

**Reading The Bible.**

Genesis is the most extensive historical book in the Bible, yet it can be read in three hours without reading it hurriedly. The Gospel by Luke requires two hours for its reading. Forty-two out of the sixty-six books of the Bible may be read in less than an hour each. The whole Bible can be read without haste in sixty hours and forty-eight minutes, equal to about ten minutes a day. The sixty hours and forty-five minutes are equal to the working of one week. And yet there are people who say and act as though they had not the time to read the Bible through!

I have found an excellent arrangement plan for reading the Bible in a valuable little book entitled "Chips," which I will append. It is upon the basis of reading ten minutes a day throughout the year in order to finish reading the Bible through in a year's time. I think the plan is excellent. "January—Proverbs, Genesis, and Revelation. Total 5 hours and 5 minutes. February—Ezekiel, Total 3 hours. March—Exodus, Galatians, Philemon, Leviticus, and Hebrews. Total 4 hours and 35 minutes. April—Numbers, Ephesians, 2 John, 3 John, Deuteronomy, Romans, and James. Total 4 hours and 38 minutes. May—Joshua, 2 Corinthians, Titus, Judges, Hosea, 1 Corinthians, and Ezra. Total 4 hours and 31 minutes. June—Ruth, Luke, Acts, Daniel. Total 4 hours and 5 minutes. July and August—1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, Psalms, 1 Kings, 2 Kings. Total 9 hours and 10 minutes. September—Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Naham, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, and Esther. Total 4 hours and 43 minutes. October—Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, John, Canticles. Total 4 hours and 12 minutes. November—Jeremiah, Lamentations, Zechariah, and Mark. Total, 5 hours and 12 minutes. December—Job, Jude, Micah, Matthew, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Nehemiah, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Colossians, Philippians, and John. Total, 4 hours and 57 minutes."

I hope a goodly number of my readers will clip this plan from the paper and place it in a conspicuous place in a room and follow its outline, and I verily believe a greater love will be created for God's Word and its truths will be more appreciated, and the experience in grace and knowledge greatly enhanced. Try and note the results.—Rev. W. H. Bucks

**Curious Bible Facts.**

The learned Prince of Granada, heir to the Spanish throne, imprisoned by order of the crown for fear he would aspire to the throne, was kept in solitary confinement in the old prison at the Place of the Skulls, Madrid. After thirty-three years in this living tomb death came to his release, and the following remarkable researches, taken from the Bible and marked with an old nail on the rough walls of his cell, told how the brain sought employment through the weary years:

In the Bible the word "Lord" is found 1,853 times; the word "Jehovah" 6,855 times, the word "reverend" but once, and that in Psalms cxi. 9.

The ninth verse of the eighth chapter of Esther is the longest.

The eighth verse of the ninety-seventh Psalm is the middle verse of the Bible.

The thirty-fifth verse, eleventh chapter of John, is the shortest.

Each verse in Psalm cxxxvi ends alike.

No names or words with more than six syllables are found in the Bible.

The thirty-seventh chapter of Isaiah and nineteenth chapter of 2 Kings are alike.

The word "girl" occurs but once in the Bible, and that in Joel iii, 3.

There are found in both books of the Bible 3,538,483 letters, 773,693 words, 31,373 verses, 1,189 chapters and 66 books.

The twenty-sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is the finest chapter to read.

The most beautiful chapter is the twenty-third Psalm.

The four most inspiring promises are in John xiv. 2, vi. 37; Matt. xi. 28, and Psalm xxxvii. 4.

All who flatter themselves with vain boasts should read the sixth chapter of Matthew.

All humanity should learn the sixth chapter of Luke, from the twentieth verse to its ending.

**The Enduring.**

BY SARAH K. BOLTON.

He built a house; time laid it in the dust; He wrote a book, its title now forgot; He ruled a city, but his name is not On any tablet graven, or where rust Can gather from disuse, or warble bust. He took a child from out a wretched cot, Who on the state dishonor might have brought, And reared him on the Christian's hope and trust.

The boy, to manhood grown, became a light To many souls, and preached for human need The wondrous love of the Omnipotent. The work has multiplied like stars at night When darkness deepens; every noble deed Lasts longer than a granite monument.

**Two Little Girls.**

I'm twins, I guess, 'cause my ma says I'm two little girls. An' one o' me Is a good little girl; an' th' other'n she Is a bad little girl as she can be. An' ma says so, most every day. An' she's the funniest ma! Cause when My doll won't mind, an' I list cry, Why, nen my ma she sob an' sigh, An' say, "Dear good little girl, good-by! Bad little girl's comed here again!"

Last time I ma act that a way I cried all to myself awhile Out on the steps, an' nen I smile, An' get my doll all fixed in style, An' go in where ma's at, an' say: "Mornin' to you, mommy dear; Where's that bad little girl wez here? Bad little girl gone clean away. An' good little girl's comed back to stay!" —James Whitcomb Riley, in Century.

**Ignorance of the Bible.**

Recent reference has been made to this subject in our columns. It appears the trouble is not confined to Canada. "Senex Smith" in the Herald and Presbyter, says:

Dr. Thwing, President of Western Reserve College, tested the familiarity of the young men and women who enter our colleges with the Scriptures, by sending them twenty-two Bible allusions in Tennyson's works. They were such as these:

- (1) My sin was a thorn.
- (2) Among the thorns that girt thy brow.
- (3) Like Hezekiah's, backward runs The shadow of my days.
- (4) Joshua's moon in Ajalon.
- (5) Ruth among the fields of corn.

The percentage of correct answers was less than 43 for the men and a little more than 43 for the women. Of the 85 no less than 40 knew nothing about the story of Esau, or that of Ruth, or the mark of Cain; 75 did not remember ever hearing about Hezekiah and his shadow on the dial, and 66 confessed their ignorance of Jonah and his gourd. One said that Joseph of Arimathea was the father of Christ, and wore a coat of many colors!

Now these young people were all students

in what we call Christian colleges, and most of them, probably, went there from Christian homes, and had attended church and Sabbath school. Their ignorance in regard to these leading statements in the Scriptures seems almost incredible. When I went to college I could have answered every one of these questions as readily as I could repeat the multiplication table, and so could nearly, if not all, of my fellow students. Who is to blame for this amazing neglect of the great classic of language—God's book for the world? Primarily, the parents. Even those who profess to be Christians do not try to instruct their children in the Bible as in the days of my boyhood. They depend too much on the Sabbath school. And there we get merely selections from the Scriptures, and very little idea of the divine book in its entirety.

**The Generalship of a Cat.**

"The mastery of herself which a cat shows when, having been caught in a position from which there is no escape, she calmly sits down to face out the threats of a dog, is a marvelous thing," says a writer in The Boston Transcript. "Everybody has seen a kitten on the street doorstep, attacked by a dog ten times her size, as apparently self-possessed as if she were in her mistress' lap. If she turns tail and runs down the street, she is lost; the dog will have a sure advantage of her. Even as it is, if he could get up courage enough to seize her on the spot, he would be able to make short work of her."

"You dare not touch me and you know it" is what her position tells the dog. But she is intensely on her guard, in spite of the air of perfect content. Her legs, concealed under her fur, are ready for a spring. Her claws are unsheathed. Her eyes never move for an instant from the dog; as he bounds wildly from side to side, barking with comical fury, those glittering eyes of hers follow him with the earnest scrutiny. If he plucks up his courage, she is ready; she will sell her life dearly. She is watching her chance and she does not miss it. The dog tries Fabian tactics and withdraws a few feet, settling down upon his forepaws.

"Just then the sound of a dog's bark in the next street attracts his eyes and ears for a moment, and when he looks back the kitten is gone! He looks down the street and starts wildly in that direction and reaches a high board fence just as a cat's tail—a monstrous tail for such a little cat—is vanishing over the top of it. He is beaten. The cat showed not only more courage than he had, but a great deal more generalship."

**Our Perplexing Speech.**

"See what a flock of ships!" said a little girl as she looked at the picture of many ships in New York harbor. Her teacher told her that a "flock of ships" is called a fleet, and a fleet of sheep is called a flock. We may add that a flock of wolves is called a pack; a pack of thieves is called a gang, a gang of angels is called a host, a host of porpoises is called a shoal, a shoal of buffaloes is called a troop, a troop of partridges is called a covey, a covey of beauties is called a galaxy, a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, a horde of rubbish is called a heap, a heap of oxen is called a drove, a drove of blackguards is called a mob, a mob of respectables is called a congregation, a congregation of engineers is called a corps, a corps of robbers is called a band, a band of locusts is called a swarm, a swarm of people is called a crowd, a crowd of gentlefolk is called the elite and a miscellaneous crowd is called the people.