

Paul Barnum
2977 St Rte #3
Fulton, NY 13069



Swordsman Teen Newsletter



**Jesus is the reason
for the Season**



On Twitter at paulbarnum

bropaul@swordsmanteen.com

Birds and Creeping Things ~ Circle the right answer:

1. Which bird brought food to Elijah?
A - Dove
B - Swallow
C - Raven
D - Pigeon
2. Which bird was given to the children of Israel in the wilderness for food?
A - Partridge
B - Pheasant
C - Quail
D - Albatross
3. Elijah prophesied that the birds of the air would eat the bodies of this man's family:
A - Ahab
B - Jehu
C - Jehoshaphat
D - Zerubbabel
4. Jesus confronted people selling doves
A - In the temple.
B - On the Sabbath.
C - For too much money.
D - For cruelty to animals.
5. Which of these was not a clean bird?
A - Dove
B - Vulture
C - Turkey
D - Pigeon
6. How many young pigeons were offered as a sacrifice upon the birth of a firstborn?
A - None
B - One
C - Two
D - Three
7. Which bird did God say, 'lays her eggs on the ground and lets them warm in the sand, unmindful that a foot may crush them?'
A - Osprey
B - Swallow
C - Ostrich
D - Turtledove
8. When God told the children of Israel to turn back into the wilderness and they instead went forward, which nation chased them 'as bees do?'
A - Egyptians
B - Assyrians
C - Philistines
D - Amorites
9. Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man
A - Dwells in the hearts of believers.
B - Is in Heaven.
C - Walks within our footsteps.
D - Has no place to lay his head.
10. In the days of Jesus, two of these birds were sold for a penny.
A - Pigeons
B - Sparrows
C - Wrens
D - Storks
11. James tells us that all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man. According to James, what cannot be tamed?
A - Insects
B - A child
C - The tongue
D - The heart
12. On which day were birds created?
A - Second
B - Third
C - Fourth
D - Fifth
13. What was the first bird that Noah let out of the ark?
A - Dove
B - Lapwing
C - Raven
D - Pigeon
14. When the Gibeonites killed 7 of Saul's household, who protected their bodies from the fowls of the air?
A - Rizpah, Saul's concubine
B - Michal, Saul's daughter
C - Merab, Jonathan's sister
D - Abigail, David's wife
15. Samson's riddle was about bees in...
A - A tree stump
B - A bear's carcass
C - A cave
D - A lion's carcass
16. Whose hair grew 'like eagle's feathers?'
A - Sennacherib
B - Nebuchadnezzar
C - Samson
D - Gideon
17. They will 'soar on wings like eagles.'
A - Those who hope in the LORD
B - Those who follow the truth
C - Those who pray without ceasing
D - Those who reject evildoers
18. One of the four faces of the living creatures that Ezekiel saw was which bird?
A - Eagle
B - Raven
C - Hawk
D - Stork
19. The spirit of God descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove after this event:
A - His transfiguration
B - His baptism
C - His temptation
D - His crucifixion
20. Who interpreted a dream about birds eating bread out of a basket?
A - Daniel
B - Jacob
C - Joseph
D - Jeremiah

Swordsman Teen Newsletter

All Scripture in this publication is from the King James Bible.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

2023

DECEMBER

ISSUE 12

VOLUME 16,



Psalms 18:46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Some True Reasons for the Season

Luke 2:8-20 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. **15** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Let's face it, the Christmas season is a time that is loved by many and hated by just as many. Yet regardless of which side of that issue you fall on, this much is true, the Christmas season is a time filled with many mixed messages and pagan and worldly rituals. I mean, this is supposed to be the one time in the year when the world remembers the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, and every year we muddy the waters of truth by allowing the Scriptural meaning of the season to be mingled with other messages that have their origin in the world. Now I enjoy Christmas as much as the next person, but I just want you to be aware that there are some terrible misconceptions surrounding the true meaning of the season. To some, it is all about money, commercialism, and greed. Others see it as a time for parties, meals, and get-togethers. Many children know Christmas only as a time for Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Santa, and presents. As a result, some children have no idea what the true meaning of Christmas is all about.

A little boy came home from Sunday School. He was excited about learning about the wise men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. He was so excited that he had to tell his mother. He said, "I learned today in Sunday School all about the first Christmas. There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three fellows on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there, so they had to have this big spotlight in the sky to find their way around."

Some one has compared Santa Claus and the Lord Jesus in a piece called "Santa Versus Jesus."

Santa lives at the North Pole. **Jesus** lives everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh. **Jesus** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes once a year. **Jesus** is an ever present help.

Continued on Page 3

Issue

Some True Reasons for the Season	1&3
Bible Brain Teaser	2
My Drug Problem	2
Don't Forget Jesus	2
A Car Accident	3
Christmas Riddles	3
Answers to: Bird and Creeping Things	4
Answer to: A Bible Brain Teaser	4
A Handsome Tip	4
True Pride	4
Pancakes	4
Flatter minister	4
Last Christmas	

Bible Brain Teaser

Answer on Page 4

There are names of 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. (A preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes, but it took him three weeks to find the 16th one.) Good "luck"!

"I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph."

My Drug Problem

It's not easy owning up to this. I am very reluctant to expose a problem that started in my childhood, but if confession is good for the soul, maybe I'll feel better.

I can't really say when my problem started because it seems it's always been with me. When I was less than a year old, my father walked out on my mother, leaving her with four children. Dad and his girlfriend ate well. We didn't.

Maybe the poverty had something to do with it. The thing I remember is, that being poor was very inexpensive, but it had drawbacks. We couldn't even afford electricity. I was the only one on our block who had a kerosene stereo.

Another thing about those hated times is mother couldn't buy Spock's book on child raising and I couldn't hire an attorney to sue for separation, so we did with what we had and used the Holy Bible as a guide. That's very likely where the drug problem started.

As a child, I was drug to Sunday School, drug to Sunday evening service, and drug to Wednesday evening Bible study. And when we had revival meetings, my cruel mother drug me to church nightly.

I will always believe my life is forever marked by a childhood incident at the grocery store. I gave into temptation and stole a handful of candy only to have my sin revealed. I felt like a dope when mother drug me to the owner of the store, I acknowledged my wrongdoing and paid for my sin.

I can't remember the entire episode, or the speech that followed, but it seems like she said something about

values and respecting what other people owned. She said, "The Bible says, 'Thou shalt not steal.' If you want things, learn to work for them. Don't steal from someone else." With that I was saddled with yet another lifetime burden: a work ethic.

I really should mention how my ego suffered irreparable damage by not having my way all the time. Numerous times I was drug to the woodshed for an attitude adjustment. The altering instrument was from a cottonwood tree in the backyard, bereft of its lower limbs.

Actually, I really shouldn't be reluctant to talk about such drug problems because they've spared me heartache throughout all of my adult life. They've shaped my values and given me a sense of responsibility. Instead of being desensitized, I've learned respect for others and myself.

And though I am not so vain as to make a claim of moral perfection, I will always be grateful for the good influences of the drugs. Traces of them are still in my veins.
-Author Unknown

Don't Forget Jesus

Christmas is a special time
To reflect on Jesus Christ,
The wonder of His lowly birth
Brings meaning to our lives
There really is no other reason,
We celebrate this day,
The birth of God's precious son
And the life, He willingly gave
But so much seems to distract us
In the busyness of our lives,
We lose our focus in all the happenings,
Not knowing, we leave out Christ
We lose sight of the true meaning
As we endlessly rush about,
Trying to find that perfect gift,
Seems to cloud our Saviour out
We need to stop and reflect awhile,
Remembering our precious Lord,
His birth, His life and sacrifice
And all that He stands for
For though the world may celebrate,
It seems, though, for other reasons,
Let's keep in mind that Jesus Christ
Is the true meaning of the season.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Luke 2:11 For unto
you is born this day in
the city of David a
Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:7 And
she brought
forth her first-
born son, and
wrapped him in
swaddling
clothes, and laid
him in a man-
ger; because
there was no
room for them
in the inn.

**Do you have
room for
JESUS this
season!**

The Greatest Gift: Memory verse

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift of God:**

Some True Reason for the Season

Santa comes down your chimney. **Jesus** stands at your door and knocks and then enters your heart when invited.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies. **Jesus** supplies all your needs. **Philippians 4:19**

You have to wait in line to see **Santa**. **Jesus** is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit in his lap. **Jesus** holds you in His hands. **John 10:27-29**

Santa has a belly like a bowl of jelly. **Jesus** has a heart of love. **John 3:16**

Santa's little helpers makes new toys. **Jesus** makes new lives. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Santa puts gifts under your tree. **Jesus** became our gift and died on a tree...the cross. **Romans 6:23**

Luke 1:26-33; Matthew 1:20-23. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He was literally God in human flesh -

John 1:1, 14! All through His life, He proved His distinctiveness. He taught like no other man. He performed miracles that nobody else could ever duplicate.

He healed, He preached, He loved, He reached out. His life was one miraculous event after another. However,

none of those things qualifies Him to be Savior. It wasn't enough for God to send His Son into the world, but that same Jesus had to be "given up."

When **John 3:16** tells us that God **"gave His only begotten Son,"** that is the precise meaning. **God gave Jesus up to die on the**

cross for you and me so that our sin debt might be paid and so that we might have the opportunity to be saved from an eternity in Hell. **Thank God for giving the**

greatest gift! Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8

The cradle was the first stop on a road that was to end at an old rugged cross.

Men should give their souls to God.

Nobody likes to receive a gift and then not be able to give a gift in return. God gave His Son to die for sinners. If we are to give a gift to the Lord, what would it be? There were two groups who gave themselves to Him in connection with the birth and early life of the Lord - the shepherds, **Luke 2:8-10** and the wise men, **Matthew 2:1-12.**

We all have that someone on our gift list who seems to have everything already. What do you give someone who has everything? **Think about it, what can you and I give God?** He doesn't need our money. He can get by without our talents. He doesn't need a fruit basket or a new tie or some socks or handkerchiefs. In fact, when you get right down to it, not one of us really possesses anything anyway. You say, "I own my house!" Just stop paying the taxes for a few years and see who owns it! You say, "I own my cars!" Again, stop paying the insurance and the taxes and see who controls that car. You say, "Well, I own my money!" Just let the economy crash and then tell me what you have left. **There is only one true possession that we each have, and it is our soul.** I have control over it, and if I want to give

something to the Lord, then it must be my soul. It is the only thing I have that I can honestly give.

Notice, this is the intent of:

Mark 8:36-37 *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

The question arises then, have you given your heart and soul to the Lord? If not, there is no better time than today to make that happen.

2 Corinthians 6:2 *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

A Car Accident

One day, while a **blonde** was out driving her car, she ran into a truck. The truck's driver made her pull over into a parking lot and get out of the car. He took a piece of chalk and drew a circle on the pavement. He told her to stand in the middle and not leave the circle. Furious, he went over to her car and slashed the tires. The blonde started laughing. This made the man angrier so he smashed her windshield. This time, the blonde laughed even harder. Livid, the man broke all her windows and keyed her car. The blonde is now laughing hysterically, so the truck driver asks her what's so funny. The blonde giggles and replies, "When you weren't looking, I stepped out of the circle three times.

Christmas Riddles:

What do elves learn in school?

Answer: The elf-abet

What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

Answer: The Christmas alphabet has no L (Noel)

What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?

Answer: Silent Night

Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

Answer: So he can Hoe, Hoe, Hoe.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Answer: Frosted Flakes

What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?

Answer: Sandy claws

What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit?

Answer: Crisp Cringle

What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?

Answer: Neither, candles always burn shorter.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Answer: He had low elf esteem.

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Answer: Claustrophobic

Answers to: Birds and Creeping Things

- 1) C - Raven *Kings 17:4*
- 2) C - Quail *Numbers 11:31*
- 3) A - Ahab *Kings 21:24*
- 4) A - In the temple *John 2:14-16*
- 5) B - Vulture *Deuteronomy 14:12*
- 6) C - Two *Luke 2:22-24*
- 7) C - Ostrich *Job 39:13-15*
- 8) D - Amorites *Deuteronomy 1:44*
- 9) D - Has no place to lay his head. *Matthew 8:20*
- 10) B - Sparrows *Matthew 10:29*
- 11) C - The tongue *James 3:7-8*
- 12) D - Fifth *Genesis 1:21-23*
- 13) C - Raven *Genesis 8:7*
- 14) A - Rizpah, Saul's concubine *2 Samuel 21:10-11*
- 15) D - A lion's carcass *Judges 14:8, 14, 18*
- 16) B - Nebuchadnezzar *Daniel 4:33*
- 17) A - Those who hope in the LORD *Isaiah 40:30*
- 18) A - Eagle *Ezekiel 1:10*
- 19) B - His baptism *Matthew 3:16*
- 20) C - Joseph *Genesis 40:16-18*

Answers to: A Bible Brain Teaser

Gave up, huh? I could find only fifteen but with a little help from a friend, I got the last one.

"I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph."

A Handsome Tip

A man finds his seat in the theater, but it's too far from the stage. He whispers to the usher, "This is a mystery and I have to watch a mystery close up. Get me a better seat, and I'll give you a handsome tip." The usher moves him to the second row, and the man hands the usher a quarter. The usher looks at the quarter and then leans over and whispers, "The wife did it."

True Pride

A minister, a Boy Scout, and a computer expert were the only passengers on a small plane. The pilot came back to the cabin and said that the plane was going down but there were only three parachutes and four people. The pilot added, "I should have one of the parachutes because I have a wife and three small children." So he took one and jumped. The computer whiz said, "I should have one of the parachutes because I am the smartest man in the world and everyone needs me." So he took one and jumped. The minister turned to the Boy Scout and with a sad smile said, "You are young and I have lived a rich life, so you take the remaining parachute, and I'll go down with the plane." The Boy Scout said, "Relax, Reverend, the smartest man in the world just picked up my knapsack and jumped out!"

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait'." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Flattered Minister

A pastor was leaving his area and was saying farewell to his congregation at the Church doors for the last time. He shook the hand of an elderly lady as she walked out. She said "Your successor won't be as good as you." "Nonsense", said the pastor, in a flattered tone. "No, really", said the old lady, "I've been here under five different ministers, and each new one has been worse than the last."

Last Christmas

Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age, and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead. In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early. He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had receiving very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives to ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.



The End