

ENCOUNTER —WITH— GOD

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EXTRA

scriptureunion
HELPING PEOPLE MEET GOD EVERY DAY

A GUIDE FOR MEETING GOD DAILY IN HIS WORD

2. Consider 4:16. Discuss how far we should carry this prohibition. Are statues in churches covered by this language? How about pictures of Jesus or the apostles? Why do you think God forbids this practice?
3. Discuss the wisdom of 7:3-4 in light of the tendency of today's Christian to marry an unbeliever. What kind of problematic seeds does this plant in the marriage?

1. Discuss the relationship between prospering materially (Deuteronomy 8:12-13) and forgetting about God (v.11). Which likely causes what and why? And why do you think the prosperity gospel more prevalent in prosperous nations?
2. Consider the language of 11:12. What does this say about the exaggerated attention that the tiny strip of land we know as the Holy Land receives on a world scale? Could Zechariah 12:3 shed some further light on this?
3. Why the language of 16:19-20 for how justice will be carried out? Is our tendency to violate this real and not just imagined? Do you think King Jehoshaphat 600 years later was aware of this commandment, or was he operating out of a sense of fundamental fairness (II Chronicles 19:5-7)?
4. Why do you think God condemns in the strongest possible terms supplied by the Hebrew language (toevah, “abomination” in English) any and all participation in the occult. What is so offensive about this? For some clarification, see I Chronicles 10:13-14.

1. Consider the final verse of Psalm 60. Has God ever undertaken for you in such a way? What were the circumstances?
2. Discuss Deuteronomy 29:29. What do you think “secret things” refers to in its immediate context? How about in an expanded context?
3. Deuteronomy 31:9 informs us that Moses wrote this law for the priests. Is “this law” confined to the priests? Is it binding on anyone else? How would you support extending its jurisdiction over others? Did Jesus ever apply it?
4. The burial of Moses is one of a kind. See 34:5-6. Why do you think God has withheld the site of the grave of Moses from forthcoming generations? Could II Kings 18:4 elucidate things for us?

1. Read II Corinthians 1:11 slowly and carefully. Moving phrase-by-phrase within the verse, discuss how it squares with your church. How do activities in your church embody what this is saying?

2. Consider 2:11. List some of the ways that Satan takes advantage of unwary believers. What deviations from God's will allow him to take such advantage?

3. What do you think Paul means in 3:2? What are the ramifications of this verse? If we take this language seriously, how then should we be living our lives?

4. In 5:10 we are told that we will account for the good and the bad in our past life. Discuss what the bad could involve. And in light of Romans 8:1, how can there be bad things brought up? Is "the bad" necessarily sinful acts?

- 1.** Discuss II Corinthians 5:12 in light of today. What does boasting in appearance and not in heart describe in the current scheme of things? Outward talent? Church size? Multiplicity of church activities? Personal Bible knowledge? Does this unflattering language apply to some in your church? If so, how?

- 2.** In light of the frontal assault on Christianity all over the world, how important does 6:3 suddenly become? In what ways do average unsuspecting Christians violate this mandate?

- 3.** How do we carry out the mandate of 6:17 in this day and age? From what are we to separate ourselves? Can Christians have a checking account? Fly in an airplane? Vote in elections? Watch television? How do we obey this mandate?

- 4.** In light of I Corinthians 8, is the Old Testament tithe binding on New Testament Christians? Pay particular attention to vv. 8-15 as you formulate your answer.

1. Psalm 63:1, among other places, encourages us to seek God early. What do you understand by “early”? Early in life? Early in the morning? If early in life, what good king can you recall who sought God at 15? What are the accompanying advantages? If early in the morning, why would God recommend this?
2. Discuss the recommendations of II Corinthians 9:6-7. Why is it a good idea to heed these admonitions? As for giving grudgingly, see Proverbs 3:9 and discuss the difference in attitude on the part of each category of giver.
3. In light of 10:12, why do you think God gave us a Bible? If we are to be the standard, do you think we might fall short of the actual standard, Jesus Himself? How does this verse bear on Ephesians 4:13?
4. Do you personally approve of the recommendation found in 13:5? Is it useless language in light of what Paul says in Romans 8:29-30? What might be the common ground between each reality?

1. Consider the language of Psalm 64:7-8. Because taking this language literally would be fool's-play, we must presume that the psalmist speaks figuratively. Have you ever experienced God doing something like this to one of His enemies?

2. For a pagan king, Cyrus seems to have some insight into how to please the Living God. What information in Ezra 1 could you cite to buttress such a claim? Consider also the information supplied in 6:1-5.

3. Ezra 3:12 has been variously assessed over the centuries. Why do you think the older men are weeping when the foundation for the new temple is completed?

4. Like Cyrus, King Darius also has a positive talent for issuing edicts that God likes. In light of his decree in 6:6-12, what items would you cite that give rise to such an assertion?

1. A curious statement lurks at the end of v. 4 in Psalm 65, where David speaks of God's holy temple. Given that the temple was not built during David's lifetime, to which temple might he be referring? Or might he be referring to the tabernacle as "the temple?" Or, do you think he simply anticipates it?
2. Upon hearing of Jerusalem's broken down wall, Nehemiah prays a very effective prayer. See 1:5-11. Identify aspects of this prayer that qualify it as highly noteworthy.
3. Malchijah, son of Harim, mentioned in 3:11, was backslidden in Ezra 10:31. Now he has bricks and mortar in hand and is hard at work. What do you think prompted him to get on board? What influence jump-started this?
4. See 4:7-23. The wall, we are told, is being built under considerable duress. See esp., vv.17 and 23. What stressful times can you cite during your years of church involvement? Were actual church members sometimes the cause?

1. In Psalm 66:18 we are told something ominous. What do you think constitutes “iniquity” here? Jealousy? Unforgiveness? Arrogance? Something else? And why God’s refusal simply to hear a prayer?
2. Has a modern day version of Nehemiah 6:15-16 ever happened to you? Did God accomplish in your life what those around you were hoping would never happen?
3. Note the prominence of the word “understand” in 8:7,8,12. Discuss the importance of understanding what is being delivered from the pulpit. Have you ever left a service clueless as to what the message was even about?
4. In 9:7 we are told something important: God chose Abram. Does God indeed choose some over others? If so, what might his reasoning be? And just how far do we take this choosing business? All the way to salvation itself?

1. In Psalm 67, those who believe in the millennium (the thousand year reign of Christ on earth) find doctrinal support. What statements in this psalm could be recruited to support this doctrine?

2. The ominous language of II Peter 2:1-3 is applied not to murderers, drug dealers, traffickers, or car thieves, but for teachers who simply teach wrong things. Why do you think these types make God so hot under the collar?

3. II Peter 2:4 has always been of interest to Bible expositors. Who do you think these angels are? Can we pinpoint them somewhere in the Old Testament?

4. Can you identify some modern day candidates for the scoffers cited in 3:3-4?

1. In light of Psalm 68:19, name some of the benefits under consideration. Begin with your nation and scale it down to your personal situation.
2. There are several notable items in Esther 1, some of which pertain to women at large. If you were in Vashti's place, what would have been your reaction to vv.10-11? Was her response wise or ill-advised? Given the sentiment of v.17, doesn't this indicate that women do enjoy considerable leverage over men?
3. As noted in the "think further" section, Esther, as his queen, would be required to sleep with this pagan king. Jewish laws forbids such things. How do we reconcile this with the idea that God engineered this whole thing, if indeed He did? Was God only half involved, perhaps?
4. Discuss the loud and bitter cry of 4:1. What do you think prompted this? Was it the reality of a forthcoming genocide or Mordecai's realization that he brought it on?

1. Among the difficulties in the story of Esther is Haman's gallows, said to be fifty cubits high in 5:14 and in 7:9. This would be a 75 ft. high gallows. Given that a two story house is around 30 ft. high, what do you make of this?
2. Consider 7:10 in light of Proverbs 26:27. Can you cite other contemporary examples of this sort of thing happening?
3. What do you make of 8:17? Why all the sudden conversions to Judaism? What do you think "fear of the Jews" means?
4. At face value, the institution of Purim as a national feast day (9:26-28) violates Proverbs 30:6, since it is obviously a feature added to Judaism. Is this a fair assessment? Might there be an extenuating reason for adding Purim to the Jewish universe?

1. Why or why not could the mighty angel of Revelation 10:1-3 be Jesus?
2. The identity of the two witnesses of 11:3-6 has been the object of speculation over the centuries. Premillennialists generally feel that one is Elijah. What basis would there be for this view? If one is Elijah, who might the other be? Moses? Enoch? Why or why not?
3. What earmarks in 13:1-7 would allow identifying the beast as a man?
4. Literal fulfillment of 13:16-17 has been impossible until the relatively recent invention of which device? Do you think the powers that be can control the personal commerce of seven billion people, even with this device? Do you think the prediction refers to only civilized, commercialized societies?

1. In Psalm 71:18 we find an insightful remark, namely, that the psalm was penned by a senior citizen of that day. What wisdom from the words of this psalm could you impart to your children and grandchildren based on your years of experience with the Lord?

2. The language of 14:6 contains an highly unusual activity that is rarely, if ever, seen during the Church Age. What do you think it is, and why is this so unusual?

3. What of the song of Moses, 15:3? What relevance does Moses have in all this? Refer to Exodus 15:1ff, and compare the themes found there to those in Revelation 15:3-4.