide window, there is only a difference of 90 parts per million in the carbon dioxide window. That's microscopic. The idea that these unique circumstances could happen randomly would be incredibly unlikely; it's Nature pointing to God.

Now let's take a leap in a different direction and look at Fibonacci numbers. This is the pattern you get when each number is the sum of the two previous numbers (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13...).



All images on this page from insteading.com/blog/fibonacci-sequence-in-nature/

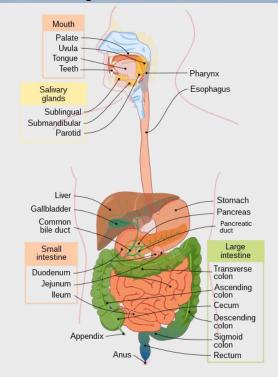
This sequence or the spiral that uses it can be found in an incredible number of things across the universe: nautilus sea shells, the placement of celestial objects in the Milky Way galaxy, cancer cell mitosis, pinecones, chameleon tails, pangolin armor, snails, many plants including aloe, sunflowers, rock daisies... the list goes on (3). And I find it fascinating that this number shows up in so many random places. Coincidence, or Godincidence? It's almost like God's fingerprint. Once again, Nature is pointing to God.

Last but certainly not least, we have mankind. Capable of such good and such evil, free to choose either, reaching always for something bigger, something better, something MORE, something beyond ourselves, looking for joy, peace, love, acceptance, justice, and mercy in a world where these are not the norm. Now look inside one, to the incredible complexity that is the human body.

Each of the twelve individual systems - digestive, cardiovascular, muscular, etc. - is so incredibly complex and intricately interwoven with the others such that one seemingly minor flaw—perhaps a chromosomal deletion, or the inability to absorb a certain vitamin, or a high level of one brain

chemical or another—can have serious impacts on all the systems. I stumbled across an amusing comic by Cuyler Black this winter (4). In it, one snowman boldly proclaims to another that both evolved from a snowstorm. Of course, the comic was created to be ridiculous, but if a snowman cannot evolve from a snowstorm—which is at least the proper material—without a lot of help, how could much more incredibly complex humans evolve from nothing, or even from a simple single cell organism? The only way I can conceive of it is if, like a modern person coding a program, someone greater coded the universe to evolve and set it in motion. Nature pointing to God.

Now, of course, none of these things proves God. How could the experiential evidence of our senses prove a God who is beyond what we can sense? As Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, director of the Vatican Astronomical Observatory, put it, "If science can prove God, then that means God is subservient to science... And that's not a God I want to serve" (5). To be fair, countless people HAVE had an experience of God, but these are deemed "unscientific" because they cannot be replicated, or merely because they are religious. How many millions of miracles have been well documented as fixing natural issues such as illnesses, or, in the case of Eucharistic Miracles,



The Digestive System, one of the twelve systems in the human body

physically changing one object into another? This is beyond mere nature. After all, the Creator of all things could surely adjust His own creation however He wanted, whether it is erasing the symptoms of a concussion as He did to a friend of mine recently, or replacing the substance of bread with Himself as He does at every Mass.

These are the reasons why I believe nature points to God. Yes, so many of these little things, bigger things, and extraordinary things could be called coincidences, but I think it's less likely that all these things just happen to line up perfectly by coincidence. It's far more believable that all these things were intentionally brought about by a creative mind. And that creative mind, able to conceive of such immense and detailed designs that were never conceived of before? That is what we call God.

What is the significance of all this? Why does it matter that Nature points to God, that God's fingerprints are throughout the universe, that God can be discovered through His creation? Well, it's a matter of what we do with Nature. I mentioned earlier that we get a sense of grandeur, of power, of more from nature. If we take that sense of grandeur and remember how Nature points to God, we can get a sense of wonder at the unimaginable grandeur of a God who created it all, from the tiniest single-cell organism to the Milky Way and beyond. With this mindset, enjoying, noticing, and studying these things can bring us closer to God. They can help us to better understand God's creativity, His intelligence, His complexity, and penchant for order. Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ put it well when he said, "When you see science as investing your time and dedication into learning & discovering more about what God has created.... to Science is an act of WORSHIP" (5). And that is true not just of studying God's creation, but even of taking time to notice, to appreciate, and to thank Him for it, whether that be with a nature walk, a pause to watch a bird in flight, a detour around a flower instead of trampling it, or a moment of raising your face to the sun to enjoy its warmth. So appreciate Nature, and by doing so, worship the One who made it.

HOLY

Georges
Lemaitre
By Ian Wilson

HEROES

Modern cosmology would not be the same without the contributions of Fr. Georges Lemaître, Catholic priest and astrophysicist. Nowadays, we all have heard of the Big Bang Theory - that the universe had a beginning and expanded from a single point - and it is acknowledged by all astrophysicists as one of the fundamental theories of the universe; however, this was not always the case. Prior to the 1930s, astrophysics orthodoxy was that the universe was static - but astronomical observations contradicted this.

Born in 1894 in Charleroi, Belgium, Georges Lemaître had an interest in both physics and theology. He was eager to study both; however, the outbreak of the first World War halted his plans. After his service in the war was done, Lemaître returned to school and studied theoretical physics and theology, visiting the major centers of astronomical research in the US, and receiving his Ph.D. in physics from MIT.

None of his studies of science dimmed his desire to know and follow God. By 1923, he was ordained a priest, and by 1925, he accepted a professorship at the Catholic University of Louvain, where he remained for many years.

In the 1920s, theoretical physics had largely accepted the idea of General Relativity. However, certain observations about the motion of galaxies did not match what the scientists expected. Edwin Hubble observed that distant galaxies were flying apart at rates proportional to their distances from us. Lemaître decided to attempt to explain these observations mathematically. His theories were first published in a 1927 paper that went unnoticed by the larger scientific community for quite some time. Thus, the Big Bang Theory was born.

The theory remained controversial for some, as it went directly counter to the scientific orthodoxy of the time. The idea that the universe was expanding from a single point was unthinkable to physicists. However, Lemaître's theories combined with Hubble's observations convinced the majority of scientists that this was indeed correct.

HOLY

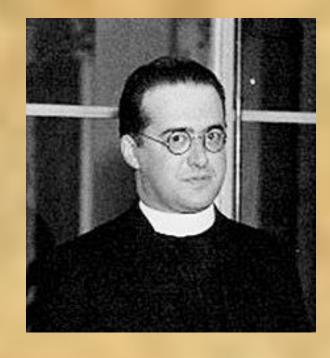
Georges
Lemaitre
By Ian Wilson

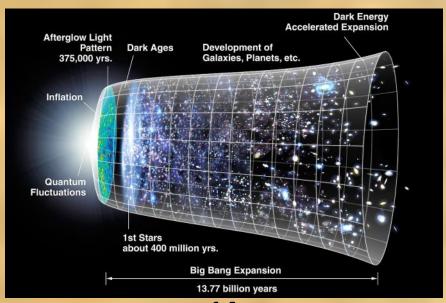
HEROES

While Lemaître was praised for his work, which seemed to prove the creation story in the book of Genesis, he considered his theological and scientific work to be two separate disciplines and did not mix the two. He saw his religion as the metaphysical interpretation of the universe, while the scientific was the physical. He believed both with equal conviction, but he saw them as answers to two distinct sets of questions.

Later in life, Lemaître continued to develop and tweak his theories according to the latest observations. He served as President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences from 1960 until his death in 1966. He left behind an incredibly valuable body of work for the scientific community.

May we, like Lemaître, see the merits of both faith and science in the world and in our lives.





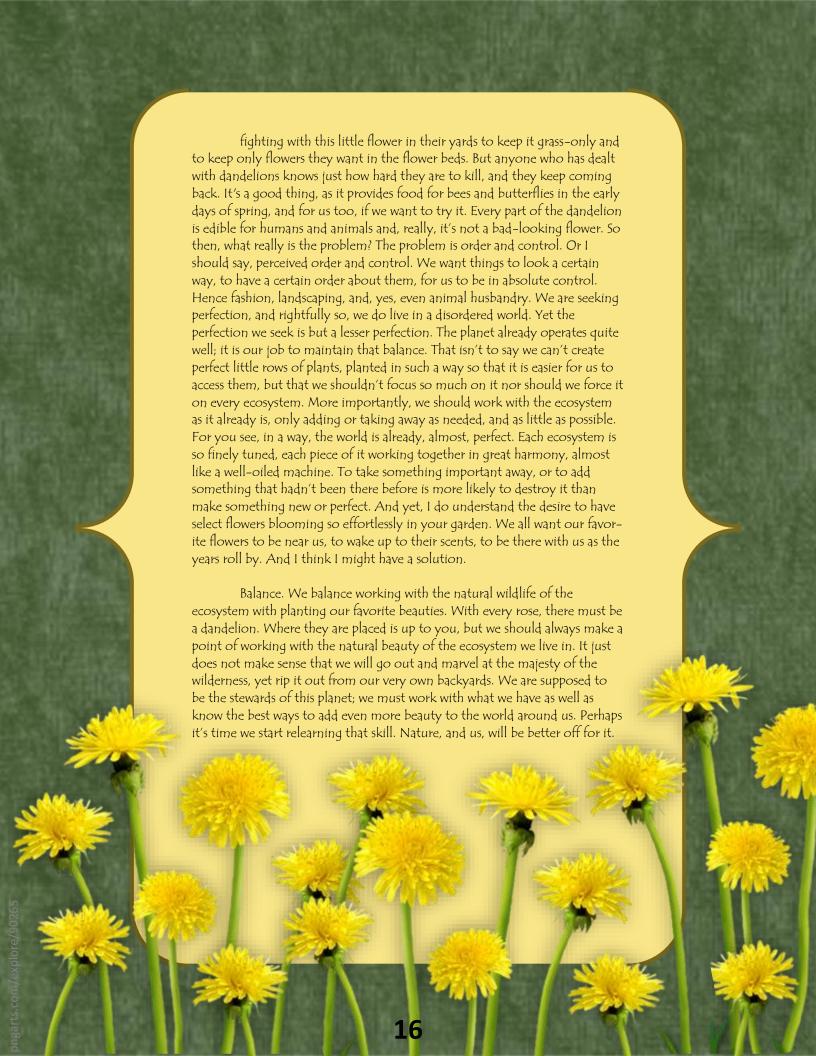
Stewards of the Earth

By Amanda Pizzolatto

For all the talk nowadays about needing to do our part to take care of the planet, there are still a lot of topics not discussed. One of those is invasive species – plants and animals that are introduced into an ecosystem that they do not belong to. Another is about weeds, or plants that many consider invasive and ugly, and rather hard to kill to boot. But what does this have to do with anything? Well, a lot. A lot more than people want to discuss, but one of the key parts relates to beauty, the other, to the cycle of life.

Beauty is perhaps the biggest key factor concerning all of this. A lot of people bring in invasive species because they are beautiful. But then they are allowed out of their little cage, allowed to roam freely, and the ecosystem has no way to cope with it. For instance, rabbits were brought to Australia many years ago to be hunted for sport, but now are causing mayhem to the local ecosystem. There are not enough natural predators to handle the population and as such the plants are in danger. This phenomenon was seen recently in Yosemite National Park when wolves were reintroduced back into their ecosystem. Plants could grow, the river was maintained, and the cycle of life was brought back into balance. But apparently, some people still fear wolves, and rightly so. Like any other animal, they can be unpredictable, but one thing that can be predicted is the loss of livestock. Can we blame them? Livestock are easy prey. We humans are really no different; we like an easy meal too. Yet hard work was put into caring for the livestock, so it is understandable why ranchers dislike wolves. But hunting them to extinction is not the answer, as years at Yosemite have shown. Nature needs the predator to keep the balance in check. It is not up to us to determine what is truly desirable or not.

This brings me to what we consider weeds. The best known "weed" is the dandelion. For years people have been



How On Earth By Michael Stalcup

How, as I gaze across the hills soaked in the evening sun which spills its soft farewell upon them, and up into the sky of blues, a masterstroke of blended hues that calms a weary heart—

How, in the shade of skyward trees' majestic trunks and soaring leaves (such glory from a seed!), and in the smell of garden dirt in which an earthworm finds its work alongside human hands—

How, when the very air we breathe, when moved at different frequencies, lays music on the wind, and water, which sustains our life, rains down on us then catches light to dazzle us with color—

How, when the ocean's pounding waves and crushing depths and hidden caves play host to worlds of life, and mountains rising high above are grandiose reminders of how small we stand beside—

How, from the even greater heights of stars and galaxies, the lights that we will never reach, down to the parts invisible, too small to see, but critical to holding life together—

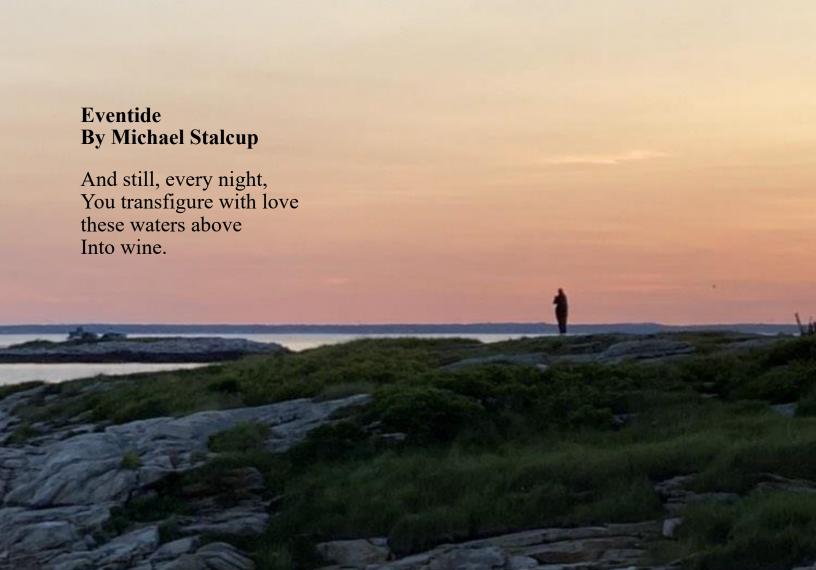
How, as our lone expiring star gives light and heat that from afar come near to give us life, yet in a telling irony, to look into the sun would be an eyeball's eulogy—

How, in the face of all of this, could man or woman truly miss the hand behind it all?

An accident could not convey the beauty that is on display.

No, someone had to make it.

A masterpiece to be enjoyed, but more than that, it had a point: to lead us to our maker. And sure enough, we know his name, he drew himself into the frame: the one whose name was Jesus.



Writers & Artists Wanted!

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- the blog magazine articles & artwork -
 - Controversy Corner graphic design

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All The Trees

By T.K. Wilson

One of the things I've always been attracted to is the idea that nature is alive. Of course, animals and plants are alive—everyone knows that—what I mean is that nature interacts on a personal level with humanity. One of my favorite praise choruses growing up was "The Trees of the Field" based on Isaiah 55:12.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace, The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you, There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field Will clap, will clap their hands!

This song was written in 1975 by Seffi Rubin, with a tune by Stuart Dauermann. Both Ms. Rubin and Mr. Dauermann worked with the Messianic Jewish praise group Liberated Wailing Wall and wrote this song for that group. By the 90s, it was a well-known number, being performed by the Gaithers, Maranatha, and other Protestant groups.

I loved the picture it put in my mind, of trees, or rather, tree people, clapping their hands as a merry band of humans danced down a path. And I came from a Baptist church - no dancing! I hadn't read The Chronicles of Narnia or anything similar at this time, so I don't know how the idea of tree people came into my head. But there it was and it refused to leave.



The idea of the world being alive with tree people and other creatures hiding in plain sight was fascinating to me. Various fictional characters throughout my growing-up years reached out to this image of beautiful, God-made creatures who worked as guardians of Creation. Of course, I'm not sure if such creatures exist, but the idea of sentient nature giving God glory is all over the scriptures, especially in the Psalms.

Like I said, I don't know how or why this image appeared in my mind, but it did, and I loved it. Child-me wanted to be friends with these creatures, as silly as it was. But since walks in nature are recommended by doctors for mental health, maybe I wasn't so far off!

(Source: https://hymnary.org/text/you_shall_go_out_with_joy_and_be_led)

CONTROVERSY CORNER

Do animals go to Heaven?

What is Controversy Corner?

Controversy Corner is the section of LogoSophia Magazine where people of different faith traditions discuss controversial topics in a succinct manner.

If you would like to submit a topic for discussion, please let us know!

Don't see your denomination represented? Help us fix that! We're always looking for new writers!

Disagree with the representative of your denomination? Write in and tell us why in a respectful manner, and we'll publish it in our next magazine under "Letters to the Editor & Comments"!

For these and any other questions, comments or suggestions, email us at Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com.

Nondenominational Christian Deborah Morgan

In my opinion, no, animals as we know them today will not go to Heaven. Does an ocean when it is dried up go to Heaven? Animals are things created by God for earth and its inhabitants and not made in the image of Himself. Creatures, even most beloved ones, were not created for the same glories and salvation as mankind.

However, I do believe that in the New Heavens and New Earth animals will be there (see Isaiah 11:6-7). But in the separation of the two — heavens and earth — no, I do not believe animals will have a place with the believers in Heaven.

CONTROVERSY CORNER

Do animals go to Heaven?

Presbyterian Church Independent: Joshua David Ling

This is not a subject delved into much by the Reformed. While there is speculation galore, the general thought is that there will be animals in the new heavens and earth, as all platonic ideals will be there as well. However, generally speaking, we will only see echoes of the individual animals within these perfected animals. That being said, there is no DOGmatic answer from the reformed. But we're quite fond of puns.

Roman Catholic: Sarah Levesque

The Roman Catholic Church has no official stance on this question. There are a few ways of looking at it - some people think that because animals cannot sin, they must be allowed into Heaven. Others argue that since, Heaven is where the saints (e.g. those who get to Heaven) will worship and praise God for all eternity, perfectly, with their bodies, minds, and souls, and we Catholics do not recognize animals as having eternal souls, it is unlikely that animals will be in Heaven. Heaven is also said to be the New Jerusalem, and the old Jerusalem certainly had animals in it, though I don't think the Bible mentions pet cats and the only dogs that show up tend to be licking sores and cleaning up their own vomit, which is less than encouraging. I lean toward no, my dogs will not show up in Heaven, but God will be there, and that is all I will need.

CONTROVERSY CORNER

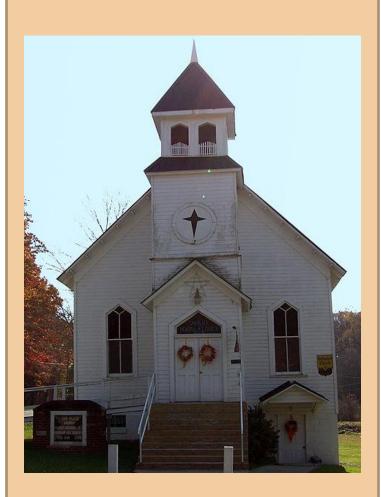
Do animals go to Heaven?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need more contributors for Controversy Corner!

Could you write your denomination's stance?

Do you know someone who can?



Historic Sam Black Church, West Virginia

Make Worms Thy Heir

By Lawrence "Mack in Texas" Hall Cf. Shakespeare, Sonnet 6

Let us speak of the utility of worms

There is much in them, including our ancestors

But without them we might not live at all

They enrich the earth, even with our earth

All children are our heirs; in them we live
They are God's treasures, and we must treasure them
After the Order of Saint Joseph, and when we pass
Our children will say that God is passing by

Let us praise the nobility of worms

Reminding us that we are glorious dust





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Ian Wilson

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236 All Creatures Of Our God And King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN. 8. 8. 4. 4. 8. 8. with Alleluias BY PERMISSION, FROM CURWEN EDITION NO. 6333, PUBLISHED BY J. CURWEN & SONS, LTD. 24 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W. 1, ENGLAND St. Francis of Assist, 1182-1226 Tr. by William H. Drafer, 1855-In unison Melody from Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623 1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n a-3. Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for thy Lord to Un - fold-est bless-ings on our 4. Dear moth-er earth, who day by day 5. And all ye men of ten-der heart, For - giv-ing oth - ers, take your 6. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And wor-ship Him in hum-ble-Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en sing praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise relong, Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Thou fire so mas-ter-ful and hear, praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! The flow'rs and fruits that in thee way, sing ye! Al-le-lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor-row part, praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Dess. beam, Thou praise Him! O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam! praise Him! O lights of eve-ning find a voice! joice. Ye bright, 0 Thou giv-est man both warmth and light! praise Him! O grow, Let them His glo - ry al - so show! 0 praise Him! O Praise God and on Him cast your care! praise Him! O bear. praise Him! O And praise the Spir - it, Three in One! Son.



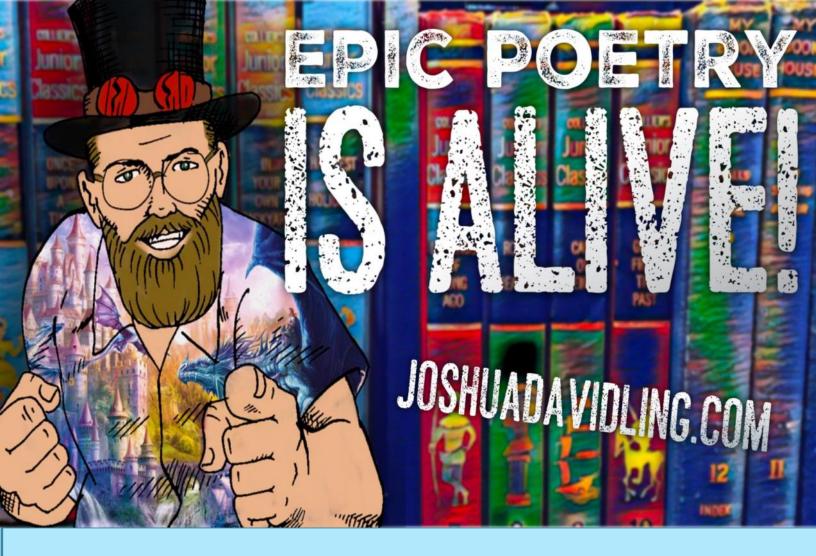
Musical Musings: All Creatures of Our God and King

Hymns featuring the glories of nature have always been among my favorites (see Trees of the Field in this issue). And of course, the ultimate classic, non-Biblical hymn on the subject is "All Creatures of Our God and King", adapted by William H. Draper from St. Francis Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun". The beautiful words of this hymn speak to the power of nature, and more importantly, nature's God.

Far from worshiping the created things, the hymn calls upon nature to aid in the human worship of God, and also reminds humanity of their duties toward God. Francis summons men to forgive others, praise God in troubles, and come to Him in humility.

In this hymn, the saint and all saints call upon us to worship our maker. I am always happy to see this hymn being sung, and hope I will see more people come to love it as I do.





- 1. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- 2. O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with
- 3. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
- 4. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.

Scripture Search

- A. Genesis 9:3
- B. Psalms 104:24-25
- C. Psalm 95:4-5
- **D. Romans 1:20**

Answers: A-4; B-2; C-1; D-3. ESV used.





Hello! Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm a mom. That's I think my biggest titles are wife, mom, child of God. I have five children and 6 grandchildren - number 6 is on the way. I'm a registered nurse turned high school teacher turned elementary school teacher turned barista. To name it all, living the dream!

So, when did you start writing and why?

I started writing in high school. I was diagnosed with dyslexia in 9th grade and I was pretty much told that I was not going to be a great student, but as soon as you tell someone that, I think for me it challenged me to be a better student. And when you have something like dyslexia or any type of category that puts you in a disability, God gives you another gift, and for me the gift was perseverance and humor. Like I had to overcome the label of being a slow reader and a poor writer through perseverance. So Sister Marguerite Charette was my English teacher at Presentation of Mary Academy and she's the one that figured out that I was smarter than my numbers on a report card. So she kept me after school for almost two years; two years straight she privately tutored me, and I went from being a low scoring student to a very high scoring student, and graduating probably like in the top part of my class. And in twelfth grade, we had a newsletter and I wrote a poem, and I really thought it was sweet. So I submitted it to Reader's Digest, and they picked it up, and that began the journey. That began the journey, yeah, that tiny little poem. Yeah, that's it. That's how the journey began.

Can you tell us about your latest book?

Sure! The latest book, just hot off the press, is A Maple Syrup Christmas. This was an adventure that I started because I wanted to know how to write a screenplay. I was wondering if it was possible to write a Catholic-based cozy Christmas romance. There's a lot of cozy Christmas romances that are not, that are Christian or other faith or just a sweet story, but don't use the words Mary, and don't use, you know, any of the Catholic vocabulary. So, I wanted to write one and then wanted to see if it could go into production. I got in touch with a couple of production companies and they recommended that I turn the screenplay into a novel, hopefully an award winning novel, and then rewrite it into a screenplay. So I turned it into a novel and now I'm turning it back into a screenplay.





Let's rewind to your first book. What was that like?

Birthday Snow was written during the time when we were homeschooling our children. And I was wondering "What is the process of getting a book published?" So it became more of a homeschool project. I wanted to see what it took to get from the beginning to the end. It was just more of a fun thing to do. I wasn't quite sure where I was going to go with this or how it was going to end, but in the end it got published. So it became a family project where my husband Mark was the editor, I had some of my kids write some lines, and then we put it together and shipped it out to a couple of publishing companies, and sure enough someone picked it up.

And that one spun off into two sequels.

Two sequels. A Spring's Gift of Hope and When Summer Never Ends, and then the fourth one is in progress. So, if you look at the titles, I'm sure you can gather they're about the seasons, but more the liturgical seasons. It starts off December 1st, right after Christ the King, starting the new liturgical year with Birthday Snow. Then you go into Lent and Easter, all the way to Pentecost and then Ordinary Time is the summer, and now we're going back to Christ the King in the fall.

So how was this new one different than the other ones?

I realized with the first three that the hardest part was marketing them. Marketing is very difficult. It's a saturated market. So I really wanted to reach a large audience and I researched a company that would help me with that. Covenant Books has been amazing helping me to get the book out there by putting it in an ebook, putting it on their website, you know, doing an author feature, and Amazon... it's been fantastic with them. Big difference, big difference.

Okay. So what are you working on now?

The big project right now is turning *A Maple Syrup Christmas* back into a screenplay. Promoting it to become an award winning book—it's up for 3 awards right now. Yeah, so continuing with that process, finishing up book four of the series for the liturgical year, called *Fall In Love*. If you follow Birthday Snow, Gina is young - sixteen - and





then in book two a little bit older - eighteen and in college. Third book, now she gets engaged. For book four, I jumped way ahead. Her 'fall in love' has to be falling in love with the Lord again. Life got busy. Things changed. She's moved. She's away from family. She has to fall in love with the Lord and Our Lady again. A new journey. I have one more project that I'm thinking of, but those are the two that are in progress .

Why do you write?

Why do I write? Well, Birthday Snow, of course, like I said, was a family project. The second book became something to do while I

waited for my daughter for hours at ballet class. Sitting in the car waiting turned into what else can I do? I found the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish down the road that the priest let me sit by the tabernacle for an Adoration hour and write. So I used to write right by the adoration tabernacle for hours while waiting for ballet, and that the 3rd book was the same thing. So for two reasons: First, because I had time and I wanted to make good use of that time. And then this one was just curiosity. Maple Syrup Christmas was a curiosity. Again, also, I'm hoping to start a movement of Catholic cozy romances, specifically Catholic cozy romances. So you have to begin somewhere. If you dream it, you gotta do it. So that's why I did it.

What helps you write? Music, reading, specific pen, etc.?

Most of this has been written in front of the tabernacle. That's where I write. That's it. I take my journals. It's on paper. I like to scribble and erase and go back. I know it's old fashioned to write from paper transferred up to the computer, but it works for me.

What has writing taught you?

Well, it has opened up a world of meeting amazing people and other writers and now actors. Now I've been able to meet some actors and production companies. So I've learned to just get a whole bunch of new friends. Lots of new people. Everyone wants to serve the Lord in some way, and this is one way. And when you meet the same people of like-mindedness, it's awesome. Yeah, it's really awesome.



Who has inspired you in your writing?



That would be the sisters of Presentation of Mary, so Sister Marguerite Charette and Sister Teresa La Rochelle. Those sisters that I had as my English teachers saw potential, and so delighted that they saw potential. Yeah. And so that began the journey. Yeah, the sisters. God bless them. And Jesus in Adoration. He's a very good writer. Just watch the pen move and go, "Oh, perfect!" It's true.

Do you go back and reread your writing after it's been completed?

Never have. Never have read any of my books again. Nope, I don't. I don't want to find a mistake. I'd be sad. And because for

Maple Syrup Christmas, the editing process was I read that 75 times. You take a break and then you go back. I have a wonderful proofreading editing team with Tricia Dwyer, my husband Mark, and Miss Gabrielle. So they were amazing at helping me find some common mistakes. But when those edits come back in, now you read it again. So 75 times. I'm all done with it.

What is your advice for writers?

So I would start by putting the whole story out; make an outline, beginning to end, how do you want it to end, and then go backwards. And then write, take a break, come back, write, take a break. Always take a break and come back. Yeah, but get the whole story in your head and try to imagine it as a movie walking through every step. Watch it in your mind like a movie. Read it out loud.

I want to thank the people at Parker's Maple Barn. I mean the whole setting is here at Parker's. I've been to Parker's since I was a little girl, so this is very special to me. And they were so sweet to allow the entire scene to take place at Parker's Maple Barn. They gave me the picture on the cover and the whole thing. They're so lovely. You do meet so many nice people in this. And the whole point of all of the books is to evangelize. Especially for me, it is the young girls ages 10 to 16. That age group I feel need just really nice literature, just nice stories. that are Catholic-based to watch other young girls how they live their faith. Yeah, that's the point.

Do you have any website or any way to find you online?

Is there anything else you want to add?

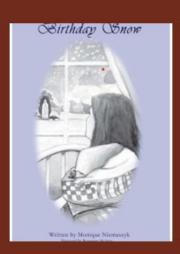


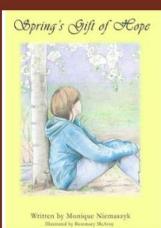


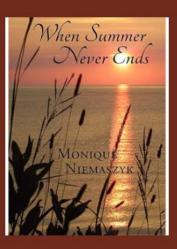
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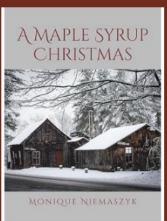
Check out Monique's books below!











Birthday Snow (Seasons with Gina Book 1) Spring's Gift of Hope (Seasons with Gina Book 2) When Summer Never Ends (Seasons With Gina Book 3) A Maple Syrup Christmas

JUST SOME PIS BY AMANDA PIZZOLATTO

With spring around the corner, books about animals come to mind. The cute little babies are being born at this time, the chicks, piglets, foals, fawns, and all the rest. The flowers too are popping out of the ground and on the trees. All of nature is waking up and a new generation is born. This is how two stories in particular start, with the birth of the protagonist, and both are pigs. You most likely know them, as they are two of the most famous pigs of all time, Wilbur and Babe.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White was published in 1952 and quickly became a hit. Now considered a classic, the book tells the tale of a runt who is saved from death, first by a farmgirl, and then by a spider. Young Fern is the first to take compassion on him, and her father allows her to care for him for a little while. When he gets too big to live in their house, he gets moved to Fern's uncle's farm, where Fern can visit him often. There, he meets and befriends the other animals, but one takes a particular liking to him. This is the titular Charlotte, a regular barn spider, who is shown to be very smart and kind. Thanks mostly to her, Wilbur becomes famous and is ensured safety from becoming Christmas dinner.

Babe, too, is ensured safety from becoming Christmas dinner when he shows his master how he is with the sheep. The story of Babe, also a book, originally titled *The Sheep-Pig* by Dick King-Smith and published in 1983, starts with his birth as the runt of a litter. But he was saved to be given away as a prize at the fair. Farmer Hoggett wins him, and the two become good friends over the course of the book. One of Hoggett's sheepdogs, Fly, adopts Babe when all her pups are sold and teaches him some things about herding sheep. By saving the sheep one day from hustlers, Babe officially reserves his place on the farm, away from the dinner table. He goes on to gain his own fame, with help from Fly.

Both books have been made into well-known movies, a cartoon from 1973 and a live-action film from 2003 for Wilbur, and a 1995 live-action movie for Babe. Both tales have been childhood classics ever since they came out, and for good reason, as they tell of characters finding their place on their farms with help from others. It does help that there are cute animals to boot, which is something that catches the interest of most children. Animal stories have been passed down for generations from different cultures for a reason. These two stories are no different. They are easy for children to understand and fun to read. In the words of one farmer, "That'll do, pig. That'll do."

Idyll of the Magpies By Kevin Latorre

He did not know to mourn his final mate who sat forever cold on her empty-shelled brood. He twitters to the last and sings to the by and by, the day I bear false eyewitness.

Where should I stand for the impossible sight? Where my heels, how my hands? These answers went extinct before these magpies. No knowing, now. No meaning on the wing.

Today is sunned for the loss we never see there, from the far chimney smoke, the last magpie flies.



Past is the world he plundered as he pleased—no more hair, twine, earth, straw, or vellum to write the sphere of his mate's great nest. He carries No thread to inherit, not an ounce from the text he gathered.

I wave hard to startle him to flight, but the last magpie does not seek to exist: he sees the cerulean vista and tawny meadow, he flies for the idyll of life now dead. By the Magi stars he migrates to the oblivion of his kind.

I whistle low for his unseen departure, I am his final witness—my memory like his a fragile, passing testimony.





Book & Media Recommendations



Dee Henderson (author). I've just finished another deep dive into her books - she's of one of my favorite authors. Many of her books are murder mysteries, and nearly all are full of suspense. I love how so many of them have a romantic plot as well. But in addition to the suspense and the romance, each book has a character that wrestles with some aspect of the Christian life, whether it be the idea that God loves him/her unconditionally, the idea of death and grief, the idea of mercy. I'm always going back for more, rereading her works every few years. Highly recommended. –Sarah

Masters of the Air (Apple TV series, 2024) In the third of their WWII miniseries, Tom Hanks and Steven Speilberg take to the air, following the 100th Bomb Group, nicknamed the "Bloody Hundredth" because of their high casualty rate. The series shows the dangers of bombing targets within Nazi-occupied Europe without the cover of darkness and the heroism of the crews who undertook these missions. -Monica

The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes (1939) by DuBose Heyward is about a country bunny, the mother of 21 bunnies, who attempts to follow her dreams of becoming one of the Easter bunnies.

The Princess and the Goblin (1991) - This adaptation of George Mac-Donald's classic novel is not a perfect one, but I cannot fault how they instituted the main theme of faith in spite of all opposition. -TK

Chanticleer (Play by Edmond Rostand) Chanticleer the rooster believes his crowing raises the sun every morning, but this great artist is in for a fall. From the creator of fiction's Cyrano de Bergerac comes this Play with Rostand's famous rapier wit and social commentary. -TK



Book & Media Recommendations







The Secret Garden (1994) from WildBrain is a lesser known cartoon based on the beloved book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. With the addition of talking animals and musical numbers, it brings the story to life in a new and colorful way. -Amanda

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want to
suggest?
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"There is not a square inch in the whole domain
of our human existence over which Christ,
who is sovereign over all,
does not cry, 'Mine!'"
- Abraham Kuyper
("Sphere Sovereignty," address at
De Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam)





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The Knights of Adonai Part 7: Shedding Light

By Joshua David Ling

"Owain! Owain!" The Knights did call-As they eagerly searched the grounds. Looking to show him their prized scroll-And the evidence to take Talen down.

Owain: "Brothers! You've returned? How do you fare?"

Hannaniah: "Wonderful, Owain! We have a bounty!
Ample evidence for which you can seeLord Talen is definitively not innocent!
He is slime-ridden as he is guilty!"

Arturs and Leopold laughed, As Han handed Owain the scroll. Owain's face turned to confusion and worry.

Owain: "How can this be so?

He took the scroll from Han
And opened it up to view
What his knights had brought to him.

Arturs: "It's what we have all pursued! This information convicts Lord Talen. He's clearly laundering gold."

Owain: "Yes, it appears that is the case, but-"

Hannaniah: "But? Don't be so old!
We were workers within his houseAnd hired for such a scheme!
Just because we found it and alerted youDoes not mean we stole anything!"

Owain: "The fact that you think I would have accused you-Means the magistrate might. I need to think carefully about this."

> Leopold: "We have to do what's right. We've uncovered an important operation-That is scandalous and wrong!"

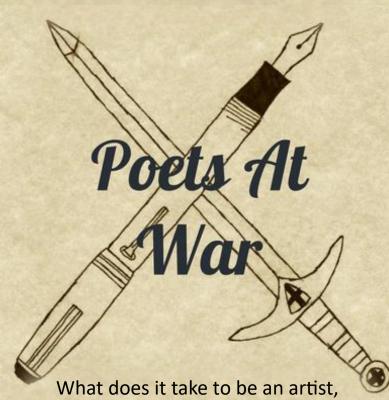
Owain pondered for a moment And realized they must act quick-If they were to present this evidence With minimal conflict.

Owain: "I'm not sure it's the right thing to do-But we must present this right away. Go get the Sheriff, Hannaniah. We will show him today."

The Shallows By Michael Stalcup

When I drink in the stars and upward sink into the theater your words have wrought, I touch unfelt immensity and think—like Grandma used to pause in patient thought before an ordinary flower, awed by intricacies hidden in plain view, then say, *You didn't have to do that, God!*—Surely a smaller universe would do!

But you have walled us in with open seas unconquerable, wild with distant shores whose raging dawns are but your filigree across our vaulted skies. This art of yours, what Grandma held and I behold, these flames, frame truth which awes us more: You know our names.



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Bible Trivia!

Answers on the following page

- 1) In the prophecies of Isaiah, God took the office of steward (second in command) from who?
 - A. Shebna
 - B. Eliakim
 - C. Jacob
 - D. Joseph
- 2) In the prophecies of Isaiah, to whom did God give the office of steward (second in command)?
 - A. Shebna
 - B. Eliakim
 - C. Jacob
 - D. Joseph
- 3) Where in the Gospels does Jesus insist his followers would have to eat his flesh to be saved?
 - A. Matthew 16:16-18
 - B. Mark 4:2-18
 - C. Luke 2:7-17
 - D. John 6:22-59
- 4) True or False: Old Testament Joseph and Haman in the story of Esther were both second only to their respective kings.
- 5) Both Old Testament Joseph and New Testament Joseph are known for
 - A. Lots of brothers
 - B. Fancy clothes
 - C. Dreaming,
 - D. Riding donkeys
- 6) True or False: Matthew 16:18-19 mirrors Isaiah 22:22.
- 7) Which Psalm is this passage from? "In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."
 - A. Psalm 2
 - **B. Psalm 119**
 - C. Psalm 95:4-5
 - D. Psalm 87

Bible Trivia Answers

Questions on the previous page

- 1) A (see #2)
- 2) B: God took the office of steward (second in command) from Shebna and gave it to Eliakim son of Hilkiah (see Isaiah 22).
- 3) D: Where in the Gospels does Jesus insist his followers would have to eat his flesh to be saved? John 6:22-59, called the Bread of Life Discourse.
- True: Old Testament Joseph and Haman in the story of Esther were both second only to their respective kings, sometimes called Stewards or Prime Ministers.
- 5) C: Dreaming. Old Testament Joseph had visions pertaining to the future and was able to interpret dreams, while New Testament Joseph was given messages from God through his dreams.
- 6) True:

Isaiah 22:22 (ESV) reads: "And I will place on his [Eliakim's] shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."

Matthew 16:18-19 (ESV) reads: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

7) The passage is Psalm 95:4-5.



Sarah Levesque

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