

THE EXAM

MATH

Little Bobby is in the third grade and is an average student, but he heard on TV something about *prodigy* kids. He liked the attention they got ... and thought if he knew some *really smart stuff*, then he could be a prodigy also. He had his older brother, who was attending college, to write down a math question for him. Next day in class Bobby asked his teacher to explain the *non-associative ring of vectors in three-dimensional Euclidean space*.

QUESTION – How should Bobby's teacher, Mrs. Snodgrass, reply?

ANSWER – Mrs. Snodgrass should explain to Bobby that there is a *progression* that is necessary to attain the background to be able to understand, not only this question, but the *answer* to this question.

Mrs. Snodgrass should tell little Bobby that he must learn math subjects in the following *order*,

1. arithmetic
2. algebra
3. geometry
4. trigonometry
5. calculus
6. advanced calculus
7. differential equations
8. advanced differential equations

With *number theory* and other *esoteric* math classes sprinkled in.

But Bobby wants the answer *right now* ... he does not want to *wait* and *wade* through all these preliminaries.

PROBLEM

Life just does not work that way.

You have to lay the *foundation* before you attempt the more *complex* or *obscure* points.

It is true for *mathematics* and it is also true for *Bible Study*.

Asking for the interpretation of more detailed passages of Scripture when one has not yet mastered the *basics* of Scripture, is a sure fire recipe for getting into trouble.

Some portions of the Bible are more difficult to understand than others. Peter said,

II Peter 3 - 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. **15** Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as *our dear brother Paul* also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. **16** He *writes* the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. *His letters contain* some things that are *hard to understand*, which ignorant and unstable people *distort*, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Not everyone who misunderstands a portion of Scripture is *ignorant* or *unstable*. Some are. Others just need more instruction.

Churches

Unfortunately ... *Bible Study* is one of the *LEAST EMPHASIZED PORTIONS* of the church today. I use the lowercase *church* rather than the uppercase *Church*, because I am not so sure that many of these *churches* can really be labeled as *Christian* any more.

Secularism has woven its way into America's *political*, *judicial*, and *educational* systems. But, even more, and even worse, *secularism* has rotted away the *foundation* of the Church. Most Churches today are really *churches* (lowercase) ... places of *spiritual entertainment* and *fellowship* and *music*. You will have to look far and wide to find a Church that takes *teaching* the Bible seriously.

If they do not take God's *Word* (the Bible) seriously ... then they cannot be taking God seriously either.

Simple *test*. (Even this test is an example of how bad off is the state of the *church* today! Most of you will not even know about this book ... and if you do, bet you will have a hard time finding a copy). The *test* requires you to find a copy of the book called **Halley's Bible Handbook**, Zondervan Publishing, by Henry H. Halley. Mine has a series of copyrights from 1927 ... 1959.

IF you should find a copy, turn to the *table of contents*. Now go to almost the end of the T.O.C. My copy has a chapter listing that is sixth from the end ... with **ALL** capital letters.

MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THIS BOOK 814-818

If I turn to page 814, I see that it says,

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
IN THIS BOOK
IS
The Simple Suggestion:
THAT EACH CHURCH HAVE**

.....

I will not tell you what it *suggests* ... if you want to find out, then you will have to scrounge a copy of

Halley's Bible Handbook for yourself! Suffice to say ... it *really* **RIPS** the Church ... even the Church 75 years ago. I fear what Halley would say about today's version.

But Halley did not only say that something was wrong with the Church of his day ... he told how to **FIX** the problem.

Your *test* is to **read** Halley's **FIX** ... then **compare** what he suggested to your local *church* and it's *activities*. There ain't no comparison!

You can find out more about Henry H. Halley at this web link,

<http://www.therestorationmovement.com/halley,hh.htm>

If you do go this link and read about Halley ... a **second** *test* for you would be to *compare* Halley with your local Pastor. Not a happy picture.

Between A Rock and a Hard Place

So where are we? We have *churches* who, by-and-large, have only the *poorest excuse* for what could be called Bible *teaching*.

We look at the *church members* ... and there is little surprise why they are so *ignorant* of the Bible.

They can go to their local *bible book store* ... and wade through the *music, trinkets, counseling, pictures, jewelry* ... and just plain *religious junk* ... in hope of finding some solid Biblical information. The history of *Dightman's Bible Book Store* in Tacoma is a microcosm of how religious interest and instruction has snowballed *downhill* in the last decades.

They can turn on TV ... with one-after-another *religious* program that is just that r-e-l-i-g-i-o-u-s ... **not** Christian.

So it is little wonder that so many churchgoers today are so *Biblically Illiterate*.

There is, however, a *saying* that you should mull over in your mind.

*A person can be **sincerely wrong**,
but once **shown** the TRUTH,
that person must then **choose** to no longer be SINCERE ...
... or no longer be WRONG*

Americans ... and *especially* Americans ... will have **NO EXCUSE** on Judgment Day to try and convince God that their *theology* was all messed up **because** there was just no *source* of sound Biblical information available to them. There are sources available ... even if your local *church* is not one of them. It is up to you to,

- search
- ask
- listen

- think
- be open to *possibility* that you might need to be *corrected*

*II Timothy 3 - 16All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful** for **teaching**, **rebuking**, **correcting** and **training** in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Do not try and tell God that you did not have time because you had to watch the *World Series*, *UFC*, or *Antique Road Show*.

Most of all it is up to you to,

- **READ** your BIBLE ... **STUDY** your BIBLE

There are a couple other pretty good sayings,
The Bible only,
makes Christians only

Speak where the Bible speaks,
and be Silent where the Bible is silent

Again ... do not just *casually* read your Bible ... **study** your Bible.

THE EXAM

This paper is titled The Exam ... so *where* is this exam ... and *why* is there an exam?

In college, a student can sometimes *skip* courses, or even years, if the student can take exam(s) to **prove** that they **know** the subjects.

Churches should bring the *Cliff Notes* version of Bible College Courses down to the local Church ... so that the *few* who can arrange to attend Bible College (Seminary, Divinity School, etc) will provide instruction and opportunity to the *many* who could not.

Each Church should have a *Course List* ... just like colleges have ... of courses offered, when they are offered, prerequisites to take a course, etc.

Before taking a class on *Eschatology* (End Times) ... one should first complete the *prerequisite* classes on,

- Old Testament Survey
- New Testament Survey
- Life of Christ
- Epistles
- Christian Theology
- Worship
- Hermeneutics (How to *Interpret* the Bible)

Then you might be in a better position to add a course on,

- Prophecy

But ... you may be the type of person who has done his *homework* all throughout your life ... and as the student above who was able to take and pass exam(s) so that they could advance more quickly ... you may be able, and should have the opportunity, to take your own **exam(s)** for these local Church Bible courses.

I am going to give you **TWELVE EXAM QUESTIONS** that you should be able to *answer* **before** you go *digging* into *details* of **Prophecy**.

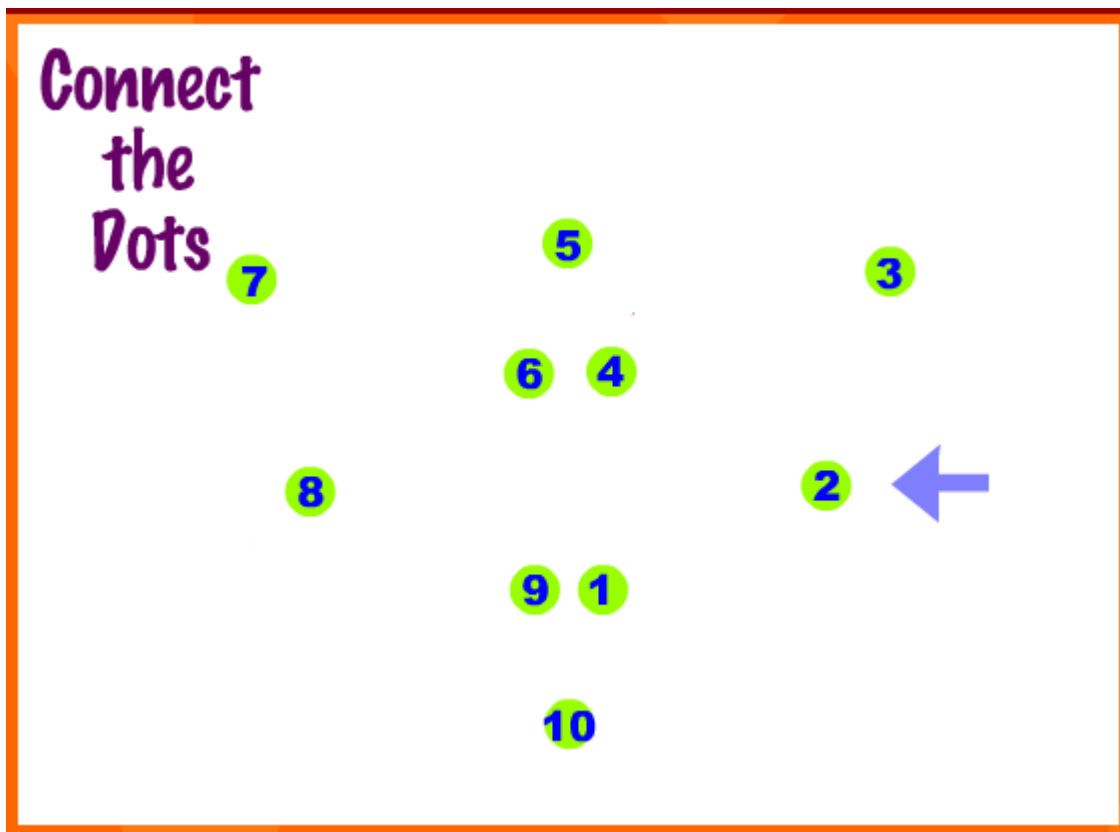
Think of those *connect-the-dots* pictures where you must connect the correct dots in order to *discover* the *hidden* picture. Here is an example. You must connect the dots in order to find the picture of the puppy.

Make dot to dot puzzles from digital photos... [Go to Tutorial](#)



That was pretty simple.

Now here is a puzzle without the answer.



How did you do on this one?

HINT – Draw curves that connect the *numbers* in *order*.

If you still can't figure it out ... see the **answer** on the next page.



We are not drawing *butterflies* ... but we really are doing something *very similar*.

We *must* select the **BASIC** set of points that will make up our *picture* (i.e., Prophetic Interpretation).

Do we see our interpretation as being Premillennial, Amillennial, Postmillennial, Dispensational?

You may not *know* those terms ... but that is usually what is being *taught*, without giving it a name, in your local *Church*.

So what we *must* do is to select the **MAJOR** set of *Biblical dots* that will make up our *Biblical picture*.

Biblical Set of Twelve Dots

#1 – **Who** is the **King**? Is this King **reigning** now? **What** is the **Throne of David**?

#2 – **What** is the **Kingdom**? Does that Kingdom **exist now**, or is it **future**?

#3 – **What** is meant by **Reigning** on the **Throne of David**? Is that happening **now**, or is it **future**?

#4 – **Elijah** was prophesied to return. **When** did/will Elijah return? Explain.

#5 – It was prophesied that the **Temple** would be **Rebuilt**. **When** did/will this take place? Explain.

#6 – A **New Covenant** was **predicted**. **When** did/will that New Covenant be **established**? Explain.

#7 – Explain what **Jesus** meant when He said the **Kingdom** was *at hand*. **When** did/will this Kingdom take place?

#8 – Explain the **Rapture**. **When** will the Rapture take place? Will the Rapture come **secretly**?

#9 – This is a tough one. Describe the **Structure** of the **Book of Revelation**.

#10 – Describe the **70 Weeks Prophecy** found in **Daniel 9:24-27**. **When** does it **start**? **When** does it **end**? **What conditions** *must be met* when it **ends**? Explain the **last** of the 70 weeks ... how is it **divided**? What happens in the **first half** of the 70th week? What happens in the **second half** of the 70th week? What are the **parallel passages**?

#11 – Describe the **Stone / Kingdom / Statue** of **Daniel 2**. Does Daniel 2 anywhere **specifically mention** “ten toes”? **When** does the Rock / Stone **hit** the Statue? ... what point in **history**? **Why** does the Stone **destroy** the **entire** Statue and **not just** the feet? ... i.e., **why all** of the **Four Kingdoms** and **not just** the **Fourth Kingdom**? *What chapter* of **Revelation** is critical to interpreting this vision?

#12 – It was prophesied that Israel would one day **inherit the land** ... from **Egypt** to the **Euphrates River**. **When** did/will this take place? Explain. (**Caution** – Be careful of answering this *too fast*)

FINAL COMMENT

Once you can answer **all** the twelve questions above, **then** you have the basic set of Biblical dots which the ADDITIONAL Biblical dots **MUST FIT**.

You **cannot** have these twelve dots that make up **one picture** ... **then** come along with some **MINOR** dots that **force you** to dramatically **REDRAW** your picture.

That is, you **cannot** make the ***Tail Wag the Dog***.

The **MAJOR** dots will **determine** the **basic** Biblical picture.

The **MINOR** dots then **MUST FIT** the picture **determined by** the **MAJOR** dots.

If you have **trouble** fitting your **MINOR** dots into the picture ... **then** it is *likely* that the problem is with your *preconceived* picture of what picture you think the **MINOR** dots *should* make.

Put bluntly, if you have a *preconceived notion* of the **Binding of Satan** or the *identity* of the **Two Witnesses** ... **then** you may have a big problem when you try to **fit** those **MINOR** dots *into* the picture that is being *made by* the **MAJOR** dots.

Which *direction* will you go?

Will you *accept* the picture *determined by* the **MAJOR** dots?

Or will you *make* the **MAJOR** dots **fit** your **preconceived idea** of the picture you *assume* the **MINOR** dots make?

It is **your** choice.

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