

Wisdom Booklet 20



WISDOM QUIZ

Matthew 5:19–20

“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”



Prudential Insurance Co. of America

How well do you understand the concept of keeping the Law?

1 A person will not be allowed to enter heaven unless he perfectly keeps all of God’s Law.

(Read Romans 8:1–4.)

- God’s clear requirement for entrance into heaven is perfection, and there is only one person Who has ever achieved it—the Lord Jesus Christ. It is only because of His perfect fulfillment of the Law that we are able to experience salvation and eternal life.

How do we enter into Christ’s perfect fulfillment of God’s Law? (See I Corinthians 6:11.)

2 Some commandments are more important than others.

(Read James 2:10.)

- Since the Law is one unit, we become guilty of breaking the whole Law by violating any one of its “little commandments.” For example, hating a

person would not be considered as bad as killing a person, yet Jesus affirmed that whoever hates his brother is a murderer. (See Matthew 5:21–22.)

How can wrong thoughts cause a man to be guilty of adultery? (See Matthew 5:28.)

3 It is possible to do everything right and still break God’s Law.

(Read James 2:10.)

- God’s will for Christians is not only that they be dead to sin, but also that they become alive to righteousness. Obedience in carrying out “little commandments” is a powerful weapon in conquering big temptations. Thus, Paul exhorts Christians, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

What “little commandments” does God give in Romans 12:20 that if obeyed can overcome evil?

4 God has given each one of us the right to choose our own actions if they affect only our lives.

(Read Proverbs 28:4.)

- Nothing a Christian does affects only himself. We are all members of an intricate and delicate spiritual body. It is so sensitive that when one member hurts, the whole body hurts. Thus, no man lives to himself or dies to himself. (See Romans 14:7.)

What “little commandment” did Christians in the early church break which caused weaker brothers to stumble and other Christians to be offended? (See Romans 14:13–21.)

Total Correct 2

ELIZA E. HEWITT

More About Jesus

JOHN R. SWENEY



1. More a-bout Je-sus would I know, More of His grace to oth - ers show;



More of His sav-ing full-ness see, More of His love who died for me.

WISDOM WORKSHEET ON MATTHEW 5:19–20



“WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL BREAK ONE OF THESE LEAST COMMANDMENTS, AND SHALL TEACH MEN SO, HE SHALL BE CALLED THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL DO AND TEACH THEM, THE SAME SHALL BE CALLED GREAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.”



Prudential Insurance Co. of America

How does the construction of a large building illustrate this verse?

- Large buildings have collapsed because little details in the blueprints were not followed.
- God pictures Christians as living stones in a magnificent temple. It is vital to His kingdom that each builder follow the letter and the spirit of His “blueprints.” (See I Peter 2:5.)

“FOR I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT EXCEPT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, YE SHALL IN NO CASE ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.”

The Pharisees personified the violation of God’s Law. On the outside they “appeared beautiful,” but on the inside they were like “whited sepulchres.” (See Matthew 23:27.)

Linguistics

Languages,
Grammar, Vocabulary,
Communication



TO BREAK

Greek: λύω (LOO-oh)

DEFINITION: To loose or loosen, to decrease the force of a law, to relax, to pronounce it as no longer binding.

Do Resource A.

LEAST

Greek: ἐλάχιστος (eh-LAH-kih-stoss)

- A superlative of the word “less” (less, lesser, least).

DEFINITION: Extremely little in size, amount, or importance.

Do Resource B.

TO TEACH

Greek: διδάσκω (dih-DAH-skoe)

DEFINITION: To instruct or to influence, to redirect the thinking or behavior of others.

TO CALL

Greek: καλέω (kah-LEH-oh)

DEFINITION: To call, to receive as a name, to bear a name or title.

TO DO

Greek: ποιέω (poy-EH-oh)

DEFINITION: To habitually perform, to exercise, to practice.

GREAT

Greek: μέγας (MEH-gahs)

DEFINITION: Designation, a measure of growth, nobility, rank, size, or number.

EXCEED

Greek: πλείων (PLAY-ohn)

DEFINITION: To surpass in quality or quantity.

This would require a new dimension of spirituality since the Scribes and the Pharisees were considered the ultimate spiritual achievers.

History

Archaeology,
Geography, Prophecy,
Music, Art, Literature



How did the Pharisees break the law by “keeping it”?

In about 135 B.C. a group separated themselves from the rest of Judaism to keep the Law. They were called



“the confederates.” This faction became the Pharisees of Jesus’ day.

The scribes and the Pharisees prided themselves in keeping God’s Law, but their hearts were not right. Thus, they designed rules based on the letter of the Law but neglected the spirit of the Law.



Hand Washing
(See Matthew 15:8.)

When they condemned Jesus’ disciples for not washing their hands, He said, “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”



What did the scribes and “Moses’ chair” have in common?

Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees for using their traditions to turn the Law into an instrument for preventing true access to God. However, He recognized their authority because they sat on Moses’ seat. (See Matthew 23:1–2.)

Do Resource C.

Science

Chemistry, Biology,
Astronomy, Geology,
Physics, Mathematics



How does the slightest variation in cutting a diamond affect its value?

God makes the analogy between jewels and those who fear Him in Malachi 3:17.



A brilliant diamond is one which has been precisely cut at different angles. The slightest variation in any angle will cause the diamond to lose its brightness and its value.

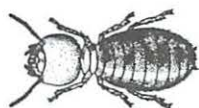
Do Resource D.



How does adding a little baking soda to lemon juice illustrate breaking a little law?

Baking soda neutralizes the acidity of lemon juice, which is then ineffective in preserving the color of freshly sliced fruits. Similarly, disobedience neutralizes God's Law.

How do termites illustrate the righteousness of the Pharisees?



Termite

Do Resource E.

How could the following mathematical symbols be used to describe the righteousness of the Pharisees?

The middle symbols mean "greater than" and "less than."

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & > & P \\ P & < & C \end{array}$$

Christ's righteousness is greater than (>) the righteousness of the Pharisees.

Do Resource F.

Law

Government,
Economics, Logic



How did the "keepers" of God's Law become a law unto themselves?

The scribes were professional lawyers and judges. They were called the *tanaim*—"those who repeat (the Law)."



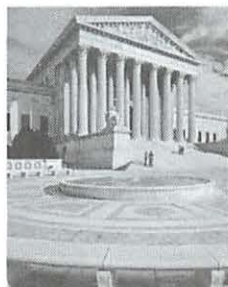
Doré Bible Illustrations

Ezra was a ready scribe in the Law of Moses.

the Law, differing schools of interpretation resulted.

In deciding which interpretation was correct, the teaching of these religious leaders took on more authority than the Law itself.

How did the "keepers" of United States law become a law to themselves?



Milt and Joan Mann

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court was established to judge cases on the basis of the Biblical presuppositions of the Constitution. In recent years these presuppositions have been replaced by the "fairness" of humanistic case law.

Do Resource G.

Medicine

Health,
Nutrition, Behavior,
Counseling



How was the bubonic plague spread by the violation of a single commandment?

For centuries, sanitation procedures in European cities were neglected.

Human excrement was dumped in the streets; rats flourished, and with them came fleas, which transported the deadly bubonic plague.



One fourth of the population of Europe was destroyed by the bubonic plague.

Millions of deaths could have been avoided if these cities would have applied the principles of sanitation given by God in Deuteronomy 23:12-14.

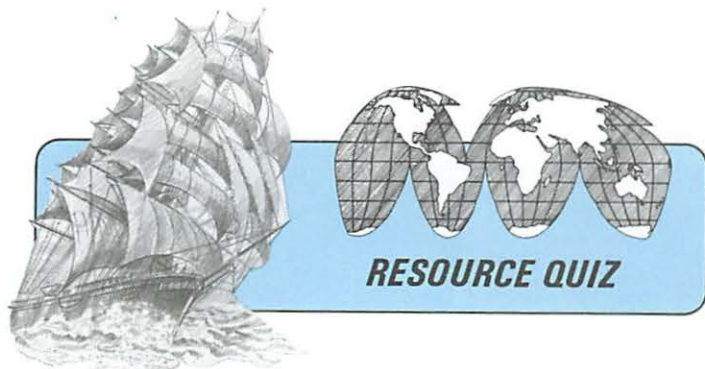
Do Resource H.

In what way is our righteousness to exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees?

The scribes and Pharisees carried out their "righteous" works to be seen and praised by men. Jesus rebuked them as hypocrites. (See Matthew 6:2.)

The righteous deeds we perform are to be carried out by the energy of the Holy Spirit and to be done secretly as unto the Lord. Only then will we receive the reward that God promises to those who love Him and keep His commandments. (See Matthew 6:4.)





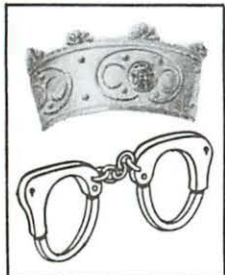
How many of these questions can you answer before studying the resources?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KEEP THE LAW?



- In what three ways can we neutralize God's Laws? . . . 852
- What makes a Christian lukewarm? . . . 852
- How can you disobey the Law by obeying it? . . . 856
- How can a Christian verify the Law of God? . . . 857
- How should we promote the keeping of God's law? . . 858

WHAT SECRETS DO SUPERLATIVES GIVE?



- What is the significance of superlatives? . . . 859
- How does the Greek language clarify the words *greatest* and *least*? . . . 860
- What application to keeping God's Law can we make from Greek superlatives? . . . 860

HOW DID THE "GUARDIANS" OF GOD'S LAW BECOME A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES?



- How did the Jewish nation become Hellenized? . . . 862
- How do the philosophies of the Pharisees and the Sadducees differ? . . . 864
- What did Jesus mean when He spoke of "Moses' seat"? . . . 865
- What does *corban* mean? . . 867
- How did the Pharisees turn *corban* from a gift to greed? . . . 867
- How is *corban* misused by Christians today? . . . 868

WHAT DECREASES A DIAMOND'S VALUE?



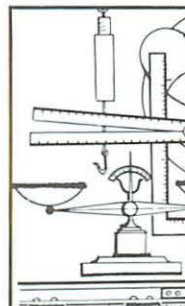
- How did the Regent Diamond become one of the most valuable diamonds in the world? . . . 869
- What determines the brilliance of a diamond? . . . 870
- How does an inclusion affect a diamond's value? . . . 871
- How does a diamond retain light in itself? . . . 872

HOW ARE PHARISEES LIKE TERMITES?



- What happens to termites when they are exposed to light? . . . 874
- In what ways are termites dangerous? . . . 878
- Why are termites so difficult to exterminate? . . . 879
- Why does the termite have such a ferocious appetite? . . 880

HOW DO MEASUREMENTS RELATE TO LAW?



- What does God say about just measurements? . . . 883
- From what three units are all measurements derived? . . 884
- Why must every measurement contain two descriptions? . . . 885
- How does the king control measurements? . . . 886

WHEN DO OUR COURTS DEFY LAW?



- On what was the U. S. Supreme Court based? . . . 891
- Why is judicial reinterpretation so dangerous? . . . 892
- What are the landmark decisions of the Supreme Court? . . . 895

WHAT CAUSED THE WORLD'S WORST PLAGUE?



- What is a pandemic? . . . 900
- How did the "flagellants" try to avoid the plague? . . . 903
- What caused the spread of the bubonic plague? . . . 905
- What O. T. Law protects people from plagues? . . . 906



POWER THROUGH PRECISION

LEARN WORDS WHICH DESCRIBE WHAT IT MEANS TO KEEP THE LAW.



©Providence Lithograph Co.

The Pharisee and the publican

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19-20).

The Law of God is an indivisible unit. Therefore, when we break even a "least" commandment, we break the whole law. (See James 2:10.) Unless we clearly understand this fact, we will disregard seemingly "insignificant" commandments.

Jesus affirmed the importance of every law when He said:

"... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

We fulfill commandments not only through our actions, but also through our attitudes. Only with the proper attitude can we "do and teach" the Law of God to others.

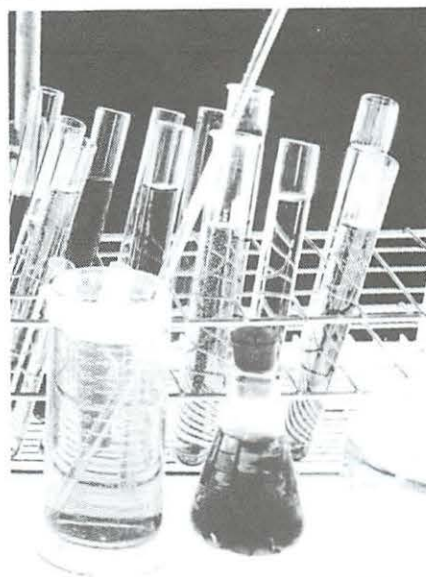
Although the Pharisees were righteous in action, they were corrupt in attitude, and this sinful attitude eventually manifested itself in outward disobedience.

Explore the meanings of the following words and relate them to the breaking or keeping of the commandments of Scripture.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affirm | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutralize |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honor | <input type="checkbox"/> Discredit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> Disregard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obey | <input type="checkbox"/> Defy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verify | <input type="checkbox"/> Contradict |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promote | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandon |

STEP 1

AFFIRM RATHER THAN NEUTRALIZE.



Grant Heilman

A potent chemical can be neutralized by adding another chemical to it.

ETYMOLOGY:

Affirm comes from the Latin words *ad* and *firmitas*, meaning "to make firm." **To affirm**, then, is to assert positively, to tell with confidence, to establish. Key synonyms of affirm are validate, approve, and endorse.

Neutralize comes from the Latin root for neuter, *ne* meaning "not" and *uter*, meaning "either." The word literally denotes "not belonging to either identity." The adjective **neutral** means "taking neither side nor cause," and the verb **neutralize** means "to reduce a thing to a state where its identity is not recognizable or its application is indifferent."

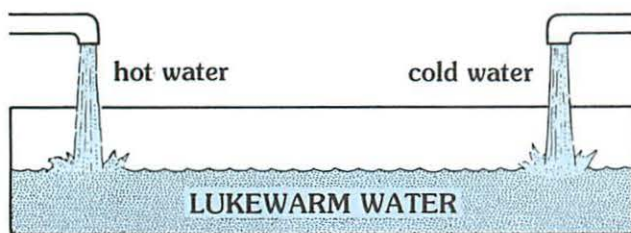
To be neutral on the matter of obeying a command is to be indecisive or uncommitted.

AMPLIFICATION:

God gave strict instructions for His people to separate themselves from the nations around them. He knew if they "mingled among the heathen" and learned heathen ways they would soon lose their identity as God's chosen people and thus become susceptible to destructive temptations.

The nation of Israel "... did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the Lord commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works" (Psalm 106:34-35).

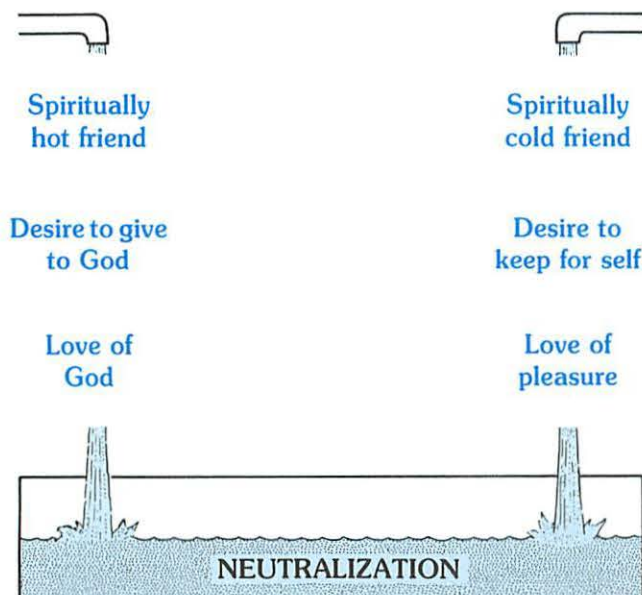
Upon losing their distinctive identity as God's chosen people, the Israelites gave way to the immoral activities of the heathen. Rather than receiving God's blessing, they incurred God's wrath.



Another illustration of neutralization is given in Revelation 3:15-16: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

APPLICATION:

Evaluate and discuss how combining the following items neutralizes a Christian's effectiveness and makes him vulnerable to Satan's temptations to violate God's laws.



HOW DO WE NEUTRALIZE GOD'S LAW?

In the Psalms David continually affirmed the importance of God's Law and his personal delight in it. (See Psalm 119.) Ephesians 5:18-19 tells us that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we, too, will continually affirm God's Word by speaking to ourselves with these Psalms.

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord" (Psalm 119:1).

The presence of any of the following in a believer's life will neutralize the power of God's Law in his mind and corrupt the purity of his life, which he attained by continual affirmation of God's Law.

1. Misunderstanding the purpose of the Law.

The Law was not given so we could earn salvation, but so we could recognize our need for redemption through the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

2. Misinterpreting the message of the Law.

The Law was written not only for the Jewish nation, but also for all Christians.

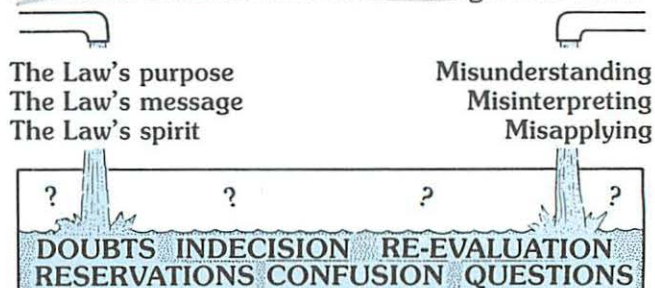
"Now all these things [the accounts of the Old Testament] happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:11).

"All Scripture [including the Old Testament Law] ... is profitable ..." (II Timothy 3:16-17).

3. Misapplying the spirit of the Law.

It is all too easy to focus on the letter of the Law rather than the spirit of the Law. II Corinthians 3:6 tells us that the letter kills, but the spirit makes alive.

When we follow only the letter of the Law, we become proud of our self-effort and harsh with others who do not measure up. However, when we follow the spirit as well as the letter of the Law, we develop humility before God and a love for others who need direction from the teaching of the Law.



HOW SHOULD WE AFFIRM GOD'S LAW?

1. By becoming familiar with God's Law.

Many Christians have never even read God's Law—the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses—Genesis through Deuteronomy).

2. By confirming its value to our lives.

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. . . . Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:2–3).

3. By realizing that we have already kept the Law.

When a person becomes a Christian, he becomes a member of Christ's spiritual Body and retroactively enters into His perfect keeping of the Law. We are, therefore, righteous through Christ in the sight of God.

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4).

4. By applying the Law.

God gives every Christian grace—the desire and the power to walk in harmony with the principles of the Law. This is the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:3–4).



PROJECT

- ☐ Read the book of Deuteronomy.
- ☐ Begin applying the principles of the Law to daily decisions.
- ☐ Memorize Galatians 3:13 and rejoice in the fact that in Christ we have already fulfilled all the demands of the Law for eternal salvation.
- ☐ Memorize Romans 8:3–4 and purpose to walk in God's Spirit so that by His grace the righteousness of the Law can be fulfilled in us.

STEP 2

HONOR RATHER THAN DISCREDIT.



©World Book, Inc.

Pledging allegiance to the flag also involves a commitment to the laws of the land.

ETYMOLOGY:

Honor comes from the Latin root *honor*. Then as now, the word literally meant "to revere or treat with deference and submission, performing relative duties to." Its synonyms include dignify, esteem, venerate, and glorify. The word **honor** denotes both feeling and expression.

Discredit comes from two Latin words, *dis*, which is a prefix of deliberate negation, and *credo*, referring to a belief which gives security. The great banker, J.P. Morgan, explained that loans were secured not so much by collateral as by a man's character. When people "believed" in that man, they were literally acknowledging, "his credit is good."

The deliberate negation of the word *credo* denotes that something has been robbed of its "believability." We remove the credibility of a testimony or a report when we fail to rely on its truth and certainty. To **discredit**, then, means "to deprive of a good reputation or to bring into disgrace or bring disrepute." Key synonyms of discredit include distrust, suspect, hesitate, doubt, and question.

AMPLIFICATION:

Both honor and discredit are initially communicated by the spirit. When a wife obeys her husband in action, but dishonors him in spirit, she discredits both herself and her husband. Wives are

instructed to honor and reverence their husbands before they are told to obey them. (See Ephesians 5:22–33 and Titus 2:4–5.)

When wives refuse to honor and obey their husbands, their God-given authority, they cause the Word of God to be blasphemed. (See Titus 2:5.) The need for honor accompanied by obedience is further emphasized as God instructs children to honor their fathers and mothers and to obey them. (See Ephesians 6:1–2.)



©Providence Lithograph Co.

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker” (Psalm 95:6).

The phrase “the fear of the Lord” sums up the full scope of honoring the Lord and His Law. Scripture reiterates continually that the fear of the Lord is the key to true obedience and success in the Christian life. *“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life” (Proverbs 22:4).*

APPLICATION:

Only a pure heart will honor the Lord; therefore, the righteousness of the Pharisees failed. Although outwardly they performed all the right actions, inwardly they were filled with lust, greed, envy, jealousy, and all other forms of evil.

Only when our hearts are pure before the Lord will we have a proper respect for His Word and reverence for His name.

PROJECT

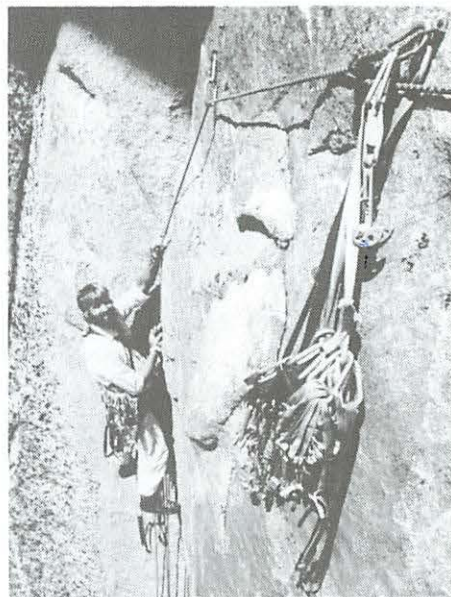
- ☐ Reaffirm that your heart has been cleansed by the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation by reading

I Peter 1. Discover how to exercise your heart to purity.

- ☐ Read John 15 to learn how to maintain purity of heart.
- ☐ Develop respect for the Bible by making a list of guidelines for its proper care:
 1. Recognize it as the inspired Word of God.
 2. Learn how to open a new Bible.
 3. Learn how to turn pages properly.
 4. Learn how to write neatly and carefully in the Bible and to avoid frivolous markings.
- ☐ Learn to revere the names of God by recognizing misuses of them. Certainly no Christian should use the name of the Lord in vain. However, many Christians unwittingly dishonor the name of God by using alternative forms of profanity. *Golly* and *gosh* are euphemisms for God’s name. Likewise, *gee* is a shortened form of Jesus.
- ☐ List all the euphemisms of God’s name you can think of and purpose never to use them.

STEP 3

TRUST RATHER THAN DISREGARD.



H. Armstrong Roberts

Often those who trust in themselves and in material things are hesitant and fearful to trust in God and His Word.

ETYMOLOGY:

Trust comes from the Old Norse *traust* which means “to place firm reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person or thing.”

To **trust** is to depend upon; to rely upon; to put full confidence in; to believe, to be assured of; to have a conviction about; to count upon; to put oneself in the hands of; to be sure of; to expect.

Disregard comes from a mixture of two roots, the Latin prefix *dis-* and the French word *regarder*, meaning “to guard, behold, take heed, or discern.” The primary sense of *guard*, from which this word stems, is to behold and observe an object without turning one’s attention to any distractions.

Disregard, then, literally means “to fail to keep or observe, not to consider seriously, to omit attention to that which particularly influences conduct.” Its key synonyms include neglect, overlook, ignore, and omit.

AMPLIFICATION:

There are two basic types of trust. Blind trust is based only on the assumptions of the one doing the trusting, while genuine trust is based on comprehension of facts and reliance on the credibility of the source of those facts. God desires us to keep His commandments with this kind of genuine trust.

The psalmist, realizing God desired him to genuinely trust in Him, prayed “*Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law: yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart*” (Psalm 119:33–34).

When we fail to guard our every step and genuinely trust God’s leading of our way, we begin disregarding small, “insignificant” commandments. In time, these minor infractions lead to major violations of God’s Law.

APPLICATION:

Genuine trust both springs from true righteousness and results in true righteousness. It does not seek immediate benefits, but rests confidently in God’s sovereignty. Thus, a person who genuinely trusts in God and obeys His Law does not do so with pragmatic motives or desires for personal gain or well-being. On the contrary, he realizes and accepts the adversity which often follows complete obedience of God’s commands, knowing that adversity is part of God’s sovereign, long-range plan for his life. (See Romans 8:28.)

“*Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him*” (Daniel 6:4).

Daniel was truly righteous before God and the king. His righteousness exceeded the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees of New Testament days, because Daniel’s righteousness had produced a genuine trust in God’s sovereign plan for his life.

Thus, when Daniel faced a choice between obeying God’s command to pray or confronting the king’s adversity, he chose to obey God and to trust Him for the final outcome. As a result of Daniel’s testimony of genuine trust and true righteousness even in adversity, the king came to trust God also.



Bible Art Series, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati

Daniel’s righteous life gave him the freedom to trust God and obey His Word even when his life was threatened.

PROJECT

- ☐ Read Job chapter one and discover how Job’s genuine trust in God, regardless of what God did to Job (see Job 13:15), resulted in righteousness.
- ☐ What key verses emphasize this point?

STEP 4

OBEY RATHER THAN DEFY.



Canadian Forces photo

The military world, like the kingdom of God, functions on levels of authority.

ETYMOLOGY:

Obedience is a natural function of submission. The word *submission* in the Bible comes from an old military term meaning “to line up under.” Once a person voluntarily lines up under authority, he also accepts the continuing obligations which that authority places upon him.

Obey comes from the Latin word *obedio*, which was built from the prefix *ob-*, meaning “on or toward,” and the root *audio*, meaning “to hear.” The person who obeys orders his behavior according to the instructions he hears.

To obey, then, means literally “to comply with the commands of a superior authority, to do that which is required, or to forbear doing what is prohibited.” Its synonyms include comply, mind, acquiesce, submit, and yield.

The word **defy** comes from the prefix *de-*, meaning “to do the opposite of” and the Latin root *fidere*, which means “to trust.” In medieval days, the word **defy** meant “to dissolve a bond of allegiance as between a lord and his vassal.” To defy someone literally meant “to challenge him.”

The attitude described by the word **defy** is a spirit of questioning the courage, power, or determination of another. Men who defy God’s commandments do so with the false belief that God will neither call them to account, nor judge their deeds.

Synonyms of defy include challenge, confront, disdain, spurn, and stand up to.

AMPLIFICATION:

Both those who keep the law and those who break the law serve as silent teachers to the wicked. *“They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them”* (Proverbs 28:4).

APPLICATION:

Jesus explained that the “keeping of the law” was not just doing right actions. Rather, it required doing right actions in the right way, at the right time, for the right reasons, and with the right attitude.



© Providence Lithograph Co.

King Saul’s “obedience” was in reality defiance.

EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF YOUR OBEDIENCE

Obedience + Delay = Disobedience

- ☐ Do I have to be reminded several times before I do a job?
- ☐ Do I say “I will” and then take my time before I finally get around to doing the job?
- ☐ Do I answer, “I will, but not right now” or “Later”?
- ☐ Do I fail to meet deadlines?

Obedience + Murmuring = Disobedience

- ☐ Do I do what I am told, but pout as I do it?
- ☐ Do I complain about the things expected of me?
- ☐ Do I mumble about my brothers and sisters not having to do the same things required of me?
- ☐ Do I make sure that others feel sorry for me as I do the work I have been told to do?

Obedience + My Methods = Disobedience

- ☐ Do I do what I am told, but not in the way I am told to do it?
- ☐ If I cannot do the job my own way, do I leave it undone or do it half-heartedly?
- ☐ Am I sneaky about shortcuts I take because my parents would not approve them?
- ☐ Do I insist that my parents explain why they want something done in the manner they have specified before I will complete the task?

Obedience + The Desire to Have People Praise Me = Disobedience

- ☐ Do I do the things my parents have asked of me just so that people will praise me?
- ☐ If no one praises me for what I have done, do I stop doing it or do it half-heartedly?

Obedience + Letter of the Law – Spirit of the Law = Disobedience

- ☐ Do I obey my parents or authorities, yet continually look for how close I can come to disobedience without actually being accused of it?
- ☐ Do I tell only a portion of the story so that the full situation is not understood by my authority?

“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and . . . right” (Proverbs 20:11).

PROJECT

- ☐ Based on the previous column, write on a separate sheet of paper examples from your own life which illustrate how obedience actually became disobedience.
- ☐ Using the following words, make a list of the things you want to do differently so that true obedience will occur in future situations.

AFFIRM v. neutralize

HONOR v. discredit

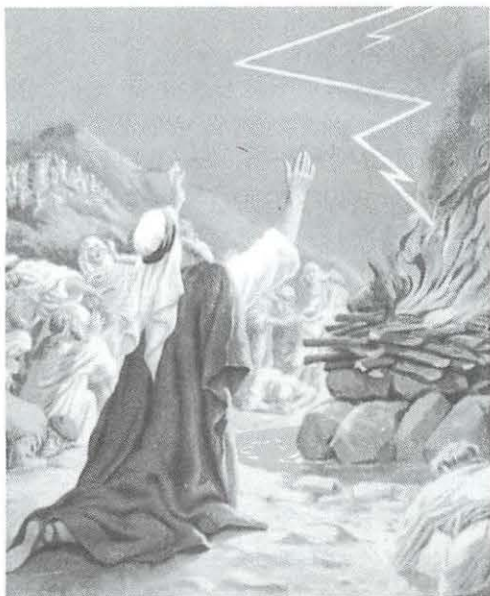
TRUST v. disregard

OBEY v. defy

Give a neat copy of your list to your parents, and ask them to pray with you for the grace to carry it out.

STEP 5

VERIFY RATHER THAN CONTRADICT.



Bible Art Series, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati

Elijah verified the reality of God and silenced those who contradicted him.

ETYMOLOGY:

Verify comes from two Latin roots, *versus*, meaning “true,” and *facio*, meaning “to make.” The word literally means “to prove to be true, to establish as authentic, or to fulfill, as in a promise.” Key synonyms of verify include substantiate, corroborate, support, accredit.

The word **contradict** is formed from the prefix *contra*, meaning “against” and the Latin word *dictum*, meaning “to speak.” To **contradict** means literally “to oppose by words, to assert the opposite

of what has been affirmed.” Key synonyms include gainsay, dissent, refute, overthrow, negate, and disallow.

AMPLIFICATION:

God’s Word is eternally, absolutely accurate and does not need our verification. However, the truth of its message does need to be demonstrated to a skeptical world. In this sense, Christians become the “verifiers” of Scripture.

Paul told the Corinthian Christians that they were his epistles, “known and read of all men.” (See II Corinthians 3:2.) In other words, they were the main verifiers of Christ’s truth to the world.

God called His disciples “witnesses,” and the purpose of a witness is to **verify** the truth. On the witness stand, a witness is permitted to tell only what he knows from personal experience.

A Christian who states the truth with his mouth and violates it with his actions sends out a contradictory message and brings destruction to people around him.

APPLICATION:

**Your talk talks,
And your walk talks;
But your walk talks
Louder than your talk talks.**

PROJECT

- ☐ In the days of the prophet Elijah, the people of Israel wavered between worshiping Jehovah, the true God, or Baal, a sensual heathen god. Elijah was a righteous man who genuinely trusted God and obeyed His Law. He prayed that the Lord would demonstrate and verify His power to the Israelites, and the Lord rained down fire upon the water-drenched altar which stood before the Israelites.

God will work freely and supernaturally through our lives if we completely obey the commands of Scripture. Write a report about any experience in your life which demonstrated the power of God, and trace how that experience resulted from your obedience to certain commandments.

Example:

Command—“Give and it shall be given unto you.”

Result—God providing for a specific need in answer to prayer.

STEP 6

PROMOTE RATHER THAN ABANDON.



Two men in this picture demonstrate two opposite kinds of righteousness. Can you identify the men and define each kind of righteousness?

Complete the story with the following words. Use your vocabulary cards for accurate definitions.

PHARISAICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS:

- ☐ Overbearing
- ☐ Grandiose
- ☐ Condescending
- ☐ Vainglorious
- ☐ Hypocritical
- ☐ Affected
- ☐ Pompous
- ☐ Egotistical

GODLY RIGHTEOUSNESS:

- ☐ Humble
- ☐ Untarnished
- ☐ Upright
- ☐ Virtuous
- ☐ Unspoiled
- ☐ Selfless
- ☐ Wholesome
- ☐ Genuine

One day a certain man of untarnished reputation and upright character stood on guard in the gatehouse at the king's palace. As he made the rounds, he overheard two of the king's chamberlains scheming to kill the king. Immediately, the loyal gatekeeper rushed to his niece, the queen, to warn her of the plot on the king's life, thereby enabling the army to save the king's life.

Some time later, the king found that he could not sleep, so he asked that the chronicles of the kingdom be read to him, hoping this would make him drowsy. As the reader droned on and on, the king only became more and more alert. Suddenly, he started and sat up in bed. What was this he was hearing? His life had been spared by the gatekeeper? He asked if anything had been done to honor this virtuous man. The king was astounded to learn that nothing had been done; the man had not been

rewarded at all. He resolved to do something about it the next day.

Morning came, and with it came the prime minister—a pompous man who was condescending in his demands that others pay him the respect he felt he deserved. The king asked the prime minister what he thought should be done to honor a very special person in the kingdom. The egotistical man, assuming that the king was talking about him, proposed a grandiose plan. "The honored person should be dressed in all the royal garments and paraded through the streets in the king's carriage with someone leading the way and crying out, 'This man is being honored by the king!'"

The king was delighted with the plan! He ordered the prime minister to do all that had been proposed—for the unspoiled gatekeeper who was so selfless that he had not even thought of getting a reward for saving the king's life! The prime minister was crushed; he could not believe his ears! The gatekeeper was his enemy! Nevertheless, the egotistical prime minister, not wanting anyone to know that he hated the very person who had saved the king's life, carried out the order, although in a grudging and hypocritical manner. He planned to get his revenge later.

When he returned to the palace, he found an invitation awaiting him to attend a royal banquet with the king and queen. The vainglorious man thought he was finally getting the honor due him. He went to the supper and talked on and on to the king with all his affected loyalty, expressing his desire to do whatever was in the best interests of the kingdom. The queen, however, revealed his wicked intentions to kill her people, sealing his doom. The prime minister was sentenced to be hanged on the gallows that he had built for his enemy, the gatekeeper. The selfless gatekeeper became the new prime minister, and the country flourished under his wholesome leadership and genuine concern for its well-being.

PROJECT

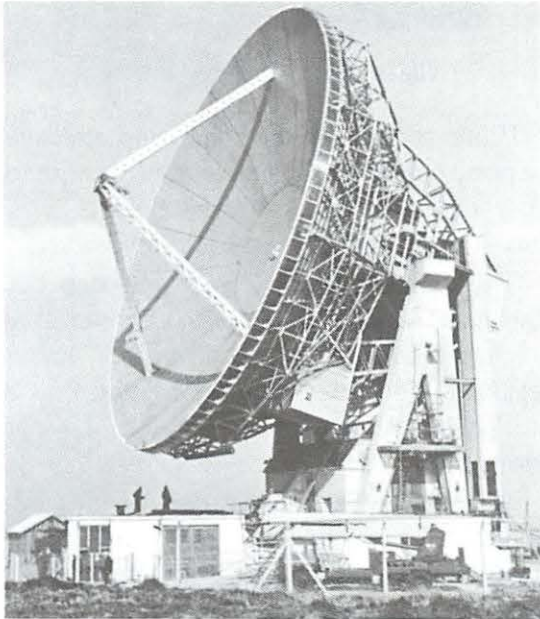
- ☐ Select a leader in your church who demonstrates Scriptural qualities of righteousness in his life. Write a letter to him expressing gratefulness for the way his life and leadership in the church have benefited and influenced your life.
- ☐ Use as many of the vocabulary words that describe Christlikeness as you can in your letter. Copy your letter onto special stationery. Proofread it carefully before mailing it.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____

INSIGHTS THROUGH INVESTIGATION

GREEK INVESTIGATION 20

HOW DOES A SPECIAL GREEK SUPERLATIVE EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO OBEY GOD'S LAW?



Communications Satellite Corp.

A telecommunications dish designed to receive satellite messages

Communication involves imparting knowledge, information, or ideas. It takes place in different ways; some are more efficient than others.

The study of communications illustrates spiritual insights hidden in Greek comparisons.

1 THE GREEK POSITIVE

A *positive* is an adjective which describes the condition of something without comparing it to something else.

For example, the pony express system was considered a **good** system when it originated in April of 1860. "Good" is a positive.

This method of mail delivery followed the Oregon-California Trail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California.



The Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Okla.

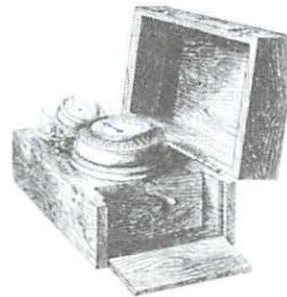
A pony express station

Every ten to fifteen miles, a relay station was built where a station keeper took care of fresh ponies. Young riders would ride at average speeds of twenty-five miles an hour for seventy-five miles before being relieved by a new rider. Each day the riders covered approximately 250 miles with 80 men riding 400 ponies to almost 200 posts along the route.

2 THE GREEK COMPARATIVE

A *comparative* is an adjective which describes something by relating it to something else. It identifies the one thing as greater, lesser, richer, poorer, stronger, weaker, etc. than the other.

For example, the pony express system stopped on October 24, 1861, because a **better** communication system was invented—the telegraph. **Better** is a comparative.



Radio Times Hulton Picture Library

An early telegraph



Ewing Galloway

A later telegraph

The word *telegraph* derives its meaning from the Greek word *tele*, which means "afar," and the word *graphe*, meaning "write." It was the first

666
system developed which used electricity to communicate messages. A telegrapher sent a *telegram* (over land) or *cablegram* (under water).

Physicists William F. Cooke (1806–1879) and Charles Wheatstone (1802–1875) developed an early form of the telegraph in England. Samuel F. B. Morse invented the first telegraph machine in America around 1836. Later Mr. Morse developed a code, using dots and dashes, which improved the system. People named it the Morse Code.



The Western Union Telegraph Co.
Samuel Morse
1791–1872

After experiencing difficulty in finding investors, Samuel Morse persuaded Congress in 1840 to fund \$30,000 to construct a test line between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland. The very first message which Mr. Morse sent over the line was, “What hath God wrought!” from Numbers 23:23.

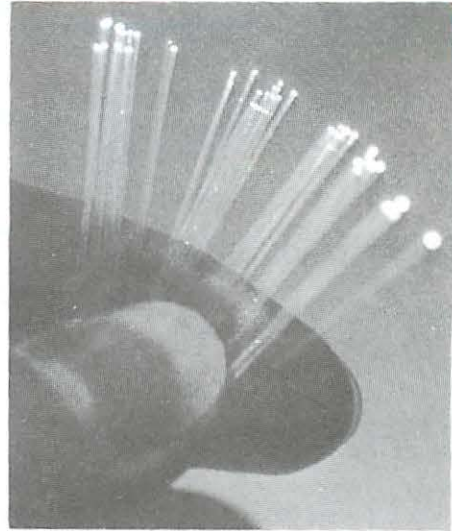
In the same year, Samuel Morse sent news from Baltimore to Washington of the Democratic National Convention’s nomination of James K. Polk. This was the first time that such news was received so quickly. Compared to the pony express system, the telegraph system was much **better**.

3 THE GREEK SUPERLATIVE

A *superlative* is an adjective which describes something by relating it to at least two other things. It expresses the utmost degree of the relationship. Words such as smallest, largest, greatest, and highest are superlatives.

Currently the branch of physical science known as fiber optics is developing the means to send messages through the medium of light. This research uses lasers to transform a telephone conversation into light impulses which enter an optical fiber or glass filament. This process allows the message to remain clear and strong.

An entire neighborhood can receive its telephone calls through only a handful of glass strands, each as thin as sewing thread.



©World Book, Inc.

Glass strands of fiber optics

When comparing the speed and effectiveness of the pony express and the telegraph system to that of fiber optics, fiber optics certainly is the **best** system. It is also the **fastest** and the **newest**.

The Greek language goes one step beyond English in expressing superlatives. It uses an elevated or heightened statement of comparison known as the *elative superlative*. When translated, this statement means “the best of the best” or “the worst of the worst.”

Matthew 5:19 contains three of these elative superlatives. Thus, the one who breaks the **very least** commandment will be the **least of the least** in the kingdom of God. But the one who obeys God’s Law, thereby teaching others to do the same, will become the **greatest of the great** in the kingdom of God.

PROJECT

The following verses contain elative superlatives. Discover new insights in them by reading them with the full meaning of the superlative.

References

- ☐ Matthew 25:40 _____
- ☐ Luke 12:26 _____
- ☐ Luke 16:10 _____
- ☐ Acts 26:5 _____
- ☐ Ephesians 3:8 _____
- ☐ James 3:4 _____
- ☐ Revelation 21:10–11 _____

Additional Insights

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HISTORY RESOURCE

HOW DID THE "GUARDIANS" OF GOD'S LAW EVENTUALLY BECOME A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES?



Doré Bible Illustrations

King Artaxerxes of Babylon allowed Ezra and other Jews to return to Jerusalem in 458 B.C.

Worn with grief and indignation, the aged scribe rent his garments and plucked out his hair as he pondered and mourned over Israel's ungratefulness. Although God had miraculously delivered the Jews from exile and restored their nation, they continued shamelessly in sin.

The few Israelites who remained true to God began to gather around Ezra for the evening sacrifice. With tears of anguish coursing down his lined face, their discouraged leader knelt before God and prayed:

"... O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

"Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities

have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

"And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

"For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

"And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments" (Ezra 9:6-10).



Doré Bible Illustrations

Ezra weeping before the Lord

Overcome with sorrow and regret, Ezra cast himself down before God and wept bitterly. He realized that intermarriage with wicked and idolatrous women would soon pollute and destroy God's chosen people.

The Lord used Ezra's broken spirit to convict the people of Israel to forsake their sin and vow to keep themselves separate from the pagan inhabitants of Palestine.

Ezra was "... a scribe of the words of the commandments of the Lord ..." (Ezra 7:11) and a descendant of the priestly line of Aaron. (See Ezra 7:1-5.) However, these ceremonial positions did not guarantee him a close relationship with God, just as they did not guarantee a close relationship with God for the scribes and Pharisees of New Testament times. What then, was the key to Ezra's successful, Godly life and ministry?

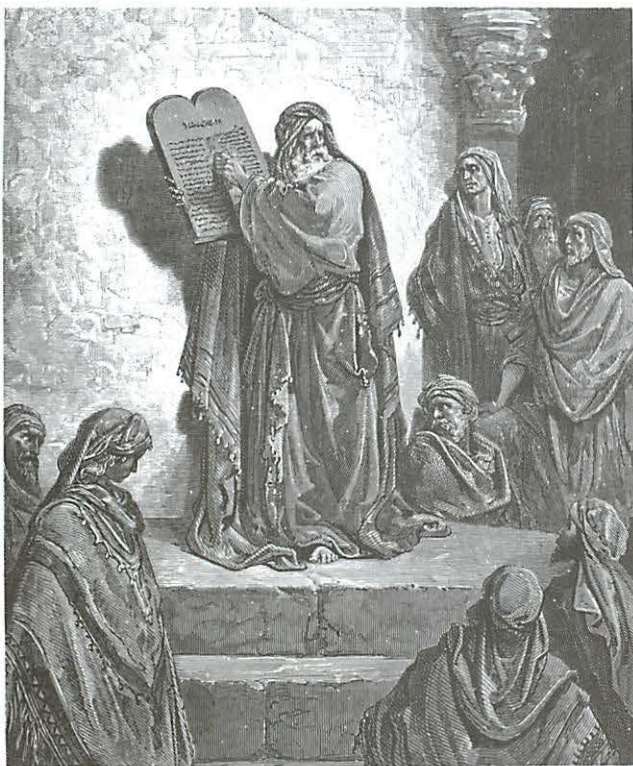
God greatly blessed Ezra's life and ministry because Ezra approached God and His Law correctly.

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10).

First, Ezra valued the Law highly and earnestly sought to learn it. Studying God's Word became more than just a mental exercise in theology to him because of his receptive heart and inward determination to make the commandments of the Lord the central focus of his life.

Second, Ezra determined to put God's Word into practice in his own life. He took each step in his life only as God ordered (see Psalm 37:23), and humbly acknowledged his need for the Lord and His divine enablement.

Finally, Ezra fervently desired the Law of the Lord. Realizing it had been Israel's disobedience to God's statutes that had previously caused national downfall and destruction, the faithful scribe sought to prevent future judgment on Israel by enlightening the people with the Scriptures.



Doré Bible Illustrations

The scribes of Jesus' day traced their origin to such great men as Ezra, proclaimer of God's Law.

Ezra stood at the head of a movement of renewed commitment to the authority of God's Law. Following Ezra, other scribes carried this love for the Word of God into a four-hundred-year intertestamental period.



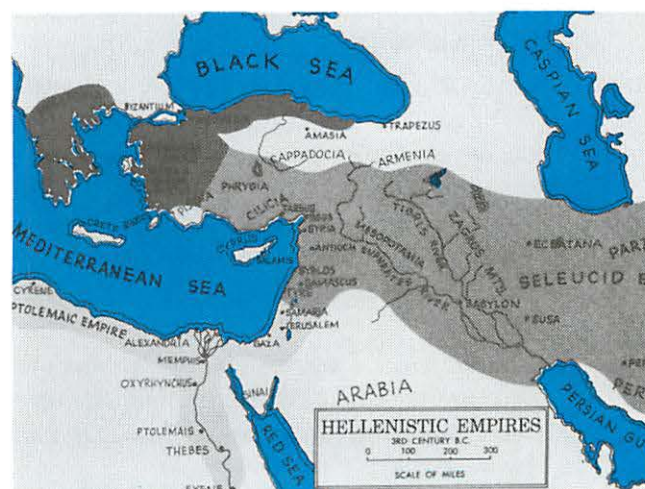
Capitolino Museum, Rome

Alexander the Great, 354–323 B.C.

Shortly after the Israelites had returned from exile and rebuilt the Temple and city walls of Jerusalem, a young Macedonian king named Alexander the Great began making plans to attack the Persian Empire. He conquered Persia in 334 B.C., and then, one by one, he crushed the resistance of every other known civilization in the world. After an incredibly short period of time, Alexander's empire extended throughout all the civilized world.

Everywhere Alexander went, he took the Hellenistic (Greek) culture with him. When he died of a fever in 323 B.C., not only had Alexander conquered the entire world, but he had also heavily influenced every known culture with the Greek way of thinking and made Greek the universal language of diplomacy and trade.

Alexander's generals divided his empire into three major parts: Antigonos seized Greece and



©Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

The division of Alexander the Great's empire

Macedonia, Ptolemy Lagus gained control of Egypt and Palestine, and Seleucus established a kingdom in Syria. In 198 B.C. the Seleucid king, Antiochus the Great, desiring to enlarge the Seleucid Empire, invaded Palestine and defeated the Ptolemies. Antiochus then began to spread the pagan Greek culture throughout Palestine.

While some Israelites embraced the Hellenistic ways, others, such as the *Hasidim* (the name literally means “pious ones”) and the Maccabees, clung to the Law with great devotion and fervor.

In 167 B.C., Antiochus IV, the son of Antiochus the Great, desiring to humiliate the Jews

into submission, set up an image of the Greek god Zeus in the Temple and desecrated the altar by offering a pig as a sacrifice. He then sent emissaries to the outlying cities of Judah to forbid the Jews to observe the Sabbath or circumcise their children and to seize and destroy all the Scriptures they could find. The emissaries also forced the Jews to worship Greek gods and to eat pork.



The Maccabees by Moshe Pearlman

Eleazar refusing to eat pig's flesh as ordered by the Syrian Emperor Antiochus



Doré Bible Illustrations

Judas Maccabeus leads his army against Nicanor.



Doré Bible Illustrations

After refusing to embrace pagan customs, Eleazar was dragged out of the Temple and martyred.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 537 B.C. | Cyrus permits the Jews to return from exile—the first attempt to rebuild the Temple |
| 458 B.C. | Artaxerxes of Persia sends Ezra to Palestine |
| 445–433 B.C. | Nehemiah governor of Judah |
| 323 B.C. | Empire of Alexander the Great divided among four different rulers, Egypt and Palestine placed under the rule of Ptolemy |
| 198 B.C. | Seleucids under Antiochus the Great begin a program of enforced Hellenization throughout Palestine |
| 167–63 B.C. | Maccabean Revolt |

In Modin (MOE-din), Mattathias the priest and his sons rebelled and slew the Seleucid emissaries. Their rebellion initiated the bloody and hostile Maccabean Revolt.

The origin of the Pharisees and the Sadducees



Explaining the Gospels, ©Scripture Union

A Pharisee and Sadducee in ceremonial dress

Josephus describes three major “schools of thought” which existed in the days of Jonathan Maccabeus: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes.

- **Pharisees**—The Pharisees were the foremost religious group in Israel. Their primary goal was to preserve the Jewish religion, and they zealously adhered to the Mosaic Law. Because they were so concerned about keeping the precise letter of the Law, they forgot the Law’s purpose—to bring them to God. They were active in accusing and testing Christ.
- **Sadducees**—The Sadducees believed that the Law of God consisted only of the five books of Moses. They were skeptical about life after death and the reality of heavenly beings. They sought to maintain peace with the Roman government and were frequently placed in prominent positions.
- **Essenes**—The Essenes were austere individuals who lived in isolated groups, studying and copying the Scriptures. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls uncovered the remains of one such group.

The origin of the term *Sadducee* is highly debated. Sadducees were usually of aristocratic background or status. History represents them as the prominent religious group before the Maccabean revolt and during the Hasmonean period.

A well-known story reveals that John Hyrcanus (135–104 B.C.), the high priest, transferred his allegiance from the Pharisees to the Sadducees because a leader among the Pharisees offended him. John’s new allegiance brought about many opportunities of religious and political leadership for the Sadducees.

The Sadducees felt the Pharisees were too free in their approach to the Law. They rejected the oral law and interpreted the Torah literally. The Sadducees also rejected the idea of fate and denied the resurrection from the dead and the immortality of the soul. They did not believe in spiritual beings such as angels or demons. The Sadducees had completely died out by A.D. 70.



Eternal Faith, Eternal People, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Special objects were worn by the Pharisees as visual reminders and adjuncts to their worship. These included phylacteries, which were leather boxes containing portions of Scripture. They were worn on the head or the arm.

The term *Pharisee* comes from the Hebrew word פָּרִישׁ (pah-RASH), which means “to divide” or “to separate.” Members of this group separated themselves into a *haburah* (community) and lived under strict regulations.



Explaining the Gospels, ©Scripture Union

To become part of a *haburah*, an individual had to make a commitment to all Pharisaic traditions, particularly the laws regarding tithing and ceremonial cleansing. Often leaders of this group required a candidate to participate in a period of probation, lasting one month to one year, before accepting him into the *haburah*.



Eternal Faith, Eternal People, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

A Jewish family observes a ceremonial meal.

The Pharisees came from mercantile backgrounds and usually had a favorable following among the common people in Palestine. Many Pharisees had little formal education and relied upon a scribe (professional scholar) to instruct them in legal matters. Frequently, Pharisaic communities were organized under the leadership of one key scribe.

Originally, the Pharisees saw themselves as the “protectors” of the Law. They became so zealous of its defense, however, that they developed what they called the “Oral Law.”

The Oral Law consisted of various explanations and supplementary material which passed down orally from generation to generation.

Although the Pharisees at first sincerely attempted to understand, obey, and teach the Law, they quickly degenerated to piling one interpretation upon another as to how the commandments should be kept. For example, if the Law commanded that no work be done on the Sabbath, the Pharisees would spend pages defining their understanding of all the possible ways to disobey or obey the statute.

Minute observances of what the Pharisees decreed the Scriptures to say became increasingly more important than the written Law itself. In 100 B.C. when the Rabbi Shammai was asked, “How many Torah do you have?” he answered, “Two: the written Torah and the Oral Torah” (Sabath 31a). These traditions sought to “build a hedge” around the written Law, which was supposed to prevent

anyone from even the slightest possibility of ignorant or accidental disobedience. Around A.D. 200, the oral law was put into written form in the *Mishnah*, which includes the *Halakhah* and the *Haggadah*.

The Development of Oral Law



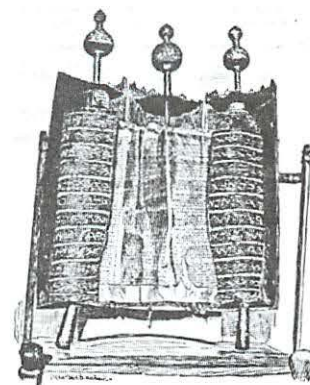
THE MISHNAH

- The Halakhah—legal section of the Mishnah
- The Haggadah—practical edification and instruction

The Pharisees believed these oral comments dated back to Moses. They accepted them as having equal authority with the written Law.

The Seat of Moses

Those in *Moses’ Seat* consisted of the scribes and Pharisees who sat in a position of authority, ruling by the Law of Moses.



The written Law: the Torah

The Pharisees were Christ’s chief opponents during His earthly ministry. The Lord constantly distinguished between the true requirements of His Law and the Pharisees’ legalistic traditions. He also openly rebuked their hypocrisy, pride, and misuse of the Law.

The following story illustrates one way the Pharisees abused the Law.

How did the Pharisees pervert corban from a gift of God to an opportunity for greed?



An elderly Jewish mother gathered her last bit of barley and prepared her meal for the day.

The little children playing in the street beneath the window of her one-room home reminded her of her own son when he had been a little boy.

How well she remembered the hot, muggy night when she had brought him into the world, and the years that she had labored and sacrificed for him! Yet the labor and sacrifice had seemed so easy as she dreamed and prayed that her son would grow up to be a man truly pleasing to God.

The widow fondly recalled the many pleasant hours she had spent with her son in the Scriptures, teaching him in the ways of the Lord. She remembered trying to prepare nourishing meals for her son with what few supplies and utensils she had, and wiping the warm tears from his cheeks, sharing his hurts and disappointments. She also reflected on the times she had needed to discipline her son, and how it had hurt her, as well as him.

The widow's son was now a very prosperous merchant. Several months earlier, he had gone to the rabbi and explained that he was trying to get ahead in his business. He did not want to be bothered with having to support his aged and sickly mother.

"But, young man, you know the commandment, do you not?" objected the rabbi.



"Yes, but I understand there is a special procedure you and I could work out to 'take care' of the commandment."

The wealthy young businessman studied the rabbi out of the corner of his eye, and then added, "I'll make it worth your while."

"Well, if you insist," said the rabbi. "Here is what you need to do: Just declare to me that you intend to give all your goods to God's service. Once you do this, they are 'corban'—a holy offering to God. They cannot be used by anyone—including your mother."

"What will my mother say when I tell her what I have done?"

"I am sure that your mother will understand, even be pleased," assured the rabbi. "Your mother is a very devout woman."

The merchant thought for a moment, and then inquired, "If my goods cannot be used by anyone, then how will I be able to use them?"

"That is where I come in," answered the rabbi, smiling. "In a few weeks you come back to me and explain that you made a rash vow. For the right fee, I could release you from your vow."

"If I am free from my vow, won't I have to support my mother?"

"Your mother will not need to learn about our arrangement. As far as she knows, your goods are still corban."

Satisfied, the greedy young merchant declared, "Let all my goods be corban!" Several weeks later, the rabbi released him from his vow. The young merchant became more and more wealthy.

Soon, other sons of widows followed the merchant's example and declared their possessions corban, leaving many widowed mothers in Israel destitute and indigent.

Years later, that rabbi stood with other scribes and Pharisees, listening to a widely acclaimed Teacher as He spoke to a large crowd. They were irritated by the Teacher's sudden popularity, and sought for something about Him to criticize. Soon, the rabbi found it.

The disciples of the Teacher failed to follow the elaborate ceremony prescribed by the elders for washing their hands before eating.

"Yes," said the rabbi to the others, "they have broken a very important tradition among our people. We will call this Teacher to task on the matter."



Explaining the Gospels, ©Scripture Union



Archeology of the New Testament, ©Zondervan Publishing

God's Law requiring handwashing degenerated into an elaborate ritual by the time of Christ and had lost its meaning and function.

What he and his associates did next is recorded in Scripture.

"Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.

"For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.

"Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

"For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

"And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

"But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do aught for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye" (Mark 7:1-13).

Jesus' words stung the guilty hearts of the scribes and the Pharisees. Rather than repenting of their wicked misuse of the practice of corban, however, they looked for a way to destroy Jesus.

Their disrespect for parental authority had degenerated into a disrespect for any authority—except their own.

How did "corban" originate?

The term *corban* is a transliteration of the Hebrew word *קרבן*. Originally, *corban* referred to offerings that were brought to God—including sacrificial animals and possessions.

The word is used approximately eighty times in the books of Leviticus and Numbers.

Corban also referred to a "vow offering"—something that was dedicated to God. A man could dedicate himself or his possessions to God. The Greek definition of the word is simply "a gift."

In New Testament times, the sacred treasury in the Temple, as well as the gifts themselves, were called *corban*.

Why were "vow offerings" made?

Gifts were needed for the work of the Temple sanctuary, and vows were a fruitful source of income. Anything vowed to God was supposed to be sacred to God's service. Once an item of material, goods, or money was labeled "*corban*," it was never to be retrieved for any other use, even if it was a rash vow.

How were "vow offerings" misused?

Later, the vows of *corban* served selfish ends. If a man refused to pay a debt, the one to whom he owed it would say, "What you owe me is *corban*." If the debtor then withheld the money, he would incur the guilt of robbing God, and thus would offer to pay it.

Meanwhile, the man who made the vow secretly intended to give only a small portion of the debt to God and pocket the remainder.

The corruption of the vow of corban in Jesus' day was so prevalent that it was a mere ritual of dedication without any intention of dedicating the "gift" to God.

Not only did sons misuse it in order to neglect obligations to their parents, but husbands used it to repudiate their wives.

If a husband became displeased with his wife, he would simply say, "The benefits my wife has had from me are corban."

How is corban misused today?

Discuss how the following examples parallel wrong uses of corban.

- ☐ A husband neglecting his wife and children to dedicate himself to Christian service.
- ☐ A wife using church activities to justify neglect of home responsibilities.
- ☐ A couple sending their children away to school so they can serve the Lord without distraction.
- ☐ A businessman buying a large yacht, so he would be able to refresh Christian leaders who ride in it.
- ☐ A son putting his mother in a nursing home so he can concentrate on his work.
- ☐ A Christian investing his tithe in a business venture so he could make more money to give to God.

The Pharisees' self-righteousness brought forth strong statements of condemnation from the lips of Christ:

"For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."

"But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi" (Matthew 23:4-7).

In parable form, Christ condemned the religious pride that had made the Pharisees a self-serving sect of legalistic hypocrites.

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican."

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."

"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:10-14).

Christ regularly revealed the Pharisees' legalistic interpretation of the Law and pointed out how they ignored the true nature of God's Word.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matthew 23:23).

PROJECT

Discover the true attitude of the Pharisees.

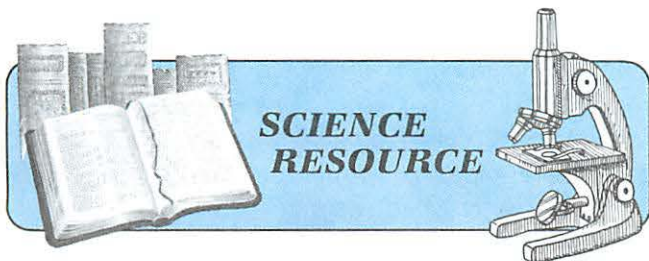
Can you find a picture of a phylactery?

- Look in a Bible encyclopedia or dictionary.
- Make one which will fit you.
- Discuss whether you can wear the phylactery without others noticing it.
- Dramatize the manner a Pharisee might have displayed as he walked along the streets of Jerusalem.
- Discuss what God thinks of a pharisaical attitude.

Can you discover what mint, anise, and cummin are?

- Look in a dictionary.
- What does it mean "to tithe" these things?
- Why might a Pharisee feel he was very righteous because of tithing mint, anise, and cummin?
- What are the "weightier matters of the Law"?
- Discuss why they are more important than mint, anise, and cummin.
- List three ways in which you might rely upon "works" to please God while ignoring the important principles of God's Word.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



SCIENCE RESOURCE

WHAT CAUSES THE GREATNESS OF SOME DIAMONDS TO EXCEED THE GREATNESS OF OTHERS?



Ewing Galloway

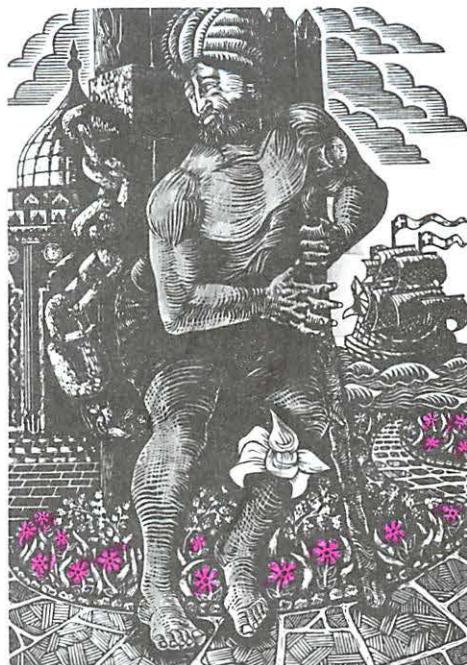
Rough diamonds such as these can be transformed into brilliant gems by skilled cutters.

For centuries a large diamond lay buried in an Indian diamond mine. One hot summer day in 1701, a peasant miner sifting through the mine discovered this gem.

The miner could hardly believe what he held. It was the largest diamond he had ever seen. The stone was the size of a small plum. Instantly, he realized its tremendous value, and thoughts of personal wealth began to flood his mind. If only he could get this stone out of the mine without being detected.

He knew that if he were caught smuggling the stone out of the mine, he would be severely punished. Yet, the thought of never having to work again caused him to ignore the risk and figure out a plan.

With his knife he cut a deep gash in the calf of his left leg. Then he pushed the stone into the wound and wrapped cloth around his bleeding leg. As he limped through the gate, the guard glanced at his leg but let him pass.



©Harvey House, Inc.

The miner with his hidden diamond

Once outside the mine, he headed for the nearest seaport. When he reached the city, he showed the diamond to a ship captain and worked out an agreement with him to share its wealth when it was sold in a distant land.

Soon after leaving shore, however, the captain had the miner thrown overboard. Then the captain sold the diamond to an Indian merchant for five thousand dollars. The merchant went directly to the English Governor of Madras, Sir Thomas Pitt, and sold the diamond for one hundred thousand dollars.

Sir Thomas gave the stone to a diamond cutter who used his skill in fashioning it into a beautiful gem. The finished product was so magnificent that the Duke of Orleans bought it for six hundred thousand dollars.

The Duke was the French Regent. Thus, this gem became known as the Regent Diamond, one of the most famous diamonds in the world.



The Louvre, Paris

**Regent Diamond
Shown actual size**

The 140-carat Regent Diamond is one of the ten most valuable gems in the world. It is on display at the Louvre in Paris.

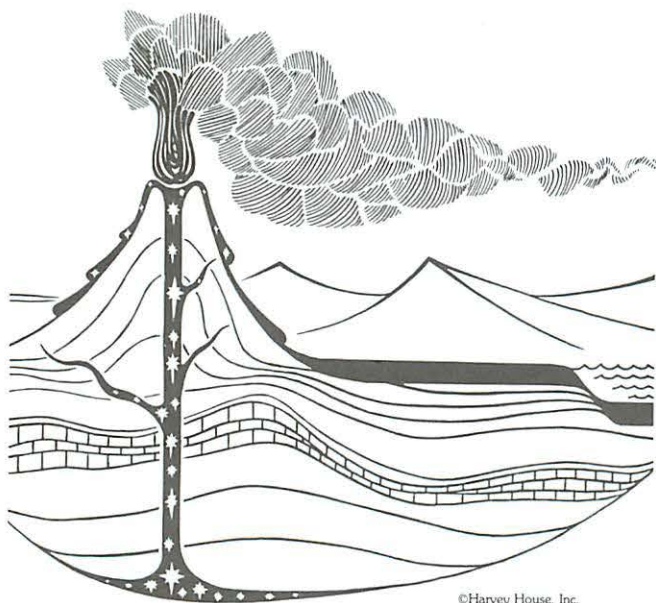
SIX FACTORS THAT DETERMINE A DIAMOND'S BRILLIANCE

Six factors affect the brilliance of a diamond. A weakness in any one of these factors can diminish the brilliance of the diamond and lessen its value. A diamond is most brilliant when all six factors have been perfectly fulfilled.

1 THE BRILLIANCE OF A DIAMOND IS DETERMINED BY SUSTAINED HEAT AND PRESSURE.

The birth of a diamond begins deep inside the earth. Molten rock called *magma* cools as it rises toward the earth's surface. As it cools, pockets of carbon within the magma begin to grow into diamonds. Large diamonds require prolonged periods of high temperatures so all available carbon can crystallize.

As a diamond grows, it pushes against surrounding magma, much like water expands when it freezes. This creates incredible pressure, which squeezes impurities out of the diamond crystal and leaves its core flawless.



©Harvey House, Inc.

Volcanoes bring most diamonds to the earth's surface.

The lava that pours out of a volcano brings with it diamonds that were formed beneath the surface. As wind and rain erode away the soft lava, they expose the diamonds and wash them into the streambeds and open plains where they are most likely to be found.

Many diamonds are mined by actually digging into the old vents of dormant volcanoes. These diamonds are called *pipe diamonds*. The magma from these pipes is brought to the surface and crushed. The crushed magma is then washed and the diamonds are sorted out.



DeBeers Consolidated Mines, Ltd.

Workers drilling in an underground diamond mine

2 THE BRILLIANCE OF A DIAMOND DEPENDS ON THE PURITY OF ITS INNER SUBSTANCE.

Diamonds are the only gems which contain only one element. This element is carbon. Carbon atoms are arranged in such a way that they cannot absorb visible light. Only the impurities in a diamond absorb visible light and diminish its brilliance.


Nitrogen in a diamond absorbs blue light, giving the diamond a yellow cast. The more nitrogen that is trapped in a diamond, the greater the color shift. Diamonds that contain large amounts of nitrogen are almost brown.

If trapped nitrogen actually replaces carbon atoms in a diamond's lattice structure, the color is intensified. Nitrogen can be trapped by either natural or artificial neutron radiation.

As neutrons bombard a diamond, they are captured by carbon atoms. Each carbon atom that captures a neutron becomes a nitrogen atom. The increased number of nitrogen atoms causes the absorption of greater amounts of blue light, which enhances the yellow color of the diamond.


Other impurities absorb different wavelengths of light and produce diamonds that range in color through most of the spectrum. Manganese produces rose-colored diamonds. Boron turns diamonds blue. Diamonds with uranium impurities appear green.

Colored diamonds are very valuable, but none are as brilliant as those that are made of pure carbon.




The Earth Star Diamond is bright orange. It was mined in South Africa.

Baumgold Brothers




The Tiffany Diamond is sunlight yellow. It, too, came from South Africa.

Tiffany and Company



The blue Hope Diamond was unearthed in India.

Lee Boltin

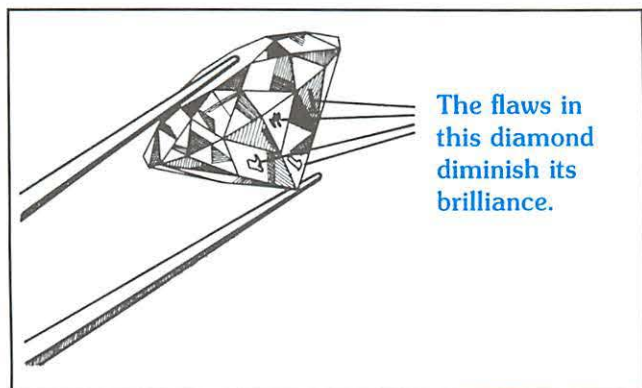


The rose-colored Conde Diamond was also found in India.

Giraudon

3 THE BRILLIANCE OF A DIAMOND DEPENDS ON THE PERFECTION OF ITS INTERLOCKING STRUCTURE.

Flaws in a diamond are called *inclusions*. An inclusion is a crack, bubble, or speck of foreign material that interrupts the regular arrangement of carbon atoms in a stone. Inclusions absorb light and diminish the brilliance of a diamond.



How can a diamond's secret flaws be made visible for all to see?

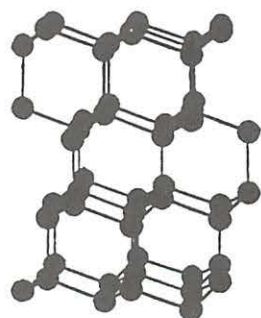
Diamonds are seldom beautiful when found in nature. They are usually dull and often filled with flaws. Before a diamond is cut and polished, it is inspected for flaws. Careful planning before cutting a diamond can save pure areas and cut away flawed areas.

Jewelers reveal the hidden flaws of a diamond by immersing it in a liquid with similar light-bending properties. Because the liquid has the same index of refraction as the diamond, light passes through the gem instead of bending, rendering the gem almost invisible.

Once the inner substance of a diamond is invisible, its internal flaws stand out like pepper on white paper.

How do flaws weaken a diamond?

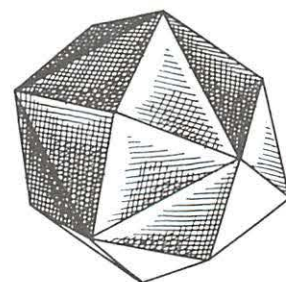
A tetrahedron can represent the carbon atoms that make up a diamond. Each face of the tetrahedron is an equilateral triangle. Because these faces fit together so perfectly, the carbon atoms of a diamond are "locked" into a rigid triangular structure.



©Edward Henry Kraus

A model showing the arrangement of carbon atoms in a diamond.

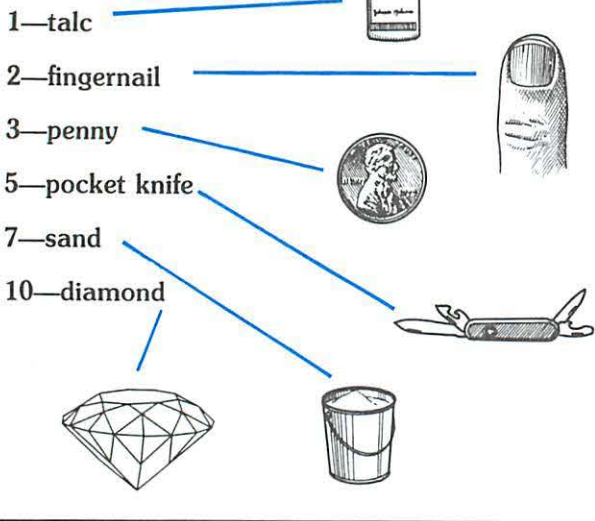
A diamond showing its characteristic natural facets.



The perfection of this interlocking structure determines the strength of a diamond. While nitrogen and boron are very similar to carbon, they do not form the same type of four-sided carbon bonds. Thus, a nitrogen or boron atom substituting for a carbon atom creates a point of weakness in a diamond's structure and strength.

Pure carbon diamonds with few inclusions are the strongest natural substance known to man. They rate a ten on a hardness scale of one to ten. In fact, diamonds are so hard that they can be cut only with other diamonds. Diamond saws must be embedded with thousands of diamond particles before they are tough enough to cut and polish diamonds.

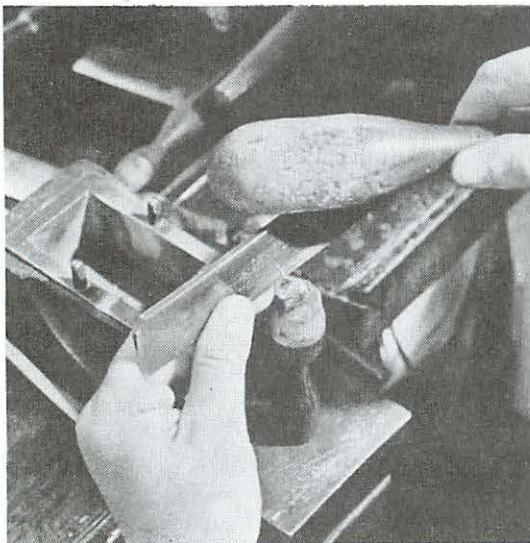
HARDNESS SCALE



How can a diamond be broken with a single stroke?

The interlocking structure of a diamond has one major weakness. Inside each diamond are several flat surfaces along which the carbon atoms are aligned in straight rows. These are called *cleavage planes*.

When a diamond cutter strikes a diamond with a mallet and chisels along one of these cleavage planes, it splits apart, leaving two perfectly smooth surfaces. In any one diamond, these cleavage planes run in four different directions. Diamond cutters must be extremely careful when “cleaving” a diamond so that it breaks only along the intended cleavage plane.

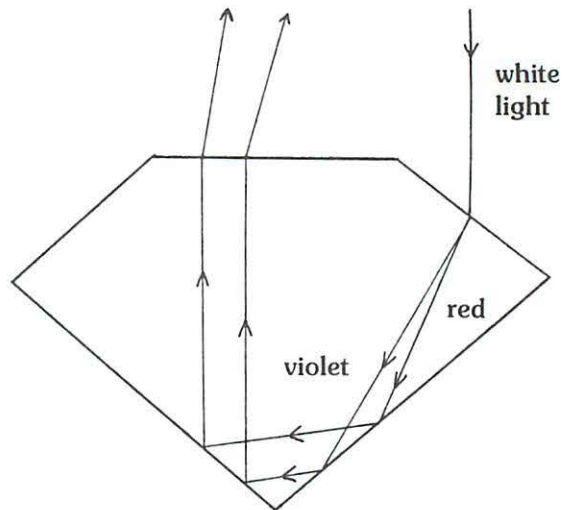


Courtesy of Harry Winston, Inc.

Cleaving a diamond

4 THE BRILLIANCE OF A DIAMOND DEPENDS ON THE ACCURACY OF THE ANGLES AT WHICH IT IS CUT.

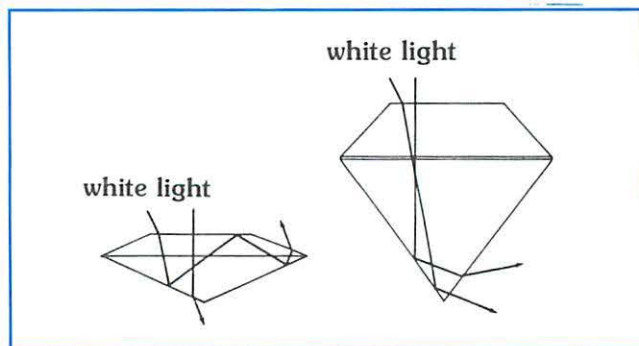
Because diamonds have a higher *index of refraction* (2.42) than any other natural substance, they bend light more than any other gem. In some cases diamonds bend light so much that the light is actually trapped inside the diamond.



As white light enters a diamond from the top, the diamond acts as a prism and separates the light into the colors of the spectrum. Red light bends the least; violet light bends the most. Both colors strike the lower facets of the diamond at an angle that reflects the light back into the diamond.

The technical term for this phenomenon is *total internal reflection*.

In a diamond cut at the proper angles, the trapped light can escape only through the top of the diamond. Thus, a well-cut diamond sparkles much more brilliantly than any other stone.



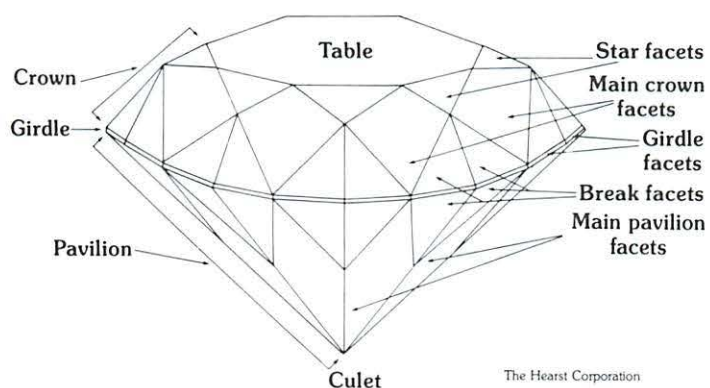
The Hearst Corporation

Cutting a diamond incorrectly allows light to “leak” out the sides and diminishes the diamond’s brilliance.

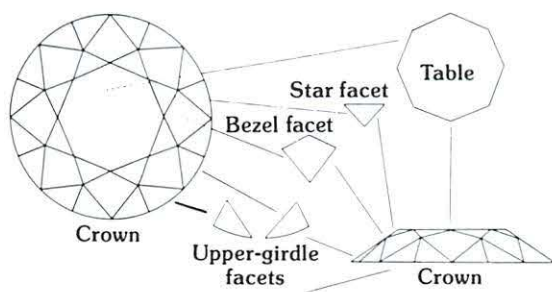
A diamond cutter arranges each flat side, or *facet*, at an angle to gather light in such a way that it reflects the light internally. The *critical angle* for a diamond is 24° . If light strikes an inner facet at an angle of greater than 24° , it will be reflected back into the diamond.

The “brilliant cut,” a pattern of 58 facets, is the ideal pattern for most diamonds. Each facet in a brilliant cut diamond is cut so that light always strikes the internal surfaces of the diamond at an angle greater than 24° .

Facets of a brilliant cut diamond

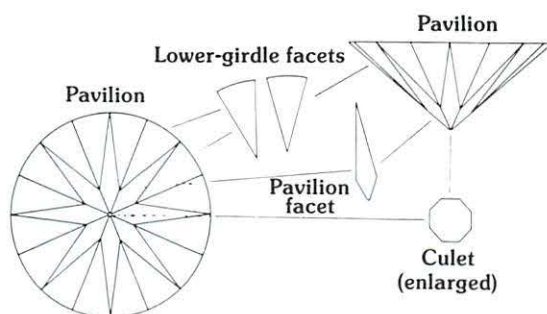


The Hearst Corporation



Gemological Institute of America

Top view of a brilliant cut diamond

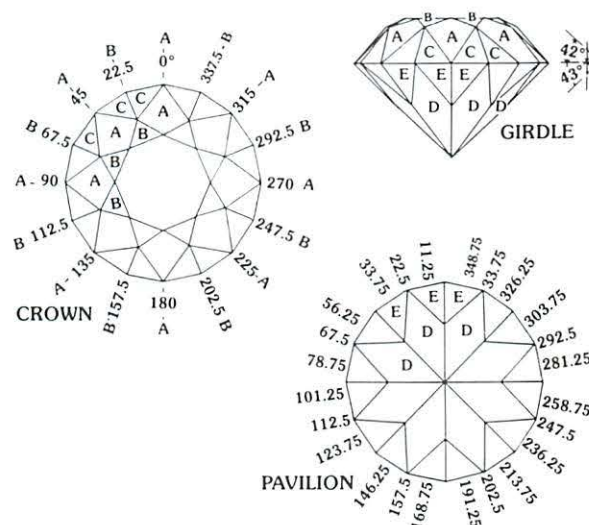


Gemological Institute of America

Bottom view of a brilliant cut diamond

The angles of a brilliant cut must be extremely accurate. No facet may be off more than one quarter of a degree, or the diamond will not be able to trap the most amount of light possible.

The proper angles of a brilliant cut diamond

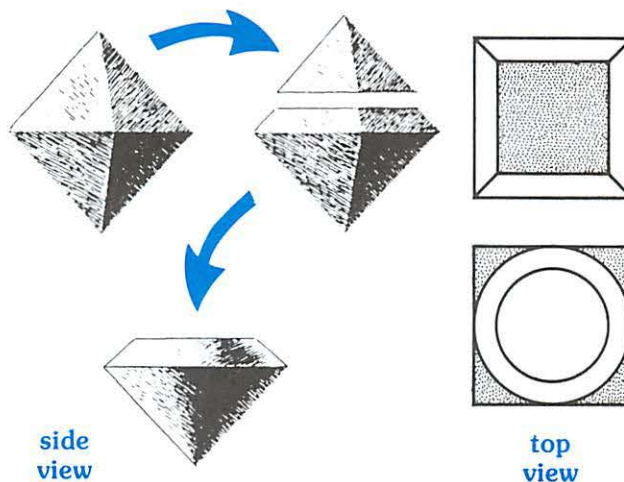


How is a diamond cut?

A diamond's brilliance is a product of precise cutting and polishing. The process involves a series of exacting steps that typically reduce the finished gem to less than one-half its original size.

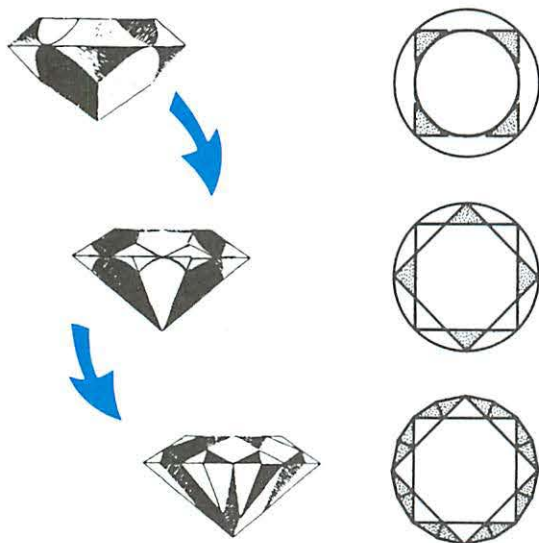
The first step begins with the diamond's natural octahedron shape. The top is sawed off slightly above the middle. Then, the diamond is rounded so that the *culet* is perfectly centered beneath the *table*.

Steps in cutting a diamond



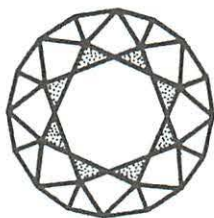
Eight flat facets are ground into the smooth, round stone. Four of the facets are on the *crown*,

and four are on the *pavilion*. The diamond is rotated 90°, and four more facets are ground into both the top and bottom of the diamond.

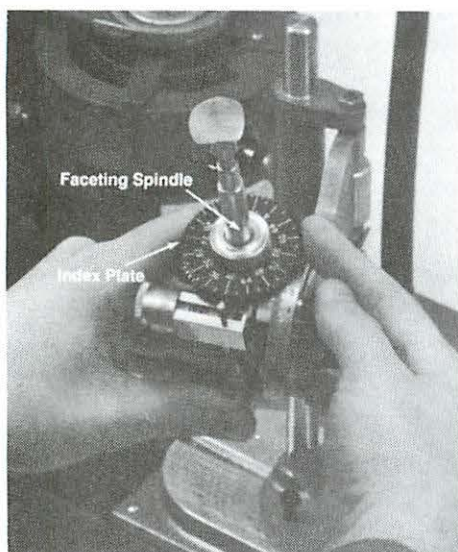


The process of grinding flat surfaces into the round diamond continues until all the round edges have been removed. The brilliant cut requires 58 flat surfaces to reflect the greatest amount of light.

Notice the number of right angles that are used to ensure the accurate placement of each facet.



A *dopstick* holds a diamond tightly in place during the grinding process.



The Hearst Corporation

The dopstick is attached to a calibrated spindle that measures the angle of each facet.

Ten ways a diamond can be cut incorrectly

Diamond cutting requires years of training and a very steady hand. There is only one way to cut a diamond correctly, but there are many ways to cut it incorrectly.

Cutting a diamond too deeply removes too much of the precious stone.

A cut that is too shallow leaves rounded edges that make the diamond look fat.

A facet cut at the wrong angle allows light to leak out of the diamond.

A facet out of position loses its ability to gather light. Unpolished deep scratches make a diamond appear dark.

A missing facet creates a shadow inside the diamond.

Too many cuts increase the chances of chipping the diamond.

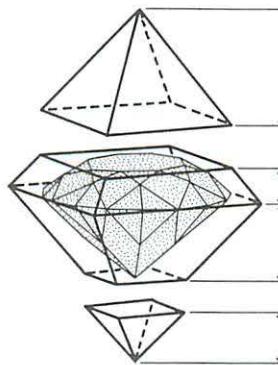
Too few cuts reduce the diamond's brilliance.

A culet not properly centered makes the diamond appear lopsided.

Cuts polished against the optical grain of a diamond require excessive effort to achieve brilliance.

5 THE BRILLIANCE OF A DIAMOND DEPENDS ON THE PROPER BALANCE OF ITS DIMENSIONS.

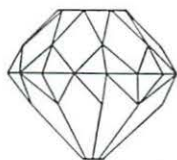
A diamond is most brilliant when it reflects light at the same angle it gathers light. This is achieved only when the proportions of the diamond are properly balanced.



Dimensions of a balanced diamond

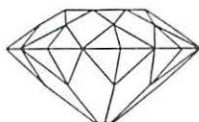
The table of a diamond gathers the most light when it is precisely 56% of the diameter of the diamond at its girdle. If the table is any smaller than 56%, the diamond will appear dark and glassy. If

the table is any larger than 56%, it is said to be *swindled*. A swindled diamond looks larger than a properly cut diamond of the same size, but it sparkles much less.

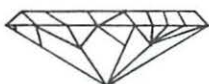


J. D. Simpson & Company
English Round Cut
(lumpy look)

Properly balanced
dimensions bring
out the brilliance
in a diamond.



J. D. Simpson & Company
American Brilliant Cut
(most brilliant)



Swindle Cut
(dead "fisheye" look)

For greatest brilliance, the height of the table above the girdle must be 19% of the diameter of the girdle. A table that is too low makes the diamond look like a dead fish's eye.

The best proportion for the pavilion of a diamond is 40%. A diamond looks lumpy if the pavilion is too deep, and skinny if it is too shallow.

Not all diamonds are cut so that they reflect the most light. The imperfections in many diamonds prevent them from being cut at the proper proportions. The additional cutting required to remove the imperfections leaves the diamond disproportioned and less brilliant. To restore a diamond's brilliance, it may be necessary to recut the entire diamond. The result is a smaller diamond with much greater brilliance.

Large diamonds that are properly proportioned are the most brilliant of all. The Cullinan Diamond, weighing 3,024 carats, is the largest diamond that has ever been cut. It was cut into 105 smaller stones. The largest of them is the Star of Africa, which weighs 530 carats.



From Colorific
Star of Africa

The weight of diamonds is measured in *carats*. The word carat originates from the Indian locust tree that bears the name *ceratonia siliqua*. The seeds of the *ceratonia siliqua* were once used to measure the weight of diamonds.

One carat is now defined as 200 milligrams. Diamonds that are less than a carat are weighed using *points*. A point is 1/100th of a carat. A diamond weighing 254 points is slightly more than two and one-half carats.

6 THE BRILLIANCE OF A DIAMOND DEPENDS ON THE CLEANLINESS OF ITS OUTER SURFACE.

Soapsuds, hand creams, dust, and many other things cling to the outer surface of diamonds. Their presence blocks light and actually changes the angle at which light bends as it enters and leaves a diamond.

Even minor smudges reduce the brilliance of a diamond up to twenty-five percent. Grime diverts light normally reflected out the top of a diamond and allows it to escape through the sides.

To clean a diamond, simply immerse it in rubbing alcohol. Alcohol removes grease, which has a particular attraction for the smooth surface of a diamond. Grease binds other forms of dirt much like a glue. Once the grease is dissolved, most of the remaining grime washes away easily.

Other methods of cleaning a diamond at home:



Ammonia
window cleaner



Toothpaste and
a toothbrush

Jewelry cleaner
with basket



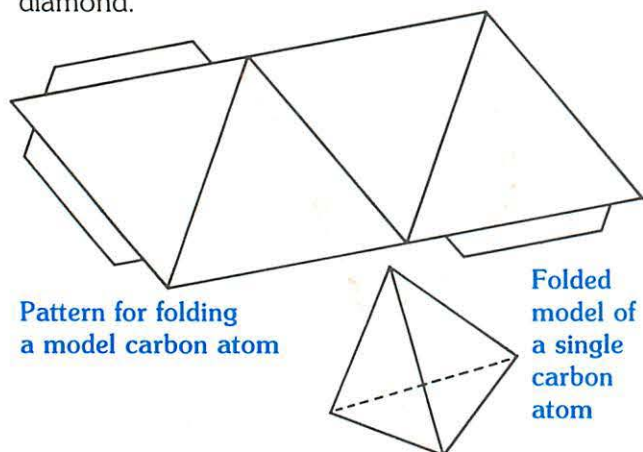
Fortunately, diamonds resist surface dirt. Strong acids, dyes, stains, or abrasives do not harm their inner purity. Even the dirtiest diamond can sparkle with all of its original brilliance after it is cleaned.

Commercial diamond cleaners use ultrasonic vibrations to loosen grease and reach into the crevices of a diamond's mountings where a brush or pick would not fit. Vibrations are usually applied to a diamond in a liquid bath that helps to dissolve the impurities as they vibrate loose.

PROJECTS

• Construct a "diamond."

To make a model carbon atom, just draw four equilateral triangles and fold into a pyramid shape as shown below. Extra tabs help to tape or glue the tetrahedron together. Fit several model atoms together so that the face of one model is attached snugly against the face of another. The models form a distinct pattern that is the same as that found in a diamond.

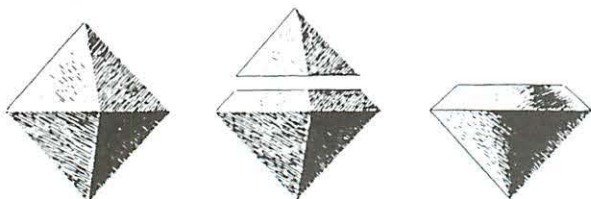


Ten models will fit together to make a hemisphere. Twenty models will make a complete sphere. Notice the strength of the model diamonds. Can you find the cleavage planes along which diamonds can be split?

• Consider the function of God's commandments.

Each of God's commandments, when obeyed, allows the Lord to perfect a new facet in our lives. As in a diamond, these facets take in the light, refract it, and allow a greater radiance to be reflected.

• Compare diamonds to Christians.



DeBeers Consolidated Mines, Ltd.

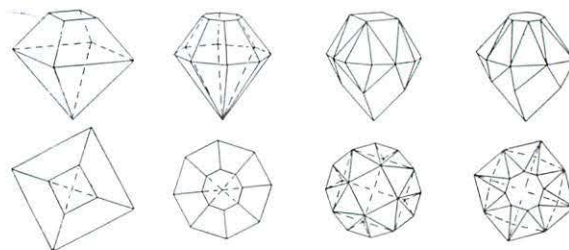
Rough diamond **Sawed** **Rounded**

How do the following aspects of a diamond relate to the making of a mature Christian?

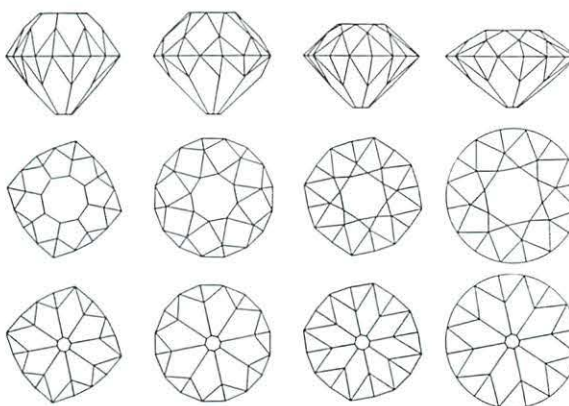
- ☐ Discovery in the mine
- ☐ Separation from its surroundings
- ☐ Discovery and analysis of imperfections
- ☐ Design for ultimate radiance
- ☐ Workmanship by a skilled craftsman

- ☐ Exposure to the light
- ☐ Need for continual cleansing
- ☐ Placement in an appropriate setting

Development of the brilliant cut



1. 15th Century 2. Single Cut 3. Double Cut 4. Star Cut

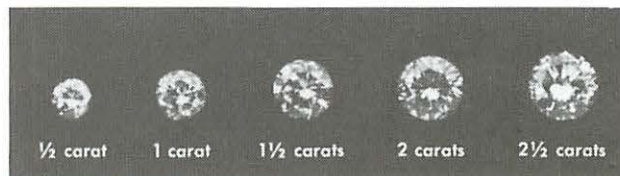


5. Star 6. English Round 7. Old Mine 8. American Brilliant

J. D. Simpson & Company

Notice how many cuts are needed in order to produce a brilliant diamond.

• Conquer discouragement with hope.

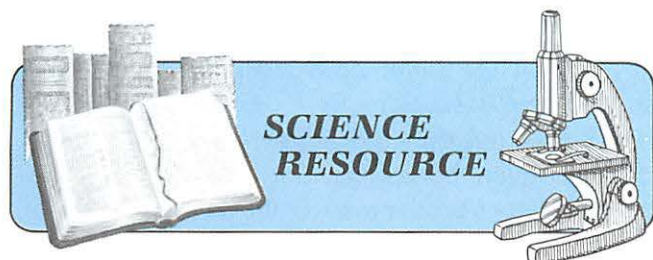


©World Book, Inc.

A young person who dedicates his life to the Lord and avoids the "flaws" which come through rebellion will be a splendid jewel for God's glory.

Violating God's commands produces flaws. What do we know about the value of diamonds which would encourage us to cooperate with God's discipline in cutting these flaws out of our lives?

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



SCIENCE RESOURCE

HOW DO TERMITES ILLUSTRATE THE "RIGHTEOUSNESS" OF THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES?



Buffalo Museum of Science

A cross section of a termite nest

There are at least ten clear analogies between the ways of the termites and the "righteousness" of the Pharisees. By understanding these characteristics it is easy to understand why Christ's denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees was so vehement.

1 *Termites "love" darkness and "hate" the light.*

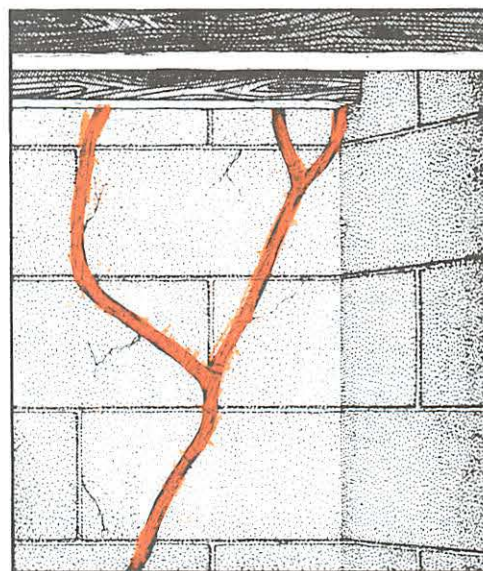
There are almost two thousand different kinds of termites in the world. All of them lead hidden lives in complete darkness.

Some termites live in large clay mounds which resemble giant mushrooms. Others hollow out chambers inside fallen logs or dig underground tunnels as much as 130 feet deep. But whatever its shape or location, a termite nest is designed to block out light.

If a termite nest is broken open, the termites inside are totally confused when exposed to the light. Their first response is to run away and hide.

Unlike ants, which immediately defend their nest and begin carrying eggs to safety, termites flee from light and are able to regroup and defend themselves only in the "security" of darkness.

Termites will even go so far as to build light-tight tunnels across roads or stone pavements if they want to get to the other side. They build tunnels along the foundations of buildings so that they can travel to and from their nest in complete darkness.



"Termite tubes" on the foundation of a building

Termites are attracted to light only during the few hours they swarm each spring. For this brief time, mature males and females leave their dark nest in search of a mate and a new home. As soon as they find a mate, they once again flee from the light and live out the rest of their lives in complete darkness.

2 *Most termites are completely blind; those with eyes have only a sense of light and dark without any recognition of detail.*

Only termite kings and queens have eyes. They use them for guidance when they establish new nests. These eyes are very small in comparison to the size of their bodies. In fact, a queen's vision is about as effective as a human trying to look through a key hole.



©World Book, Inc.

Queen termite

A termite queen may grow to more than four inches long when she is swollen with eggs, yet her eyes are no larger than pin heads. Because she lives in complete darkness, even her limited sight is of no real value.

A few other types of termites called *reproductives* may also have eyes. Their eyes are very small and perceive only the difference between light and dark. They cannot see details.

The vast majority of all termites belong to the worker and soldier classes which lack eyes altogether. They feel their way around using delicate sensors which pick up vibrations. These sensors, located on their legs and antennae, take the place of eyes.

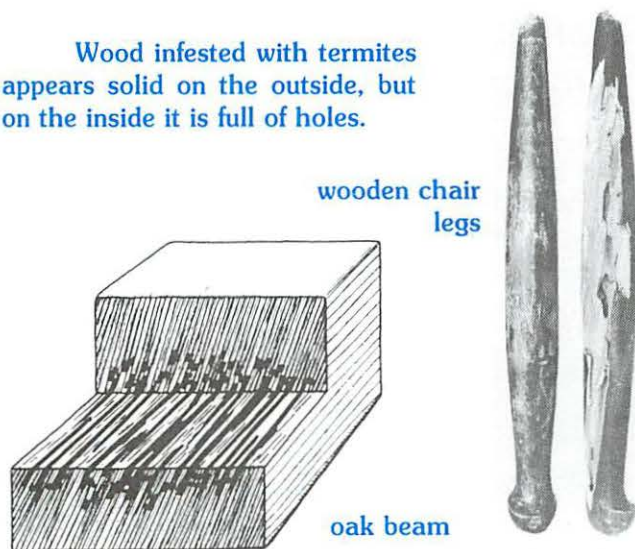
Workers and soldiers rattle their heads against the walls of their nest, tapping out codes which reverberate throughout the whole nest like a wireless telegraph. If a nest is threatened, soldiers are directed to the attack by the "sounds" of the battle rather than the "sight" of an enemy.

3 **Termites destroy the "inner parts" and leave the outer shell alone.**

Termites do millions of dollars of damage to homes and property each year. Most of the destruction is accomplished before homeowners even realize that termites have invaded their home.

Since termites consume only the inner parts of a structure, the outside appears to be in perfect condition. The leg of a chair may suddenly give way or a baseball bat may snap in two. Both may look solid from the outside, but if they are infested with termites, the center may be only sawdust.

Wood infested with termites appears solid on the outside, but on the inside it is full of holes.



©World Book, Inc.

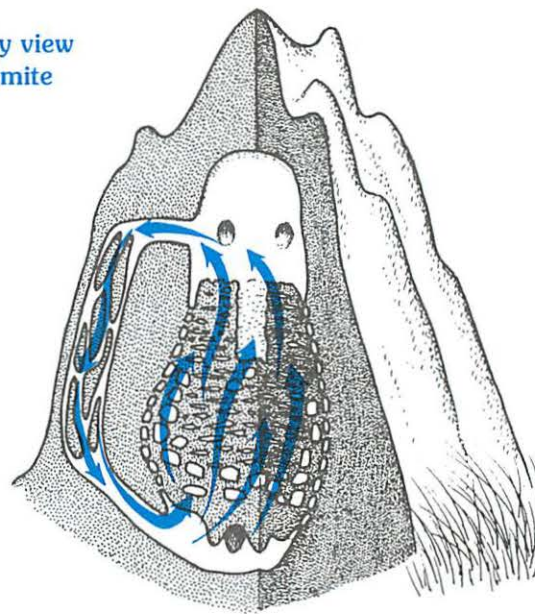
Once the heart of a piece of wood is destroyed, termites look for fresh wood to invade. They never alter the outward appearance of what they destroy. Even books are not exempt from their gnawing jaws. A cover may remain in mint condition, while the inside pages are devoured.

4 **Termites are among the most prolific animals on the face of the earth, but they wither and die under hardship.**

Termites are among the longest-living and most prolific of all insects. A king and queen mate for a lifetime, which may last more than twenty-five years. During that time the queen may lay from 4,000 to 30,000 eggs a day. The world record for a single queen is just over 10,000,000 eggs in one year.

However, a termite's soft, unprotected body is extremely sensitive to heat, cold, and dryness. Its skin shrivels within a few hours if the temperature and moisture of the nest varies by more than 10%.

cutaway view
of a termite
nest



"Air conditioning" in a termite nest

The surface of some nests actually becomes too hot to touch during the day, yet the temperature inside the nest remains a comfortable 85°F. The outside air temperature surrounding these same nests may drop to near freezing at night without affecting the temperature inside the nest.

To maintain a constant temperature, termites "air-condition" their nests. Air in the nest is heated

by the bodies of the termites themselves. This warm air rises and collects at the top of the nest.

Large air conditioning ducts distribute the air throughout a honeycomb of tubes lying just under the surface of the sides of the nest. This cools the nest during the day and warms the nest at night.

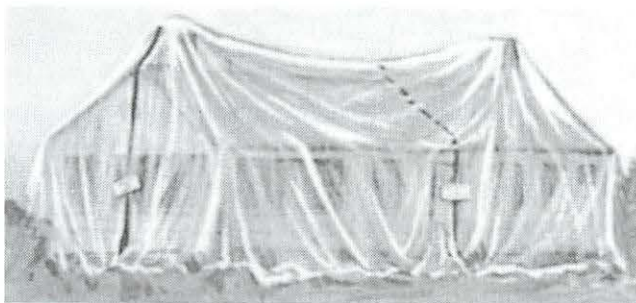
The nest's thin walls allow carbon dioxide to be exchanged for fresh oxygen.

Termites maintain a constant humidity in their nests by digging deep tunnels to reach sources of water in the ground. In desert regions these tunnels may be as deep as 130 feet. Some termites also grow fungus in their nests to maintain a constant humidity. The fungus absorbs moisture when the humidity is too high and releases moisture when the air is too dry.

5 *Once termites enter a home, every one of them must be destroyed or they will reestablish the nest and the destruction will continue.*

If fumigants are to be effective, they must be forced beneath the surface of wooden beams where termites actually live. This requires difficult, pressurized techniques. Fumigants which treat only the surface have little effect on termites.

A large bag is often used to entirely enclose a building which termites have infested. This is very expensive, but necessary. Every inch of a building must be treated or some termites may escape.



From *Insect Pests*, illustrated by Nicholas Strekalovsky ©1966 Western Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission.
Treating a house for termites

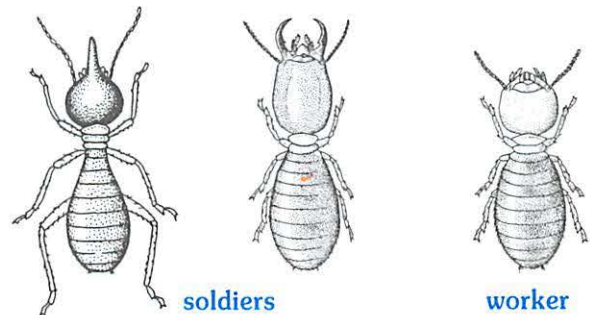
Normally a termite queen secretes a hormone which prevents other termites in her nest from reproducing any new queens. However, if the queen is destroyed, the hormone disappears quickly and several new queens may develop. The result is that the termites multiply rapidly, creating a second infestation which may be worse than the first.

6 *The growth and development of every termite nest depends on the termites living inside it.*

A single termite nest may contain as many as ten distinctly different forms of termites. Scientists call these different forms *castes*. Termite castes include eggs, nymphs, male and female workers, male and female soldiers, mature males, mature females, a king, and a queen.

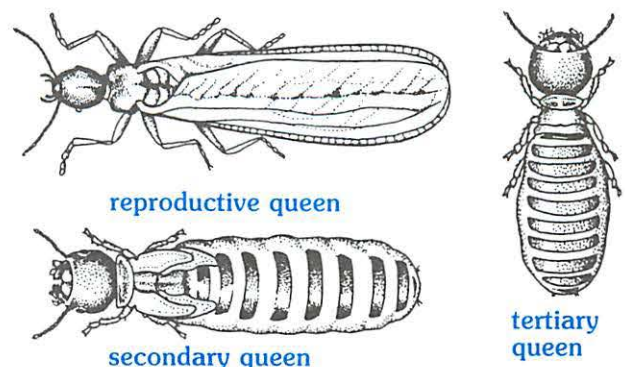
The workers are small, blind, soft-bodied, and wingless. They have inconspicuous jaws and a small, round head. They are at the "bottom" of the caste system and are dominated by all other termites in the nest.

Soldier termites are also wingless, but they have enormous heads, hard bodies, and immense jaws. Their jaws are so large, in fact, that they cannot feed themselves. They must be fed and cared for by the worker caste.

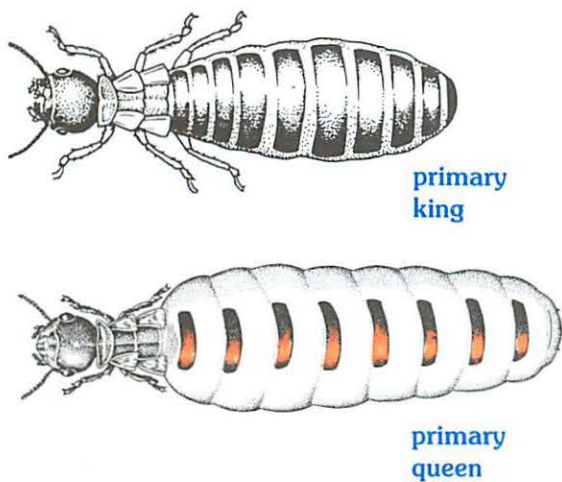


Mature males and females may or may not have wings, depending on the time of year. They do not work in the nest, but exist simply to reproduce. If their king or queen dies, they will develop into new kings and queens. If the "monarchs" of the nest remain healthy, the mature males and females leave the nest each spring and establish new nests of their own.

Mature males and females are called *reproductives*. They may develop into secondary or tertiary kings and queens.



The king and queen of the nest are at the top of the termite's caste system. They dominate all the others. Their every need is met by workers and they are defended against intruders by the soldiers of the nest.



Nymphs are immature termites which have the potential to become workers, soldiers, or mature males or females. A substance called a "social hormone" determines each termite's destiny.

If the nest needs soldiers, the "social hormone" stimulates the development of more soldier termites. If the nest needs more workers, a few nymphs will develop into sterile workers. The death of the king or queen triggers the growth of new kings or queens.

Termites apparently "learn" their caste position as they groom one another. During the grooming process, the social hormone passes from termite to termite. Once the hormone abides within a termite it influences every aspect of the termite's growth and development.

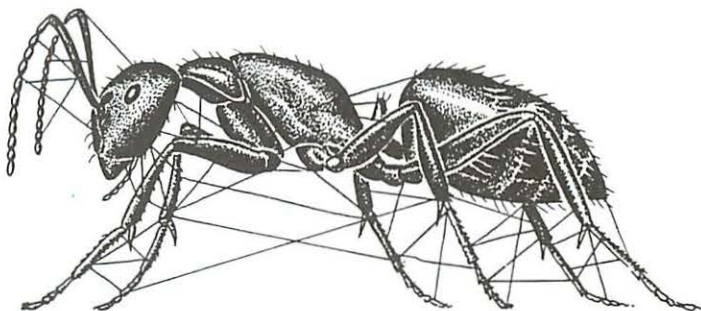
A termite which fails to receive the hormone fails to develop and grow.

7 Termites subdue their enemies with "sticky" entanglements.

Some termite colonies contain soldiers with a peculiar means of defense. Instead of huge jaws, these termites have a hollow tube projecting from the middle of their heads.

If threatened, a soldier shoots a sticky, wax-like mass through the tube. When the "gooey bullet" strikes its target, usually an ant or a termite from a different colony, the joints of its enemy become so gummed up that it cannot move.

Ants have a hard *exoskeleton* which is jointed like a knight's suit of armor. Each leg has at least eight joints and each antenna may have up to twelve joints. Once the joints are glued by the termite's bullet, the ant loses both its mobility and its sense of smell.

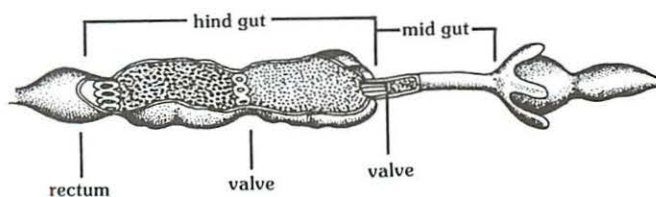


©World Book, Inc.

An ant overcome by termites

8 Termites are unable to digest the food which they eat.

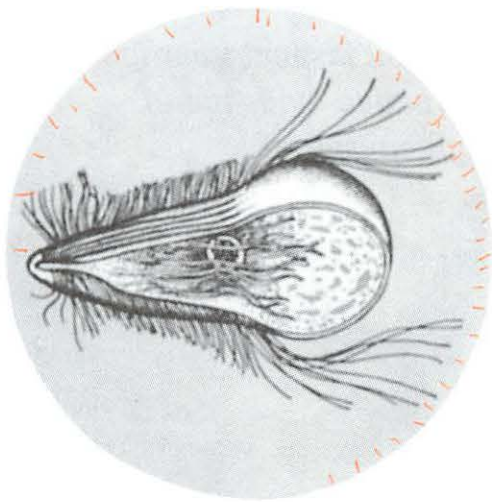
Termites are rarely satisfied. They are always hungry and will eat almost anything. Most termites feed exclusively on fallen trees, but if trees are not available, they will eat railroad ties, books, cloth, floor joists, chair legs, kitchen cabinets or fence posts. It is estimated that because of their insatiable appetite, termites destroy as much property as fire.



Digestive system of a termite

Valves located in the intestines of the termite grind wood into a liquid pulp. Protozoa located in the hind gut digest the wood pulp into usable nutrients. Because only the nutrients which filter back into the mid-gut are absorbed into the termite's body, termites actually *eliminate* more usable nutrients than they absorb.

Without protozoa to break down the indigestible wood pulp, the termite would starve. In fact, termites which have been treated with temperatures high enough to kill the protozoa go on chewing and swallowing wood without getting any nourishment from it. They soon waste away and die of starvation.



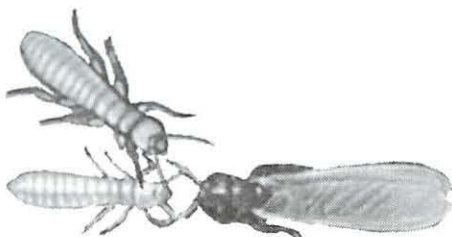
A wood-digesting protozoan magnified several hundred times

Young termites lack these “helpers” and cannot digest their own food. They must be fed regurgitated food from other termites. This food contains protozoa which quickly “infect” each infant’s stomach. Termites which do not receive the protozoa in the first twenty-four hours of life do not survive.

9 Greediness is the termite’s only motivation for work.

Behavior which appears to be devoted attention to one another is actually motivated by greedy desires. Termites “groom” one another in order to collect a honey-like secretion which is given off through their skin. While all termites give off this substance, the queen supplies the greatest amounts and receives the greatest attention.

In some cases, workers become so greedy that they may tear away small sections of the queen’s skin to make the “honey” flow more freely.

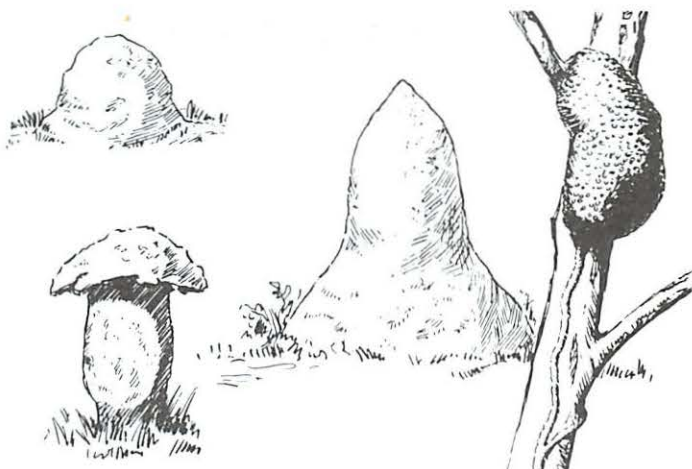


Workers grooming a “reproductive”

10 Termite nests are so hard that they will chip the steel from a hatchet.

Termite nests come in all shapes and sizes. Some nests resemble mushrooms and umbrellas. Other nests look like church steeples. A few found only in Australia are long and narrow and stand 23 feet tall. A curious thing about these nests is that the broad sides always face east and west and the narrow ends always point north and south.

Some termite nests may be 20 to 30 feet tall and 16 to 20 feet across at the base. The nests may be so hard they can be destroyed only with dynamite. Pickaxes and hatchets are unable to make a dent in their armored sides.

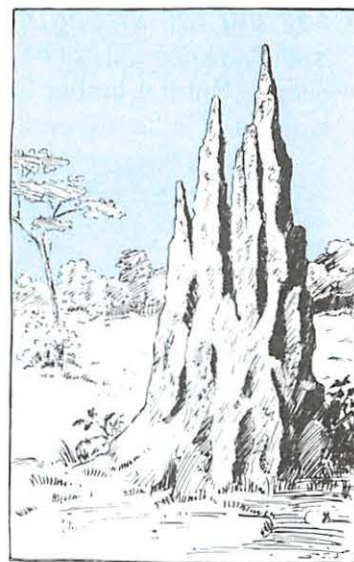


©Smithsonian Institution Series, Inc. by Robert Evans, 1934

Four types of termite nests

Termite nests are made of finely ground wood and soil which are cemented together with termite saliva. When this mixture is exposed to air, it hardens, and becomes much stronger than natural wood.

Workers quickly repair any portion of the nest which might be damaged. They form a paper-like substance in their mouths and then use it to plug any holes. The workers are so fast that they can seal up the remains of a dynamited nest in just 48 hours.



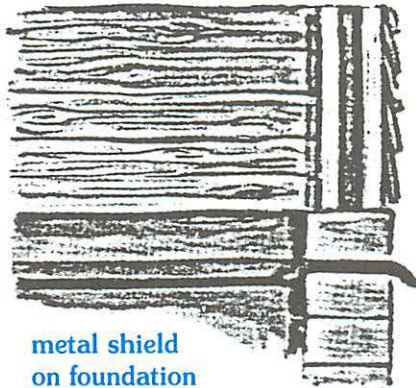
©Smithsonian Institution Series, Inc. by Robert Evans, 1934

PROJECT 1

How can you inspect your home for evidence of destructive termites?



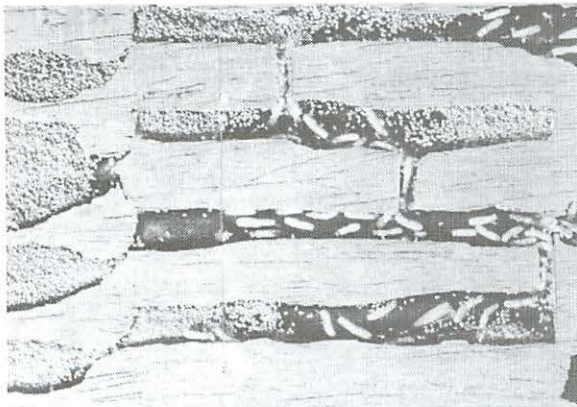
damaged wood



**metal shield
on foundation**

From *Insect Pests*, illustrated by Nicholas Strekalovsky ©1966 Western Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission.

- **Discarded wings**—After a short flight, swarming termites remove their wings. Since they will never fly again, the cumbersome wings are simply a nuisance in the confined space of their new nest. As soon as they are free of their wings, the king and queen hide themselves in darkness. The only clue to their existence may be a pile of discarded wings.
- **Mud-covered cracks in a foundation**—Since many types of termites must return to the ground for water, they follow the cracks in foundations back and forth between their nest and your house. They cover the paths with dome-shaped mud roofs in order to avoid light. Earthen tubes also appear along the outside of floor joists and rafters after the inside has been almost completely eaten away.
- **Testing the strength of timbers**—If wood is solid, a knife will not be able to penetrate it very deeply. But if a timber has been eaten away by termites, a knife will easily pierce through it.



British Museum (Natural History)

PROJECT 2

How can you inspect your life for the destructive evidence of false righteousness?



Pharisee

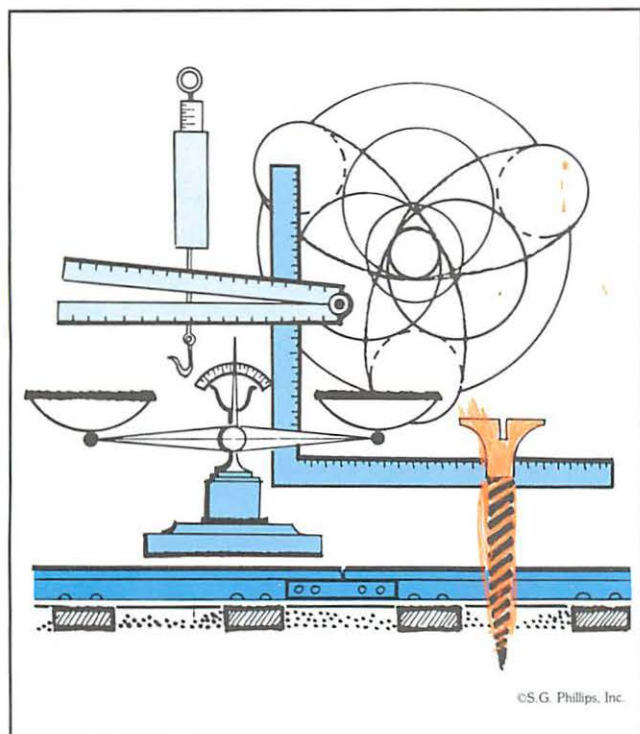
See if you can find verses of Scripture which describe false righteousness and the characteristics of the termite. The following verses are examples:

1. Termites love darkness and “hate” the light.
“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved” (John 3:20).
2. Most termites are completely blind.
“... They be blind leaders of the blind. ... Both shall fall into the ditch” (Matthew 15:14).
3. Termites destroy the inner parts of a structure.
“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees . . . which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones . . .” (Matthew 23:27).
4. Termites multiply rapidly.
5. Every termite must be destroyed to save a home.
6. A termite grows by what is inside of it.
7. Termites subdue their opponents by entanglement.
8. Termites are unable to digest what they eat.
9. The termites’ insatiable appetite prompts them to work.
10. Termites thrive in secure nests.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HOW DO MEASUREMENTS EXPRESS GOD'S CHARACTER AND HIS REQUIREMENTS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS?



Measurements influence every aspect of our lives.

Throughout the course of history, man has devised thousands of units of measure. He has created such unique measurements as ells, ens, ems, fingers, hands, and feet; grains, drams, and grams; lasts, seams, and firkins; and cattys, crans, and cloves.

No two of these standards of measure are alike. Each has its own basic unit and its own formula of converting from one standard to another. The result has been a confusing system of measurements that has promoted false weights and unjust balances.

God has a vital interest in weights and standards. They are basic to His principle of private ownership and His requirement for honest business dealings. The following verses explain God's instructions for measurement.

God's Commandment for Just Measurements

"Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure.

"Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

"Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:35-37).

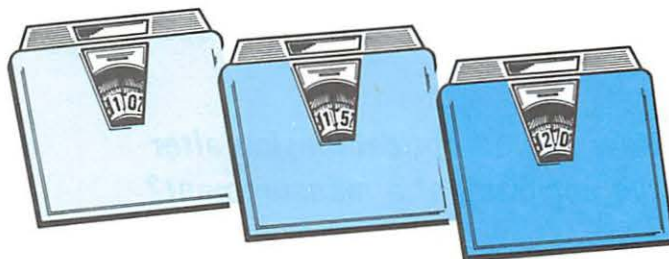
"A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work" (Proverbs 16:11).

1 MEASUREMENTS ASSESS THE TRUE VALUE OF A QUANTITY.

Measurements which assess the true value of a quantity must be *precise* and *accurate*. *Precision* and *accuracy* are often used interchangeably, but in measurements they are quite different.

Preciseness implies that something is repeatable. Precise measurements yield the same answer time after time. Scientists say that two measurements are precise when they agree.

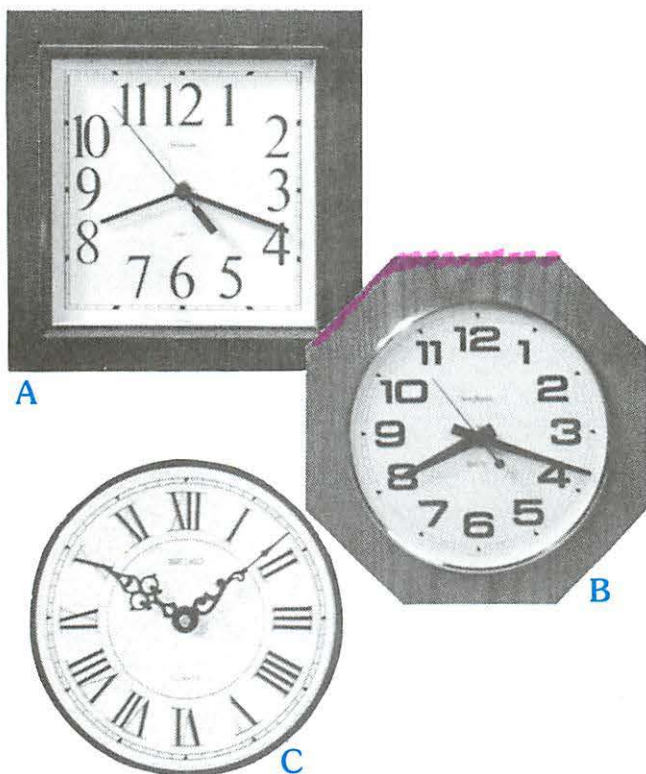
Obtain three bathroom scales. Measure your weight on all three. If you get the same result each time, the scales are precise. However, this does not mean they are correct. Adjust the scales so they weigh twenty pounds heavy. Now measure your weight on all three of them. Are the three scales precise? Measurements can be precise without being correct.



None of these scales agree. They are not precise. If one is correct, the other two must be incorrect.

Accuracy is different from precision. A measurement is accurate only if it is both precise and correct. For example, a timekeeper may set three grandfather clocks so they chime at the same time. The clocks are precise. That is, all three agree. However, the clocks may or may not be accurate. If the clocks were all set for the incorrect time, they would be precise but not accurate. If one of the three clocks ran fast, one ran slow, and the third stopped completely, the three would soon lose both their precision and their accuracy.

For three clocks to assess the true value of time, they must all agree (precision) and be correct (accuracy).



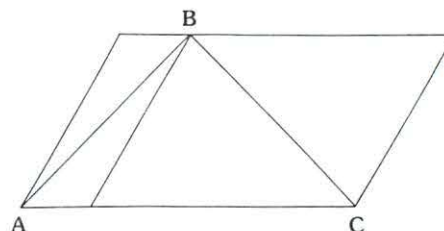
Which of these clocks assesses the true time? Clocks A and B agree, but they could both be wrong. Clock C is different from A and B, but it could be right. There is no way of knowing which clock is true unless a person has a “true” reference for comparison.

How can an optical illusion alter the accuracy of a measurement?

A person’s perspective influences the accuracy of a measurement. For example, an automobile speedometer often reads 5–10 miles per hour slower from the passenger’s seat than it does from the driver’s seat.

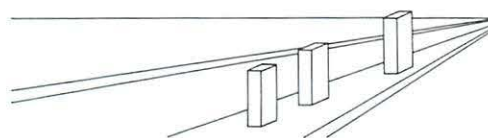
Optical illusions are also likely to prevent accurate measurements. Consider the two lines AB and BC below.

WHICH IS LONGER?



Lines AB and BC are exactly the same length.

WHICH BOX IS THE BIGGEST?



All three boxes are the same size.

Values clarification is one optical illusion Satan uses to distort the truth and cause inaccurate measures of righteousness.

2 ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE DERIVED FROM THREE BASIC UNITS.

The word *quantity* comes from the Latin word *quantus*, meaning “how much?” Asking the question “how much?” is a form of measurement. While there are thousands of things to measure, there are only three basic kinds of measurement.

Genesis 1:1 mentions each of the three kinds:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

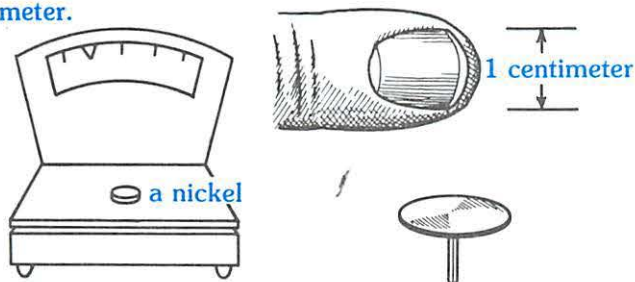
The three basic units of measurement are time, length (dimensions), and substance (mass). “In the beginning” marks the creation of time. Time was not a measurable quantity before the “beginning.” Time did not exist.

When God created the heavens, He created the dimensions of space. “The heavens” include the measurements of length, width, volume, and capacity. The creation of the earth brought mass and

substance into existence. These three basic units form the foundation for all other measurements.

Today scientists refer to the "CGS" system as the official standard of measure for research. The "CGS" system is in complete agreement with Genesis 1:1. "C" stands for "centimeter," which is a measure of length. "G" is for "gram," which is a measure of mass. "S" refers to "second," which is a measure of time.

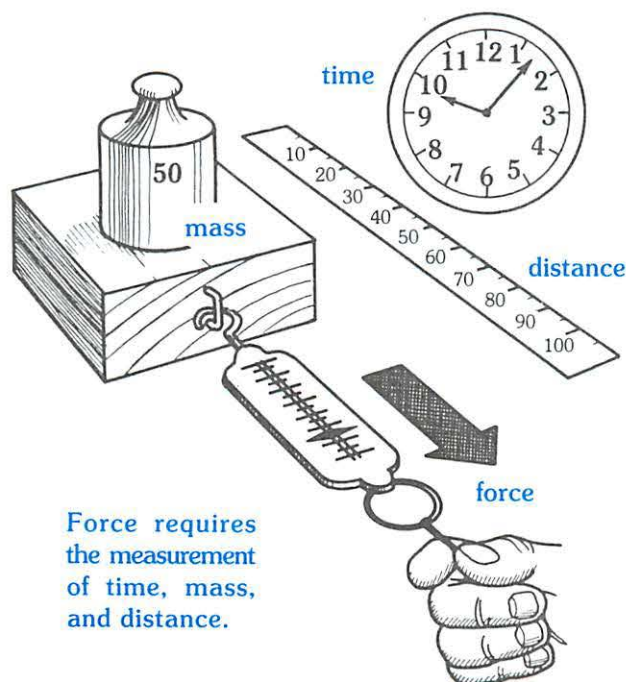
The width of your smallest finger or fingernail is about one centimeter.



A nickel has a mass of about five grams.

A thumbtack has a mass of about one gram.

Scientists combine centimeters, grams, and seconds to form other measurements such as force, density, and pressure. For example, force requires all three of the "CGS" units to measure a *newton*. One newton is the amount of force required to accelerate a thousand-gram mass at the rate of 100 centimeters per second per second. The definition of a newton contains units of mass, length, and time.



Force requires the measurement of time, mass, and distance.

3 MEASUREMENTS REQUIRE TWO PARTS FOR COMPLETE EXPRESSION.

Any measurement must include a number and a unit. The unit specifies what standard was used to make the measurement. The number indicates the "number" of known units that are equal to the measured quantity.

Every measurement must have both parts. A measurement without a number makes about as much sense as a measurement without any units. To say that "I weigh pounds" is as meaningless as saying "I weigh eighty-one."

HOW COULD A FATHER AND HIS SON BOTH WEIGH EIGHTY-ONE?



©Dallas Theological Seminary

It is possible for the father to weigh eighty-one kilograms (178.6 pounds), and for the son to weigh eighty-one pounds (36.7 kilograms).

WHICH OF THESE SETTINGS IS 25°?



Redpolls in winter



Redpolls in spring

Both settings are 25°. Temperature is often stated without any units, and 25° Fahrenheit is different from 25° Celsius. Twenty-five degrees Fahrenheit is below freezing, while 25° Celsius is a comfortable spring day.

4 MEASUREMENTS REQUIRE THE USE OF A KING'S STANDARDS.

Each king established his own units of measure. The king's subjects used the size of the king's finger, palm, forearm, and reach as units of measure. They marked these units on wooden sticks called "rulers," because the units could be determined only by the king himself.

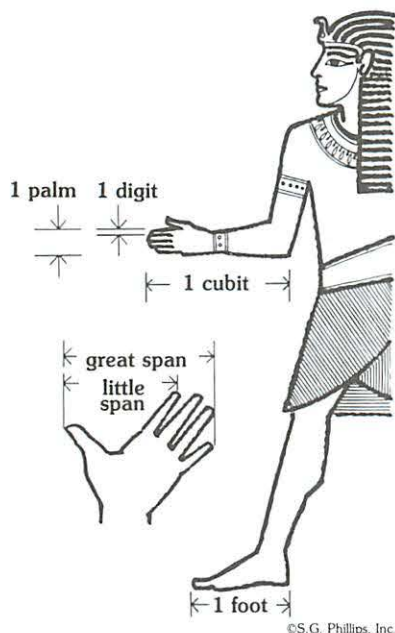
Whenever a new king came to the throne with a different size arm, hand, and finger, all the "rulers" had to be changed.

The word *ruler* comes from the diminutive form of the Latin word *rex*. *Rex* means "king." The diminutive form is *regulus*. *Regulus* provides the origin for such words as *regular* and *regulate*. These words indicate that a "ruler" "regulates" measurements within a kingdom.

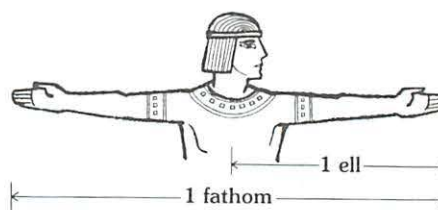
BY HOW MUCH DOES A CUBIT EXCEED A SPAN?

Egyptian pharaohs determined the length of a palm, span, cubit, fathom, and a furlong. A span is the distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger. A palm is the width of four fingers held close together. Three palms are supposed to equal one span.

Measure your own span and palm. Do three of your palms equal your span?



A cubit is the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. It equals two spans or six palms.

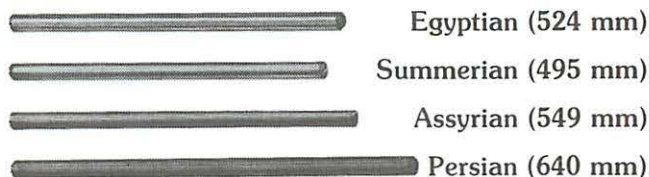


©S.G. Phillips, Inc.

An *ell* is roughly two cubits. A *fathom* is the length of two outstretched arms. A *furlong* is equal to 100 fathoms. A furlong was the official distance around an Olympic track. Eight furlongs are equal to one mile. That made the original Olympic race just yards long. What races are still measured in furlongs today?

Each ruler had his own units of measure.

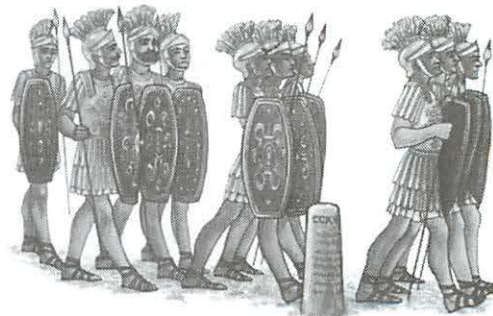
cubit rods



5 MEASUREMENTS MUST BE CERTIFIED THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM.

The Roman Empire made one of the first attempts to standardize such units as the mile and the inch. They required their subjects to use the same standards throughout the empire.

The Romans invented the mile and used it to measure distances across the world. *Mile* comes from the Latin prefix *mille* meaning "thousand." A mile was the distance a soldier walked in a thousand (mille) paces. The Romans defined a pace as the distance a soldier marched from the time his right foot left the ground until it came back down again. This was just under five and one half feet.



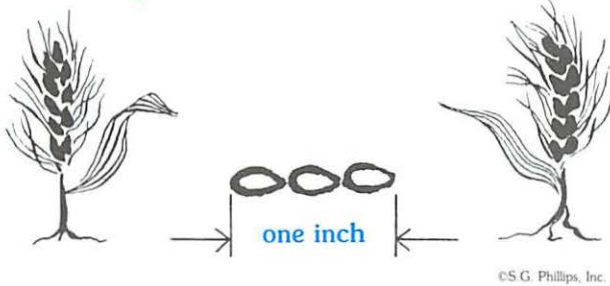
©Macdonald and Company

How many feet were in a Roman mile?

The Romans called the inch by its Latin name, *uncia*. *Uncia* means "the width of a thumb." Check your thumb to see if it is an inch in width.

Later, the English defined an inch as three barleycorns laid end-to-end. Wherever the English traded, they used barleycorn to certify inches.

barleycorn



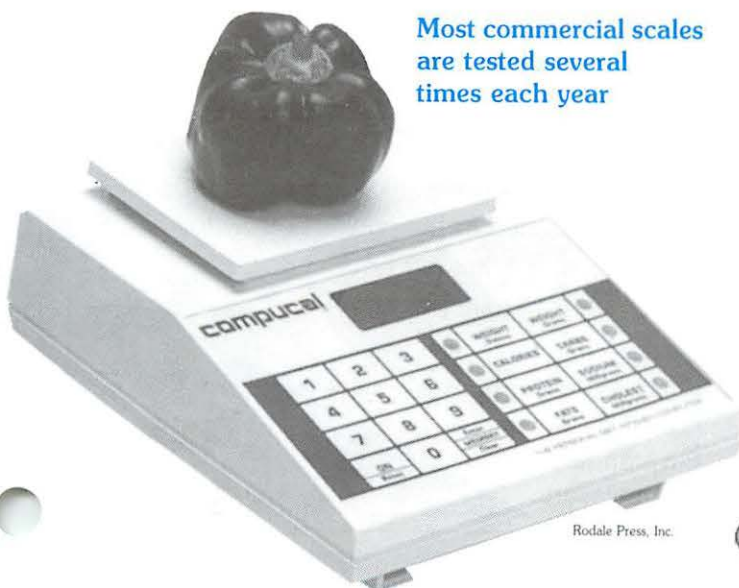
©S.G. Phillips, Inc.

It was not until 1832 that the United States established the Office of Weights and Measures. Four years later the U.S. Government distributed official sets of weights and measures to all the states and required each state to certify all weights and measures within its borders.

How can you be certain that a gallon is a gallon and a pound is a pound?

Several times a year, agents test commercial scales and certify their accuracy by placing seals on them. The seal indicates that the instrument meets the standards which the state has established. If a store owner tampers with the seal between inspections, he faces large fines and can be forced to close his business.

Most commercial scales are tested several times each year



Rodale Press, Inc.

Ask your local supermarket or service station to show you the records of their last inspection. What seals does your state use to make sure a gallon is a gallon and a pound is a pound? Write to your State Bureau of Weights and Measures and ask for information about their procedures.

6 MEASUREMENTS ARE COMPARABLE ONLY IF THEY HAVE COMMON STANDARDS.

Mathematicians use five symbols to express comparisons between measurements.

EQUAL	=
NOT EQUAL	≠
GREATER THAN	>
LESS THAN	<
APPROXIMATE	≈

Practice using the mathematical symbols of comparison.

- Measure the width, length, and height of your room using standard feet and inches. Use the above symbols to compare each of the measurements.

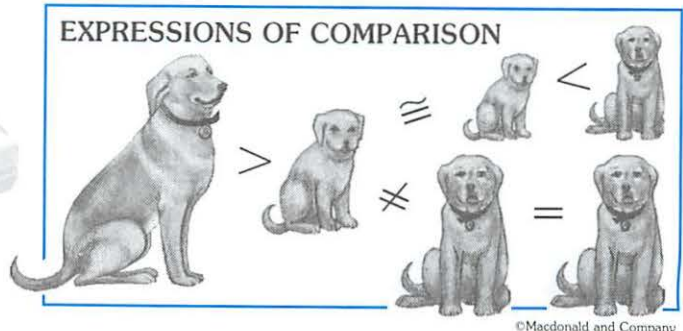
Are any of the measurements equal?

Which measurements are greater than or less than the others?

Are any of the measurements approximately the same but not equal?

- Measure the weight of each family member. Compare the weights using all five of the symbols.
- Compare the ages of the members of your family. Use only the $<$ and $>$ symbols to make these comparisons.
- Make a list of synonyms for each of the five symbols.

EXPRESSIONS OF COMPARISON

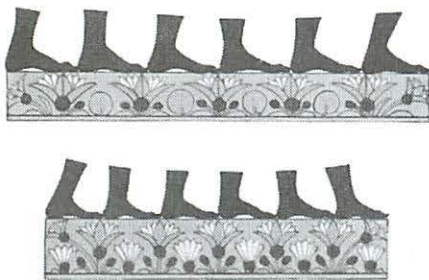


©Macdonald and Company

Comparing measurements also requires that both measurements have the same units. You must compare pounds with pounds, ounces with ounces, seconds with seconds, and hours with hours. Trying to compare measurements which use individual standards leads to confusion and false judgments.

Remeasure your room using your own individual standard of a foot. Take off your shoe and step off the length, width, and height of your room. How do these measurements compare between family members? Are these measurements the same as those you made with your standard foot measure? (Note: You will need to make your own foot ruler out of a stick or a roll of cash register tape in order to measure the height of your room.)

HOW CAN BOTH THESE LENGTHS BE
EQUAL TO SIX FEET?



©Macdonald and Company

False righteousness occurs when a man measures his righteousness by his own standards or by the standards of any other man.

7 MEASUREMENTS REQUIRE AN OLD STANDARD TO BE BURIED WHENEVER A MEASURE IS CONVERTED TO A NEW STANDARD.

In order to compare measurements which do not have the same standards, you must convert one measurement to the other's standard. This requires a conversion factor.

The conversion factor indicates how many units of one standard there are in a single unit of another. For example, there are 16 ounces in one pound. The conversion factor is 16 ounces/pound. To convert the pounds to ounces, a person must multiply the number of pounds by 16 ounces/pound. Notice that in doing so, the old standard, pounds, must be buried in the denominator of the conversion factor.

• Convert 83 pounds to ounces.

The conversion factor can be written as either

$$\frac{16 \text{ ounces}}{1 \text{ pound}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1 \text{ pound}}{16 \text{ ounces}}$$

Since pounds is the old standard, you must "bury" it in the denominator of the conversion factor. Therefore, 16 ounces/1 pound is the proper expression.

$$83 \text{ pounds} \times \frac{16 \text{ ounces}}{1 \text{ pound}} = 1,328 \text{ ounces}$$

Note: Pounds cancels pounds

To convert ounces to pounds, you must bury ounces in the denominator. Therefore, you must divide by 16. Placing the old unit in the denominator cancels it from the conversion process.

• Convert 2,400 ounces to pounds.

The proper conversion factor must bury ounces in the denominator.

$$2,400 \text{ ounces} \times \frac{1 \text{ pound}}{16 \text{ ounces}} = 150 \text{ pounds}$$

Note: Ounces cancels ounces.

The new unit must appear in the numerator. It is the only standard to remain after the conversion has been completed.

• Convert 55 miles per hour to kilometers per hour.

The conversion factor may be written either:

$$\frac{1.6 \text{ km per hour}}{1 \text{ mile per hour}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1 \text{ mile per hour}}{1.6 \text{ kilometers per hour}}$$

Because miles per hour is the old standard, it must be buried in the conversion factor.

$$55 \text{ mph} \times \frac{1.6 \text{ km per hour}}{1 \text{ mile per hour}} = 88 \text{ km per hour}$$

These two highway signs are confusing because they do not show a standard of measure.



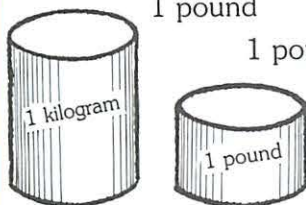
The need for consistent standards emphasizes the importance of the changeless nature of God.

- **Convert 60 pounds to kilograms.**

The conversion factor may be written

$$\frac{0.45 \text{ kg}}{1 \text{ pound}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1 \text{ pound}}{0.45 \text{ kg}}$$

$$1 \text{ pound} = 0.45359237 \text{ kg}$$



©S.G. Phillips, Inc.

- **Convert 100 feet to meters.**

The conversion factor may be written

$$\frac{1 \text{ meter}}{3.28 \text{ feet}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{3.28 \text{ feet}}{1 \text{ meter}}$$



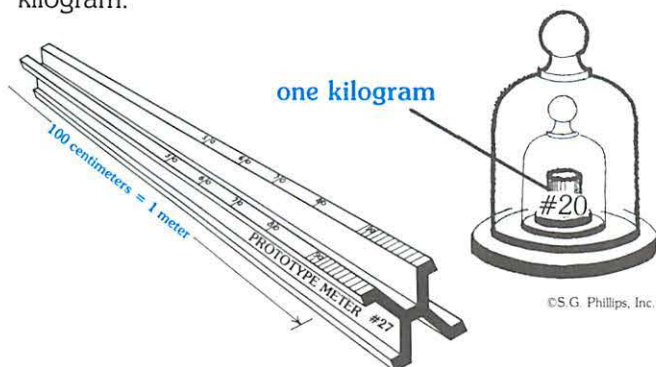
$$1 \text{ foot} = 0.3048 \text{ meters}$$

8 MEASUREMENTS REQUIRE THAT STANDARDS BE PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.

Following the French Revolution, the French government changed its entire system of measurement. They intended the sudden change to force the French people to break all their ties with the past and to begin their social and economic life all over again. The system chosen by the French was called the *metric system*.

The metric system became so popular that in 1875 the International Bureau of Weights and Measures established the meter, kilogram, and second as the universal standards of international commerce.

To ensure that other countries maintained the metric system accurately, the International Bureau, located in Paris, produced bars exactly one meter in length, and weights which weighed exactly one kilogram.

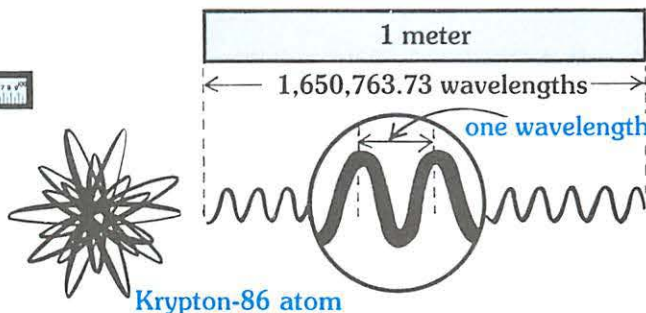


©S.G. Phillips, Inc.

The original meter and kilogram are made from an alloy of 90% platinum and 10% iridium.

In 1887, the Bureau sent bar #27 and weight #20 to the United States. They served as the standards for international trade until 1937, when the French recalled the standards from all over the world so they could be tested and recertified as correct. The Bureau continues to check these standards so that each generation can be assured that its basic standards of measurement have not changed.

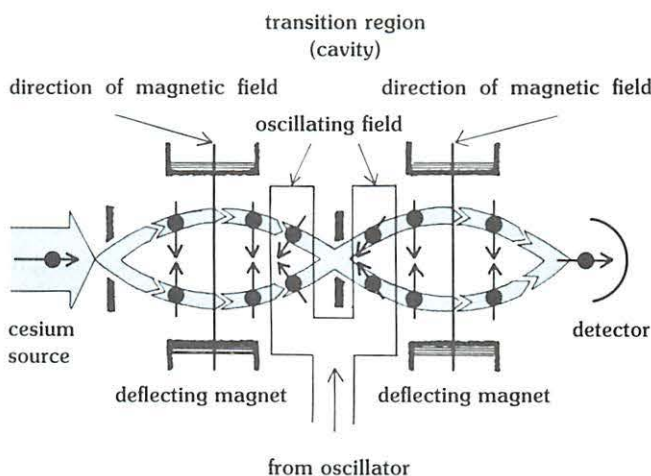
In 1960, scientists redefined the meter. Instead of a metal rod that could shrink and bend, they agreed that a meter should be equivalent to 1,650,763.73 wavelengths of light given off by a glowing krypton-86 atom.



Courtesy National Bureau of Standards

Scientists now measure time by the vibrations of the cesium atom, and the meter is now defined by the wavelengths of light produced by the argon-neon laser. The kilogram is the only unit of measure still defined by an artifact.

A Cesium Clock



Courtesy National Bureau of Standards

The cesium clock records 9,192,631,770 vibrations per second. It is the most accurate instrument of measurement that has ever been invented.

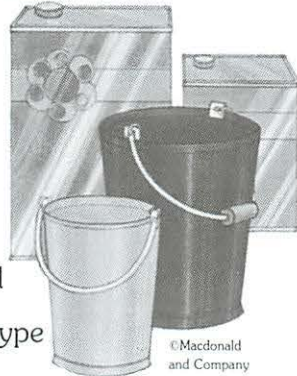
PROJECT 1

Try to identify the following units of measure. Match the measure to the commodity with which it is associated.

MEASURE

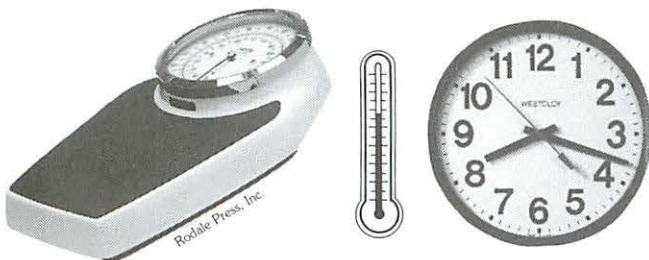
COMMODITY

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. a catty | a wool |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. a hand | b cloth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. a cran | c raisins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. a firkin | d butter |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. a frail | e diamond |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. a clove | f printed type |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. a denier | g nails |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. a carat | h herring |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. a skein | i silk thread |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10. an ell | j rice |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. an em | k yarn |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12. a keg | l bananas |



PROJECT 2

Make a list of all the measurement devices you have in your home. Learn how to measure accurately with each one: use cups and teaspoons to follow a recipe; use a tape measure to make a gift for someone; record your weight three times a day for a week.



PROJECT 3

Match each statement about righteousness with its corresponding statement about measurement in the list below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Righteousness is imputed upon verbal confession and belief in the heart. (See Romans 10:9.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Righteousness can never be measured and compared unless the standards are the same. (See Romans 4:1–16.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. There are no substitutes for righteousness. All righteousness must be certified by the King. (See Ezekiel 45:9–25 and Acts 4:12.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. The basic units by which righteousness is measured are knowledge, faith, and obedience. (See Romans 10:2–3, 4:5, and 6:16–18.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Righteousness is not inherited. God's standard of righteousness must be taught to each new generation. (See Matthew 28:19–20.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Righteousness brings death to the old nature and gives life to the new. (See Romans 6:6–8.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Righteousness is affirmed by the testimony of several witnesses. (See I John 5:8.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Righteousness is made known to all nations through the Scriptures. (See Romans 16:26.) |

Statements on measurement

- | |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Measurements assess the true value of a quantity. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. All measurements are derived from three basic units. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Measurements require two parts for complete expression. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. Measurements require the use of a king's standards. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e. Measurements must be shared throughout the kingdom. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f. Measurements are comparable only if they have common standards. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Measurements require an old standard to be buried whenever a measure is converted to a new standard. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> h. Measurements require that standards be passed on from one generation to the next. |

Date completed 4/12/01 Evaluation _____



LAW RESOURCE

HOW HAVE THE "KEEPERS" OF THE LAW OF THE UNITED STATES BECOME A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES?



Emmett Collection, New York Public Library

The Royal Exchange in New York City housed the first United States Supreme Court.

On June 21, 1788, when the convention of New Hampshire voted fifty-seven to forty-six to approve the Constitution, the total of nine states needed for ratification was complete and the United States of America was thrust into legal existence.

President Washington appointed six men to bring life to the paper decrees of the first Congress. On February 2, 1790, four of the six judges assembled in the Royal Exchange Building in New York and officially organized the Supreme Court of the United States.

The press followed the solemn occasion with great interest. No detail concerning the third branch of the young republic was left uncovered. Spectators at the opening session admired "the elegance, gravity, and neatness" of the Justices. Thus, the Supreme Court was born in a crowded courtroom with an empty docket of judicial business.

Accustomed to the comforts of wealth, the Justices felt out of place in the old Exchange Building. After a few days of idle formalities, they adjourned their meeting and returned home to more



Supreme Court Collection

John Jay, a forty-three-year-old New York lawyer, became the first Chief Justice on February 1, 1790.

pressing private and political business.

Despite a rather uneventful commencement, Chief Justice John Jay of New York and Associate Justices John Blair of Virginia, William Cushing of Massachusetts, James Wilson of Pennsylvania, James Iredell of North Carolina, and John Rutledge of South Carolina, faced the most significant challenge in the history of jurisprudence.

The philosophy of law and Constitutional opinions of the Court they had established would one day become the backbone of the American system of justice.

The Constitution of the United States and early Supreme Court decisions were based on the Blackstonian principle that civil law must reflect the law of God. Gradually, the concept that law was grounded in Biblical principles and statutes gave way to the belief that law must meet the needs of man rather than comply with the will of God.

The view that law is not made but given by God and discovered by human government to be proclaimed and applied to particular cases was soon aggressively attacked by lawyers and judges as narrow and undemocratic.

By rejecting Biblical law, American courts created a legal vacuum. During the nineteenth century, jurists enthusiastically embraced a new philosophy of positivism, the theory that law has no moral or theological basis and is established solely by man. A complete denial of absolutes replaced the acceptance of God-given truth.



National Portrait Gallery, London

Sir William Blackstone
1723–1780

Sir William Blackstone was an English judge, author, and professor who won recognition for his *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (1765–1769). These volumes, which presented a thorough picture of the English law of his time, greatly influenced the American colonists as they designed their new government.

To William Blackstone, the purpose of law was crystal clear:

"Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being. A being independent of any other, has no rule to pursue, but such as he prescribes to himself. . . ."

***The Commentaries*
William Blackstone (1765)**

Legal positivism reached the prestigious chambers of the Supreme Court in 1902 in the person of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

To the legal positivist, God and His Law are completely irrelevant. Professor Thomas Franck of New York University revealed this drastic deviation in his book, *The Structure of Impartiality*:

"Law has become undisguisedly a pragmatic human process. It is made by men, and it lays no claim to divine origin or eternal validity."



Supreme Court Collection

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.
Associate Justice
1902–1932

Holmes insisted that the law must change and adapt itself to the prevailing social environment. His opinions as an Associate Justice reflected popular sentiment rather than eternal moral principles:

"I am much of this mind. The prophecies of what the court will do in fact and nothing more pretentious, are what I mean by the law."

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes echoed this thinly disguised evolutionary view of the law when he stated, "We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is."



Supreme Court Collection

Earl Warren
Chief Justice
1953–1969

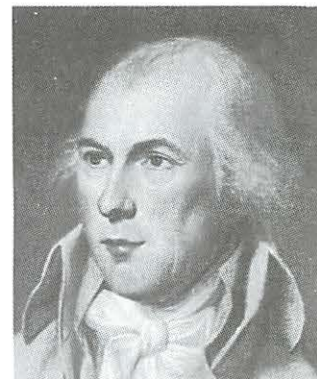
In *Trop vs. Dulles*, Chief Justice Earl Warren issued an opinion concerning "cruel and unusual punishment," declaring that "the words of the Eighth Amendment are not precise, and their scope is not static. The Amendment must draw its meaning from the evolving standards that mark the progress of a maturing society."

How would the framers of the Constitution respond to these humanistic interpretations of the law of the land?

George Washington purposely excluded the Supreme Court in his explanation of a method for Constitutional changes:

"If in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the Constitutional powers be at any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way the Constitution designates."

James Madison, the brilliant architect of the Constitution, believed that the basic principles of the document itself were vital for a proper interpretation.



Thomas Gilcrease Institute
of American History and Art, Tulsa, Okla.

James Madison, 1751–1836
"The Father of the Constitution"

"If the sense in which the Constitution was accepted and ratified by the Nation be not the guide in expounding it, there can be no security for a faithful exercise of its power."

CLARIFICATION THROUGH AMENDMENTS, NOT JUDICIAL REINTERPRETATION

Our founding fathers realized that the framework of Scriptural principles and governmental guidelines within the Constitution would require

expansion and amplification. However, men like Washington and Madison demanded that this be done through the amendment process, not by judicial reinterpretation.

The amendment process carefully weighs and considers the significance of a Constitutional change through the safeguards provided by checks and balances and separation of power.

ARTICLE V¹

Amending the Constitution

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided [that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and] that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

Amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress or by a national convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the states. To become part of the Constitution, amendments must be *ratified* (approved) by the legislature of three-fourths of the states or by a convention in three-fourths of the states.

The framers of the Constitution purposely made it hard to put through an amendment. Congress has considered more than 7,000 amendments, but it has passed only 33 and submitted them to the states. Of these, only 26 have been ratified. Only one amendment, the 21st, was ratified by state conventions. All the others were ratified by state legislatures.

The Constitution sets no time limit during which the states must ratify a proposed amendment. But the courts have held that amendments must be ratified within a "reasonable time" and that Congress decides what is reasonable. Since the early 1900's, most proposed amendments have included a requirement that the necessary ratification be obtained within seven years.

¹Constitution excerpts and explanations are quoted from *World Book Encyclopedia*.

Obviously Justice Holmes, Justice Hughes, and Justice Warren disregarded the intent of the authors of the Constitution. Modern Supreme Court Justices have destroyed the spirit of the law by becoming a law unto themselves.

The legalization of abortion and the abolishment of capital punishment are just two examples of the dangerous and wicked results of legal positivism. The notion that laws are man-made and not God-made has rapidly devastated traditional moral values.



Equal Justice Under the Law

Looking out into the Supreme Court chamber from the Justices' bench

Positivist law professor Jerome Frank clearly illustrated the typical judicial attitude in his book *Law and the Modern Mind*.

"There is no rule by which you can force a judge to follow an old rule or by which you can predict when he will verbalize his conclusion in the form of a new rule, or by which he can determine when to consider an exception to an old rule.

"His decision is primary, the rules he may happen to refer to are incidental.

"The law, therefore, consists of decision, not of rules. If so, then whenever a judge decides a case he is making law."

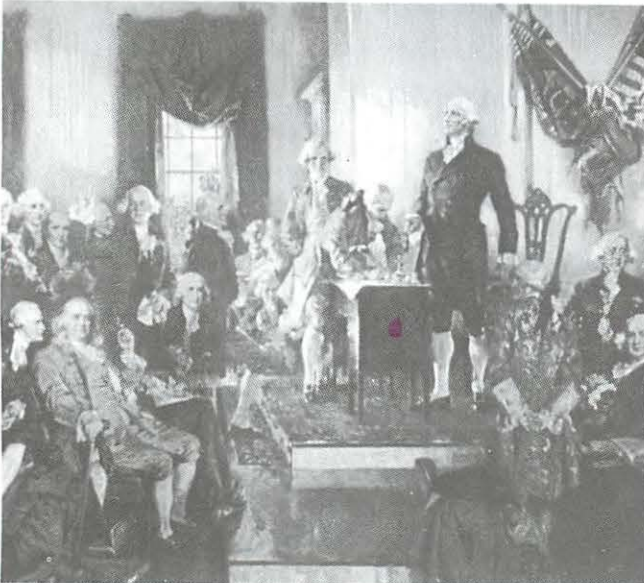
Legal positivism has also caused a major deterioration in the area of criminology. Our modern judicial system tends to stress the causes of the criminal's actions while minimizing the crime. Crime is regarded simply as anti-social behavior.

Rehabilitation of the criminal rather than punishment according to the statutes of justice has become a legal priority. Sociological circumstances conveniently shield the offender from the punishment he deserves.

Secular humanists have criticized any attempts to return to the principles of God's Law as restrictive, oppressive, and authoritarian. Yet, by rejecting God's authority, they place America under the authority of man.

How, then, can we preserve liberty in American society? The legal positivist answers, "All power to the courts." The radicals reply, "All power to the people!" Both would agree, "All power to man."

Rising above the outcry of humanism stand the enduring words of President John Adams: "The very definition of a republic is an empire of laws, and not of men."



National Geographic Society Photographer, courtesy U.S. Capitol Historical Society

Signing the Constitution on September 17, 1787

There are three basic principles which determine the proper functioning of authority. The first principle is that **all power comes from above**. It is ordained by God and ultimately controlled by Him. (See Romans 13:1–7.)

The **second principle is that appeal should come from beneath**. This means that those under authority must have and demonstrate proper attitudes when requesting those in authority to reconsider a decision. (See I Peter 3:1–7.)

The **third principle involves a balance of power**. In Israel this balance included the elders (leaders of the families), the priests (teachers and administrators of justice), and the king (executive administrator). The three branches of government outlined in the United States Constitution fulfill this same principle of balance.

The limitations and responsibilities of the Judicial Branch are defined in Article III.

ARTICLE III¹

The Judicial Branch

Section 1. The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the Supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

The Constitution makes every effort to keep the courts independent of both the legislature and the President. The guarantee that judges shall hold office during “good behavior” means that, unless they are impeached and convicted, they can hold office for life. This protects judges from any threat of dismissal by the President who appointed them, or by any other President during their lifetime. The rule that a judge’s salary may not be reduced

protects the judge against pressure from Congress, which could otherwise threaten to fix the salary so low that the judge could be forced to resign.

Section 2. (1) The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority;—to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls;—to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;—to controversies to which the United States shall be a party;—to controversies between two or more states; [between a state and citizens of another state;] between citizens of different states;— between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, [citizens or subjects].

The right of the federal courts to handle “cases arising under this Constitution” is the basis of the Supreme Court’s right to declare laws of Congress unconstitutional.

The 11th Amendment set aside the phrase *between a state and citizens of another state*. A citizen of one state cannot sue another state in a federal court.

(2) In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.

The statement that the Supreme Court has *original jurisdiction* in cases affecting the representatives of foreign countries and in cases to which a state is one of the parties means that cases of this kind go directly to the Supreme Court. In other kinds of cases, the Supreme Court has *appellate jurisdiction*. This means that the cases are tried first in a lower court and may come up to the Supreme Court for review if Congress authorizes an appeal. Congress cannot take away or modify the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, but it can take away the right to appeal to that court or fix the conditions one must meet to present an appeal.

(3) The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

Section 3. (1) Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

No person can be convicted of treason against the United States unless he or she confesses in open court, or unless two witnesses testify that he or she has committed a treasonable act. Talking or thinking about committing a treasonable act is not treason.

(2) The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.

The phrase *no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood* means that the family of a traitor does not share the guilt. Formerly, an offender’s family could also be punished.

¹Constitution excerpts and explanations are quoted from *World Book Encyclopedia*.

CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE U.S. AND LANDMARK DECISIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THEIR TERMS



Supreme Court Collection

John Jay
1789–1795



Supreme Court Collection

John Rutledge
1795



Supreme Court Collection

Oliver Ellsworth
1796–1800



Supreme Court Collection

John Marshall
1801–1835

1803—Marbury vs. Madison

This ruling established the court's power of judicial review. Any law passed by Congress could be declared unconstitutional if, in the Supreme Court's opinion, it violated a Constitutional principle.

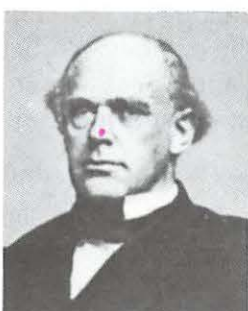
1819—McCullough vs. Maryland

In addition to the expressed powers that are specifically stated in the Constitution, the federal government has the authority granted by implied powers.



Supreme Court Collection

Roger B. Taney
1836–1864



Supreme Court Collection

Salmon P. Chase
1864–1874

1857—Dred Scott vs. Sandford

Blacks are refused United States citizenship, and the Court stated that Congress could not prohibit slavery in United States territories. (Both of these rulings were overturned by the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments.)



Supreme Court Collection

Morrison R. Waite
1874–1888



Supreme Court Collection

Melville Fuller
1888–1910



Supreme Court Collection

Edward D. White
1910–1921



Supreme Court Collection

William H. Taft
1921–1930

1915—Mutual Film Corporation vs. Ohio

The Court upheld a state law prohibiting the showing of any film not of "moral, educational, or amusing and harmless nature."

1919—Schenck vs. United States

The federal government cannot restrict freedom of speech unless the words create a "clear and present danger" of violence.

1925—Pierce vs. Society of Sisters

The Supreme Court voided an Oregon compulsory school attendance law requiring all persons between the ages of eight and sixteen to attend public school.



Supreme Court Collection

Charles E. Hughes
1930–1941



Supreme Court Collection

Harlan F. Stone
1941–1946



Supreme Court Collection

Warren E. Burger
1969–1986



Supreme Court Collection

William H. Rehnquist
1986–present



Supreme Court Collection

Fred M. Vinson
1946–1953



Supreme Court Collection

Earl Warren
1953–1969

1947—*Everson vs. Board of Education*

The Supreme Court established the first clear-cut definition of an “establishment of religion” when it permitted public school bus transportation for parochial school children.

1957—*Roth vs. United States*

The First Amendment guarantee of freedom of press does not protect obscene materials.

1961—*Mapp vs. Ohio*

Evidence obtained without a proper warrant cannot be used in a criminal trial.

1962—*Engle vs. Vitale*

Prayer is banned from public schools.

1966—*Miranda vs. Arizona*

An accused person must be informed of his constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent (Miranda Warning).

1968—*Epperson vs. Arkansas*

The Court held that a state law forbidding the teaching of evolution in public schools violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

1970—*Walz vs. Tax Commission*

The Court sustained religious tax exemptions for property as a permissible accommodation of religion without any governmental sponsorship of religion.

1972—*Furman vs. Georgia*

According to the Supreme Court, the death penalty violated the Eighth Amendment as “cruel and unusual punishment.”

1973—*Roe vs. Wade*

A state may not prohibit a woman’s right to have an abortion during the first six months of pregnancy.

1980—*Harris vs. McRae*

The Court decided that a Congressional restriction on Medicaid funds to reimburse only abortions characterized as medically necessary was not unconstitutional because it happened to agree with the teachings of a particular religious group.

1983—*Marsh vs. Chambers*

The Court affirmed the Constitutionality of a state legislature’s having its sessions opened with prayer by a paid chaplain.

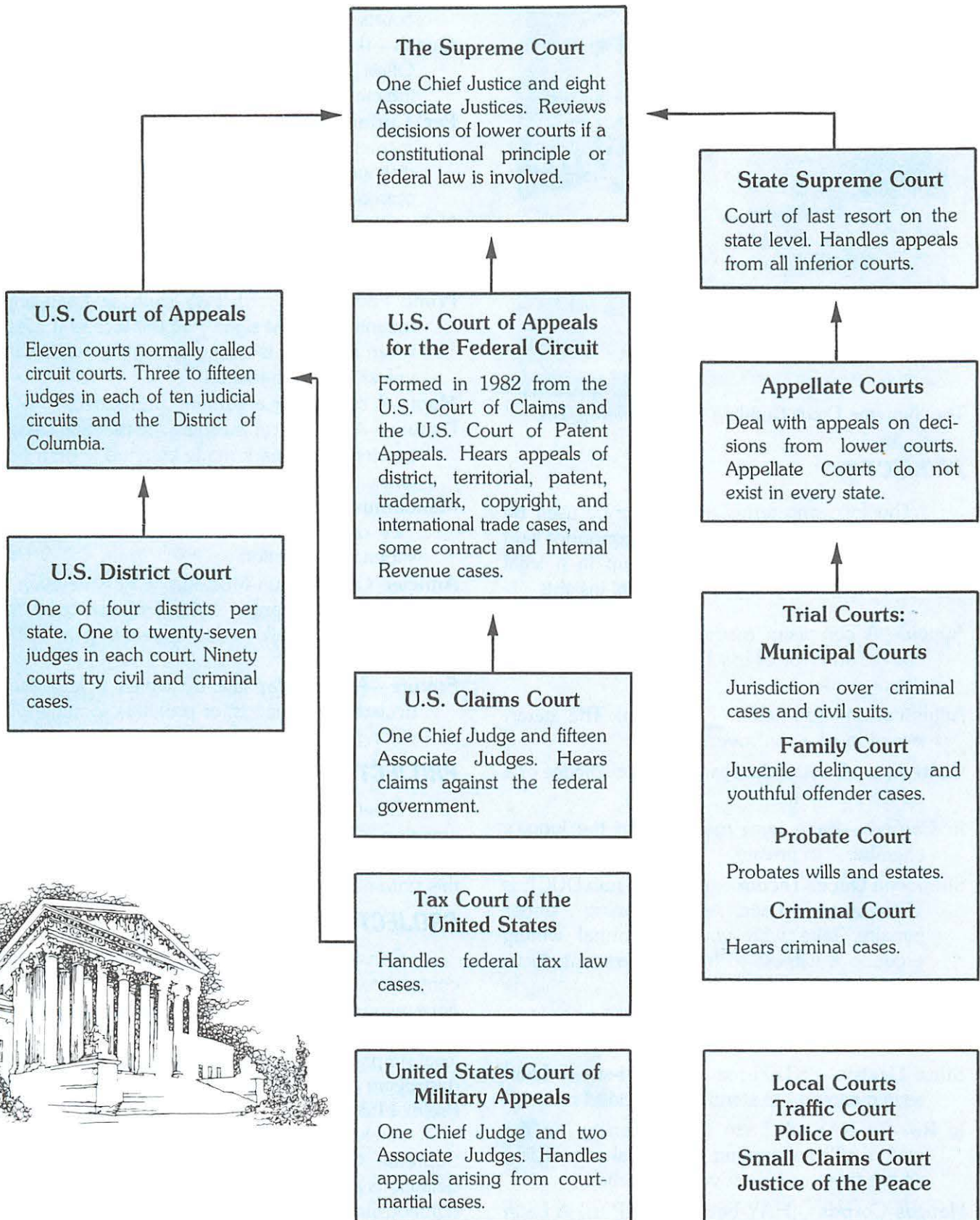
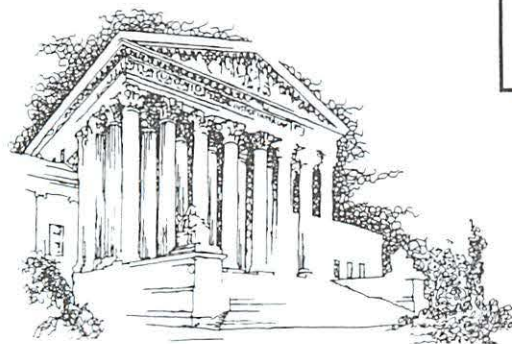
1984—*Lynch vs. Donnelly*

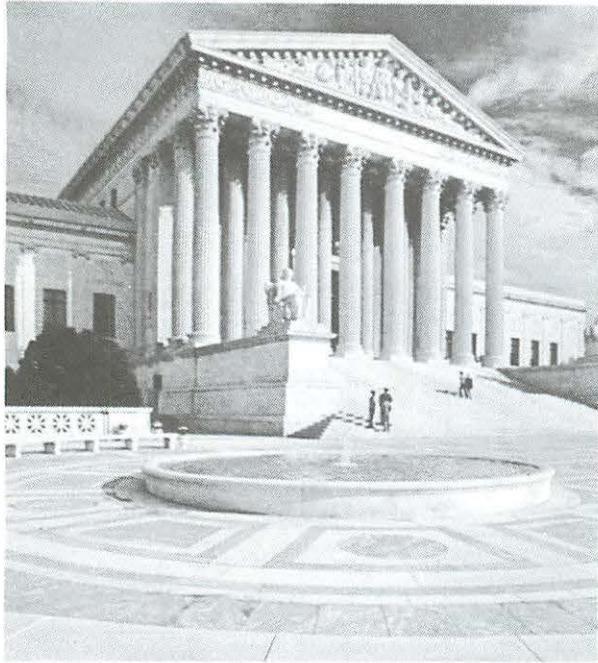
The court rejected the concept of total separation between church and state by ruling that a nativity scene with a Santa Claus house, Christmas tree, and “Seasons Greetings” banner did not, in effect, advance religion.

1985—*Wallace vs. Jaffree*

The Court invalidated a state law requiring public schools to authorize a daily “period of silence not to exceed one minute . . . for meditation or voluntary prayer” on the grounds that it “had no secular purpose” but instead had a legislative purpose to endorse religion.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES





Milt and Joan Mann

The Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.

PROJECT 1

The following terms are frequently used by Supreme Court Justices. Learn to pronounce and use them correctly. Looking them up in a legal reference book will give you additional insights.

Appeal—A complaint made to a higher court to correct an error of law made by a lower court during a trial.

Adjudication—(uh-jude-ih-KAY-shun) The determination of a controversy.

Contempt—A willful disregard or disobedience of a public authority.

In Camera—Latin term meaning “in the judge’s chamber”; in private.

Subpoena Duces Tecum—(suh-PEA-nuh DUCE-is TEE-kum) A Latin term meaning “under penalty, take with you.” A formal writing ordering a witness to bring a pertinent document to court.

Docket—A record book listing cases to be tried in a court.

Stare Decisis—(STEh-ree dih-SIGH-sis) A Latin term meaning “to stand by a decided matter.”

In Re—(in RAY) A Latin term meaning “in the matter of”; concerning. A judicial proceeding where there are no adversary parties.

Habeas Corpus—(HAY-bee-us KORP-us) A Latin term meaning “you should have the body.” Protection against unlawful imprisonment.

Ex Parte—(eks PAR-tee) A Latin term meaning “on behalf.” *Ex parte* implies the presence of one party and the absence of the other.

Jurisdiction—(jer-is-DIK-shun) The authority of the courts to hear and decide legal proceedings.

Quash—(kwash) Overthrow; vacate; make void. Often used in connection with voiding an indictment.

Per Curiam—(per KYER-ee-um) A Latin term meaning “by the court.” A phrase used to distinguish the opinion of one judge from the opinion of the entire court.

Nolo Contendere—(NO-low kun-TEN-der-ee) A Latin term meaning “I do not wish to contest it.” A defendant’s plea of “no contest.”

Prima Facie—(Pry-muh FAY-shuh) A Latin term meaning “at first sight”; on the face of it. Used when evidence is strong enough to win a case unless it is contradicted.

Moot—A subject for argument; undecided.

Dictum—A Latin term meaning “something said in passing.” A remark made by a judge on a side issue.

Mandamus—(man-DAY-mus) A Latin term meaning “we order”; an order issued from a court of superior jurisdiction.

Amicus Curiae—(uh-MEE-kus KYER-ee-eye) A Latin term meaning “friend of the court”; a person who is allowed to appear in a lawsuit to give information.

Statute—A particular law by which a legislature declares, commands, or prohibits something in writing.

PROJECT 2

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes made this assertion, “We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is.” Discuss why this statement is such a dangerous one.

PROJECT 3

Consider God’s evaluation of laws that are contrary to His Word: “*Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?*” (Psalm 94:20). Laws which make mischief legal simply change the definitions of terms, thereby destroying the foundations for righteousness. (See Psalm 11:3.)

Analyze one or more of the landmark Supreme Court decisions to detect the altered definitions and the destruction of the foundations for righteousness.

Date completed 4/19/01 Evaluation _____



MEDICINE RESOURCE

HOW DID THE WORST PLAGUE IN HISTORY CONFIRM THE VALUE OF KEEPING EVERY LAW OF GOD?



Five thousand victims a day were claimed by the Black Plague in Europe.

While journeying inland from the coast, the travelers were absorbed by the beauty and freshness of the countryside. It was pleasant traveling on such well-maintained roads and seeing the miles of wheat and barley fields interspersed with green pastures.

At noon they approached the first of many villages through which they would pass. Suddenly they became aware of a strange feeling in the air. Something seemed very wrong. The normally bustling and crowded village lay very still and quiet.

“Why were the cows wandering about unattended?” they wondered. Then they saw a recently mowed hay field with a partially filled hay wagon. “Why were there no workers about?” they continued to question.

As the confused company drew closer to the village, they noticed other signs that something very odd was occurring. The streets were deserted. The

only indication of any activity was the cooking fire smoke curling up from the village chimneys.

They rounded a corner and froze in their tracks. The scene they witnessed horrified them as the fearful realization of what was actually happening arose within them.

The bodies of several people were lying in the street. As they cautiously approached the grisly scene, they knew that the tortured expressions etched into the faces and the black marks on the skin meant only one thing—the Black Death!



Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies

A painting depicting the Plague of Tournai in 1349

Whenever and wherever the bubonic plague has occurred, horror and hopelessness have accompanied it. Nations have reeled helplessly before its deadly advance. Of all the diseases known to man, none has taken a greater toll in human lives in recorded history.

Why should this strange plague be so immune to any efforts to halt its destruction? The medical community now knows—years too late—that obedience to one of the “least” of God’s laws would have saved untold millions of human lives.

THE PLAGUE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The first recorded outbreak of the bubonic plague may well have occurred in 900 B.C. as reported in chapters five and six of I Samuel. This section describes God’s punishment of the Philistines when they broke one of His commandments. The symptoms so closely resemble those of the bubonic plague that it is very likely that God used this disease as His instrument of judgment. The Philistines were covered with “swellings” in their “secret places.” These were probably under their armpits and in their groins. More than fifty thousand people died suddenly from these swellings.



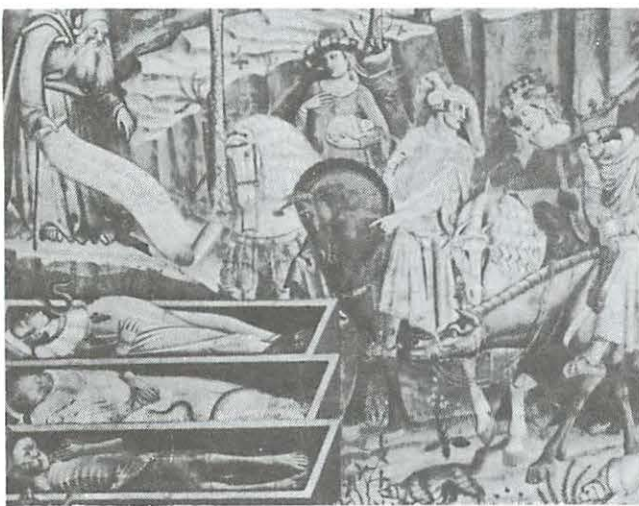
Archives Photographiques

The plague among the Philistines in Ashdod as illustrated by a French painter in A.D. 1630

The offering required to end the pouring out of God's wrath upon the Philistines may also indicate the presence of the bubonic plague. Five golden "emerods" and five golden mice (perhaps rats) were given to stop the disease.

The bubonic plague may also have contributed to the eventual defeat of Athens during the long struggle with Sparta in the Peloponesian War. In 430 B.C., the historian Thucydides helplessly described the total devastation he saw in Athens and the subsequent moral breakdown which became familiar in the later European outbreaks.

It is estimated that one third of the population of Greece perished that year. In 429 B.C., Athens' great leader Pericles died of the disease.



The Black Plague

The plague knew no boundaries among rich or poor.

The plague appeared and reappeared many times in various locations during the first four

hundred years after Christ. Rome was shaken in A.D. 250–265 with an outbreak which claimed at the peak of its infestation five thousand lives per day.

In A.D. 444, the Venerable Bede described a devastation in England so severe that no one was healthy enough even to bury the dead.

THE FIRST PANDEMIC

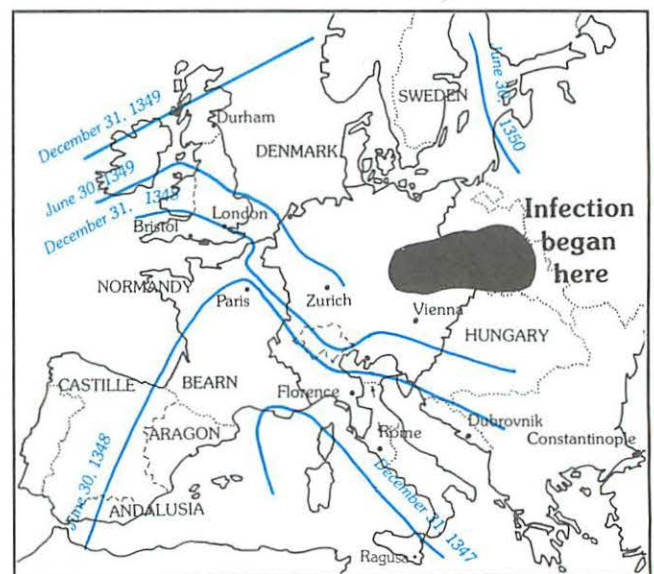
A pandemic is an epidemic which is spread over a large geographic area.

What is often called the "First Pandemic" struck the Byzantine Empire in A.D. 540 during the influential reign of the emperor Justinian. This outbreak, as did so many after it, began in Egypt and swept into Europe via the shipping and trading ports.

During the next fifty years the Roman Empire continually faced wave after wave of epidemics. In the peak periods of infestation, ten thousand people per day died in wrenching agony. Half the population of the Eastern Roman Empire died.

The course of history in the Middle Ages may have been far different if this outbreak had not weakened Justinian's aims and allowed the overflow of the Germanic peoples.

THE SECOND PANDEMIC —The Black Death

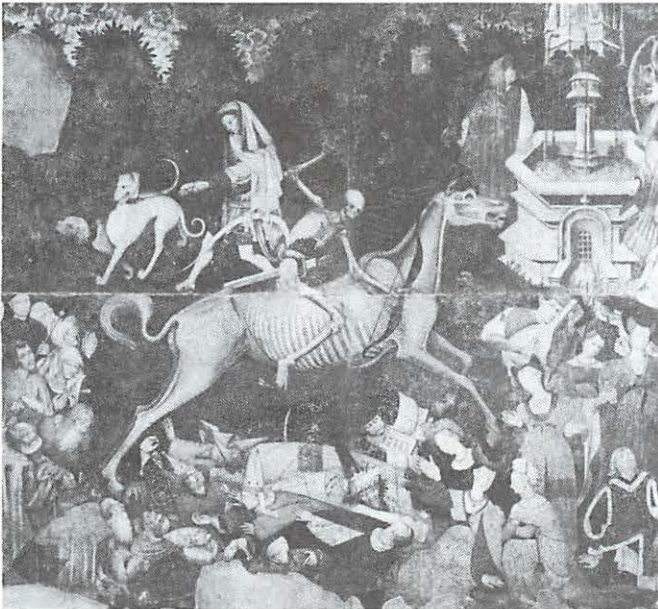


Map showing the spread of the Black Death in Europe. The shaded area identifies the region in which the Black Death infestation began. The lines illustrate the sweeping spread of the Plague at six-month intervals.

In A.D. 1347, a group of Genoese traders found themselves besieged by the Tartar Army in the Crimean port of Kaffa. After two years the siege was suddenly broken by an onslaught of the plague which decimated the attacking army.

In a fit of revenge, Tartar General Janiberg catapulted the diseased bodies of his dead soldiers over the wall into the city before he left it. The plague then began its relentless roll toward Europe. It gained a foothold in January of 1348 when four ships from Kaffa carrying the dreaded disease arrived in Genoa and Venice.

By the end of 1351, twenty-five million of Europe's population lay in hastily dug mass graves. Vienna lost eight thousand; Venice lost close to one hundred thousand; Florence lost three-fifths of her population; and in Marseilles, France, fifty-seven thousand died in only one month.



Mansell Collection

A Renaissance painting depicting the triumph of the Black Plague over all classes of people, including the clergy of the day, who had long since neglected to teach the commands of God's Law.

The destruction was so rapid that ships would embark from a port and several days later they would be spotted drifting aimlessly with the entire crew dead.

England was particularly devastated in the loss of one-half of her population or two and one-half million people in four short years. Entire villages stood silent, the air fouled with the stench of unburied bodies.

The Black Death destroyed the prosperity of fourteenth-century England and caused the feudal system to become just a memory within a matter of only 150 years.

A magic talisman worn by the people



"Abracadabra" is a term which probably originated from the name of a Gnostic deity. In the absence of Biblical understanding about cleanliness, panic-stricken people wore it as a magical charm to drive away the Black Death.

The Unclean Conditions of the Cities

The conditions in Europe were just right for an epidemic of the bubonic plague. Although the medieval towns were picturesque with their tiled houses, cottages, and shops nestled around the cathedral, castle, or public square, they demonstrated man's total disregard for Biblical guidelines on sanitation and pest control.



The Black Death: 1347

A medieval town which demonstrates the overcrowded conditions and resulting lack of sanitation

Streets were narrow and houses were oppressively close together. Sewage and garbage were conveniently tossed out the window and collected in the open gutters which ran down the middle of the streets. Rain then washed the offending mess into the local rivers from which the people obtained their drinking water.

The rat-flea-human connection was not discovered until the beginning of the twentieth century. Since the clear Biblical warnings about sanitation and the unclean nature of rodents were ignored, many strange remedies were offered.

During the Great London Plague in the seventeenth century an English physician said,

"Take large Oynions, pale them and lay three or foure of them upon the ground, let them lie ten daies, those picled Oynions will gather all the infection into them that is in one of those Roomes but burie those Oynions afterwards deep in the ground."

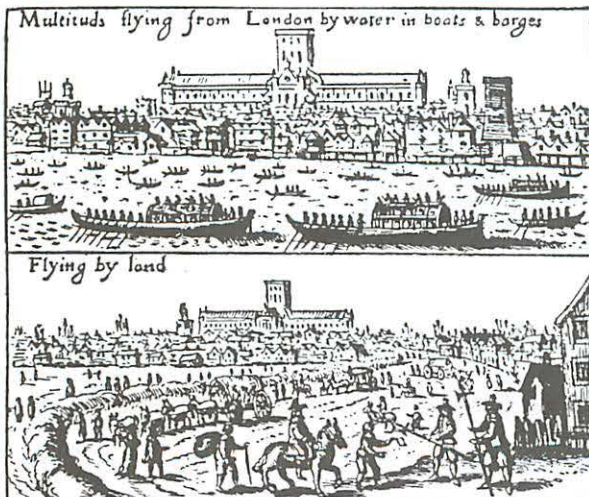
Some thought that wearing garlands of flowers would ward off the disease. Thus, the well-known rhyme began,

Ring a ring of rosies,
Pocket full of posies
Achoo, achoo,
All fall down.

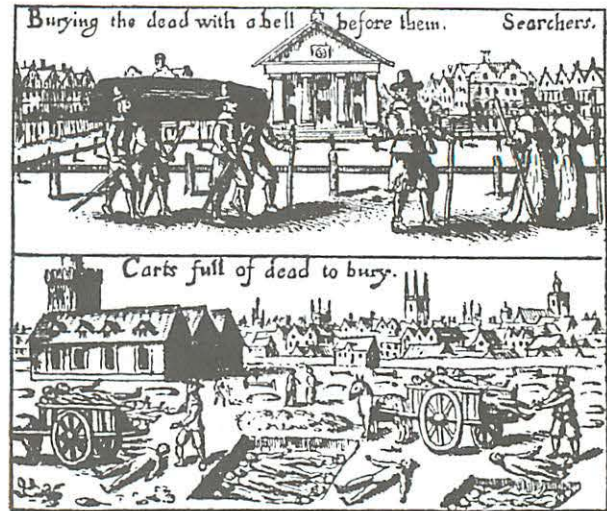


The Plague in Shakespeare's London,
by F.P. Wilson, Oxford University Press

A page from a medical book of the day described approved remedies for combating the plague. Unfortunately, these remedies failed to consider the Biblical guidelines which would have saved the people.



Pepysian Collection



Pepysian Collection

Scenes in London during the Great Plague showing how many people fled by sea and land and how multitudes of others died and were buried



Culver Pictures

A street scene during the London Plague of 1665. The town crier is shown here calling out, "Bring out your dead!" In the background, corpses are placed on a cart to be hauled away.

In a later outbreak, the German village Oberammergau decided to combat the plague by involving the village in a dramatic play on the life and death of Jesus Christ. The first performance was in A.D. 1634, and the play is still performed every ten years.

The Aftermath of the Black Death

One modern historian has called the Black Death probably the most terrible physical calamity in historic times. The Italian writer Petrarch worried that

later historians would not comprehend the nature of the total devastation.

"... that dreadful year 1348, which not merely robbed us of our friends, but robbed the whole world of its peoples . . . when was such a disaster ever seen, even heard of? In what records can we read that houses were emptied, cities abandoned, countrysides untilled, fields heaped with corpses, and a vast, dreadful solitude over all the world? Consult the historians; they are silent. . . . Posterity, will you believe what we who lived through it can hardly accept?"



A. Burnett Ham

Protective dress of a Marseilles doctor, 1720, after Manget, 1721

Doctors visiting plague victims believed that their noses should be covered to prevent the spread of infection. Pictured is the costume doctors wore as late as the eighteenth century when exposed to the plague.



The Black Plague

A Jewish doctor being burned at the stake near Geneva in 1348

The Persecution of the Jews

Hysteria generated by the effects of the extreme devastation of the bubonic plague caused people to do things which would never have been mentioned in more sane moments.

Though the plague claimed many Jewish lives along with the general populace, it was evident that those Jews who obeyed the Biblical hygiene laws had far fewer fatalities among their people. This observation brought them under suspicion, and many began to accuse the Jews of somehow causing the destruction to poison the rest of society.

Tragically, whole communities of Jews were then rounded up and burned. It is possible that as many as five hundred Jewish communities were exterminated throughout Western Europe. Panic carried thousands of remaining Jews to Poland and Eastern Europe.

Religious Frenzy and Legends

The numbing shock of living through the calamity of the bubonic plague drove many people either to moral debauchery (eat and have fun, for we will die soon), to the occult and magic, or to religious frenzy. One group which had appeared earlier in history now gained enormous popularity—the Flagellants.



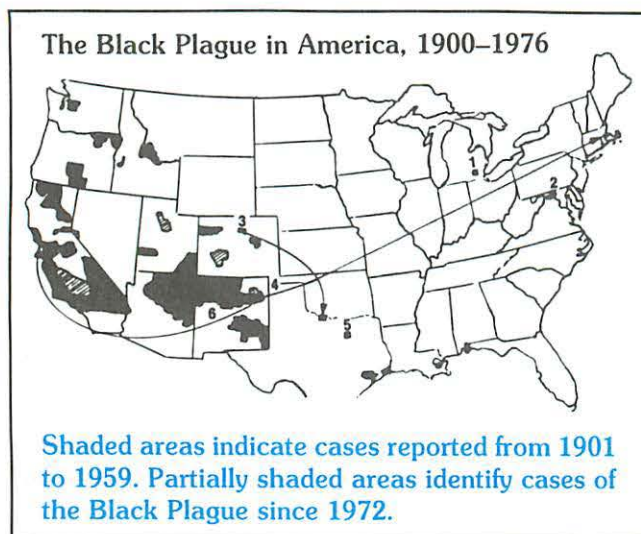
The Bettmann Archive

A large group of Flagellants marches across Europe

Traveling from town to town, they would with the blessing and permission of the Catholic Church stage public demonstrations of self-torture for the purpose of symbolically mingling their blood with Christ's to gain the hope of eternal life.

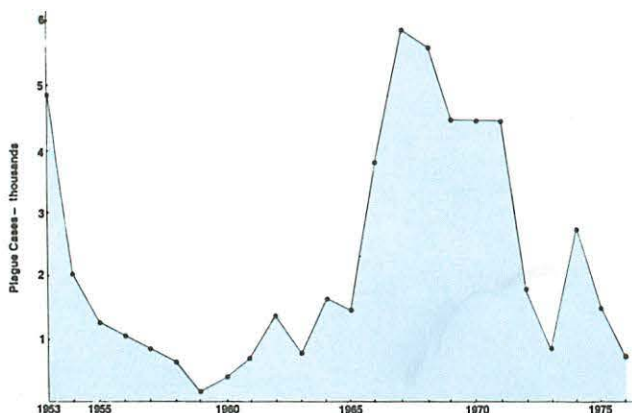
THE THIRD PANDEMIC

People often think of the past occurrences of plague infestation—such as the Black Death or the Great London Plague, which in the seventeenth century claimed one hundred thousand lives in six months—as the only such experiences in history. However, the most widespread outbreak of the bubonic plague actually occurred in the years 1850 to 1959.



This outbreak affected the entire world, touching virtually every continent. The Plague was introduced to the United States in 1901.

Human Plague cases in the U.S., 1953–1976



World Mortality from Plague, 1894–1938

Region	No. of Deaths
India	12,500,000
China and Formosa	250,000
Java	214,000
Madagascar	32,000
Africa	120,000
America	25,000
Europe (including southeast Russia)	1,000
Remainder of World	10,000
GRAND TOTAL	13,152,000

During this outbreak, the medical community was able to discover for the first time the true nature of the bubonic plague and to bring it under control.

THE NATURE OF THE BUBONIC PLAGUE

The pioneering efforts of two men, Alexandre Yersin and S. Kitasato, led to the identification of the cause of the bubonic plague in 1894.



Culver Pictures

Alexandre Yersin, 1863–1943

They found that the plague is caused by a small bacterium, *Pasteurella pestis* (later named *Yersinia pestis* in honor of Alexandre). This bacterium is probably the most virulent kind known to man. In its pneumonic form it is potentially the most contagious disease mankind could experience. Laboratory mice have died from being injected with as few as three to ten bacteria!

The potential for repeated outbreaks is great. The bacteria are resistant to cold and have survived ten years in refrigeration. The bacteria can also remain alive in moist garden soil for seven months and in dried saliva for three months.

The plague attacks suddenly and causes violent headaches, chills, fever, and the characteristic swellings called *buboes*. These swellings cause blood vessels to rupture, leaving black patches (bruises) under the skin. If diagnosed early in this stage, antibiotics will kill the bacteria and the victim will recover.

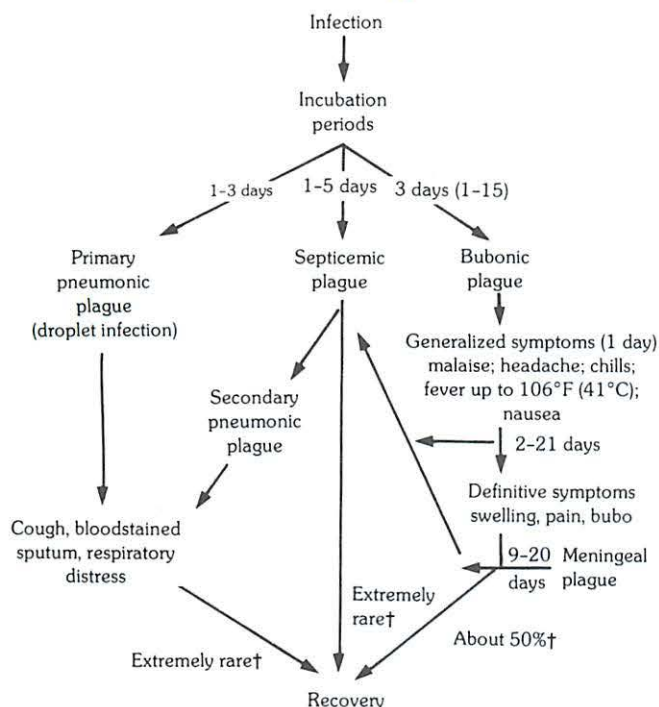
The infection in humans develops in three forms:

1. In the *bubonic* form the lymph glands or buboes in the groin or armpits swell with masses of

bacteria. Seventy-five percent of the cases begin this way. If detected early, this form is treatable with antibiotics.

2. When the bacteria attack the lungs, the disease enters the *pneumonic* stage. In this form, it becomes very contagious and deadly, for it is carried in the suspended water droplets expelled from the lungs in sneezing and coughing. Death usually follows quickly as the victim literally suffocates.
3. The *septicemic* form involves the infection of the bloodstream. In this form, the disease is not treatable, and death is certain and rapid.

The Development and Symptoms of Human Plague*



*Adapted from B. Velimirovic and Charles Elson, *Clinical Diagnosis of Plague*, Geneva: World Health Organization, 1973, with permission of WHO, and the assistance of Dr. Velimirovic. Pharyngeal plague, which may lead to septicemic, bubonic, or secondary pneumonic plague, is omitted.

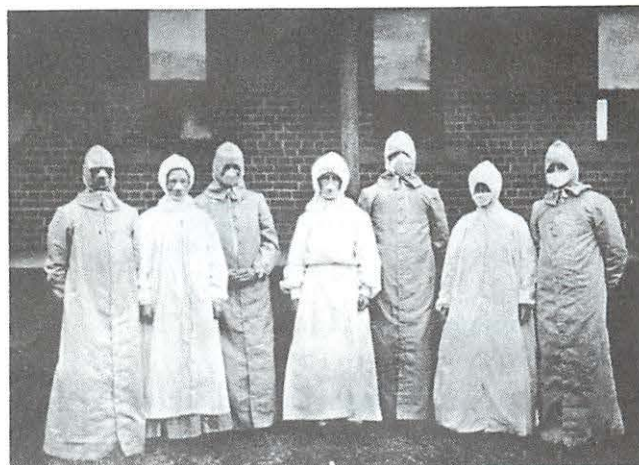
†If untreated

The Spread of the Disease

The bubonic plague is an animal disease particularly affecting rodents. Because of the relationship of high rat mortality and the onset of the plague in humans, suspicion of a connection was verbalized for years.

However, men were content through those years to live alongside the vermin in violation of the Biblical warning of their uncleanness. (See Leviticus 11:29-47.)

Many also ignored the Scriptures which prescribe a period of quarantine for those people who made themselves "unclean."



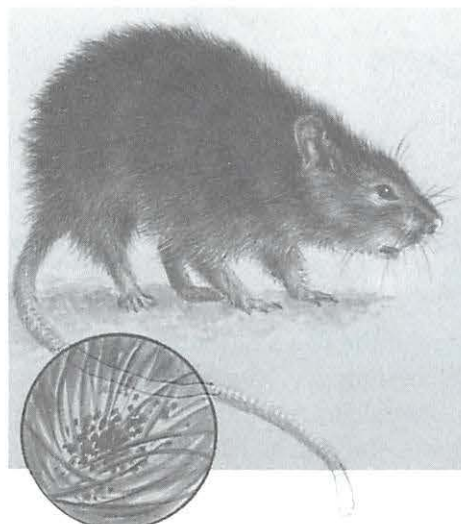
The Conquest of Plague

Protective garb worn by English doctors at the beginning of this century

The Sicilian city of Ragusa in 1377, however, required all persons from infected areas to remain distant from the city for a period of forty days. It is possible that the forty-day period was derived from the Scriptural guideline of forty-day separation for uncleanness.

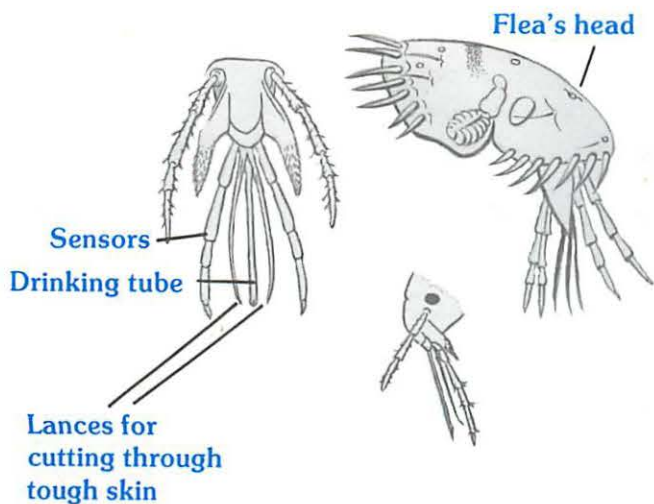
The reservoir of the bubonic plague is the rodent population. The English Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) and the Norwegian Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) are well-known sources of the infection. However, human infestation does not occur directly from the rat.

The vector which brings the disease upon human beings is the rat flea. When this aspect of the infestation is eliminated, the plague exists only among the rodents.

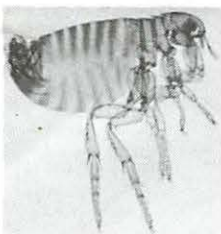


Black rats carry the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, which causes bubonic plague.

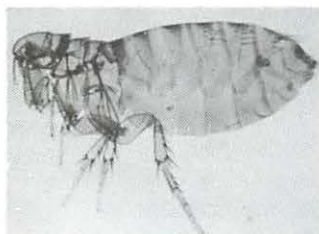
The rat flea, *Xenopsylla cheopsis*, transmits the disease from rat to rat and from rats to humans.



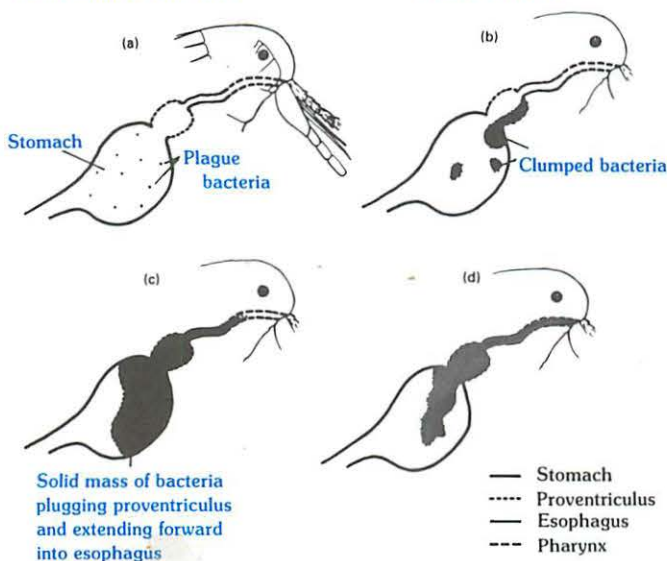
The flea is infected by feeding on diseased rodents. The bacteria grow quickly inside the flea's digestive tract, forming massive clumps and causing complete blockage. The flea then bites, but is unable to swallow. In a frenzy, the starving flea bites host after host, injecting thousands of bacteria with each bite.



Male flea magnified 16x



Female flea 20x



The blockage of the flea's digestive tract

After years of massive loss in human lives, foolish medical speculations, and the murder of innocent scapegoats, the medical community finally learned the methods of eliminating the bubonic plague. The procedures followed today simply implement the directions God gave to His people in His Law.

Realizing the connection between the plague and rodent infestation, the World Health Organization makes this statement:

"The role of rodents in the transmission of the plague to human beings is unquestionable. . . . The most effective methods of reducing the rodent population in human dwellings are those involving improvements in sanitation and proper waste disposal. . . ."

Has modern science eliminated our need to continue to heed God's Laws? One authority warns, "All the ingredients for a Fourth Pandemic are at hand. The tinder lies waiting for the spark. . . . The vicious bacillus [bacterium] has never really been tamed."

Only when Biblical laws are continuously followed can relief from the explosive virulence of the Black Death be expected. The success of plague suppression in the years since 1959 could end overnight if the "least" of God's commandments is neglected.

MUST WE UNDERSTAND GOD'S COMMANDS IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM THEM?

No. Those who keep God's commands, whether they understand them or not, ". . . shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

All of God's commands have a purpose. The uncleanness of rats was not understood until less than one hundred years ago, yet countless lives could have been saved by following the principles of cleanliness.

PROJECTS

1. Refer to your Time Line Chart to discuss the world events which occurred during the periods of bubonic plague epidemics.
2. Make a list of clean and unclean animals from the Scriptures. Determine why God would designate them "clean" or "unclean." Add to your list practices which God called "unclean." Discuss how observing God's descriptions would protect your health.
3. Visit your local Public Health Department. Observe how they inspect buildings for rodent and insect infestation. What steps are taken to help the community practice good sanitation habits?

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____