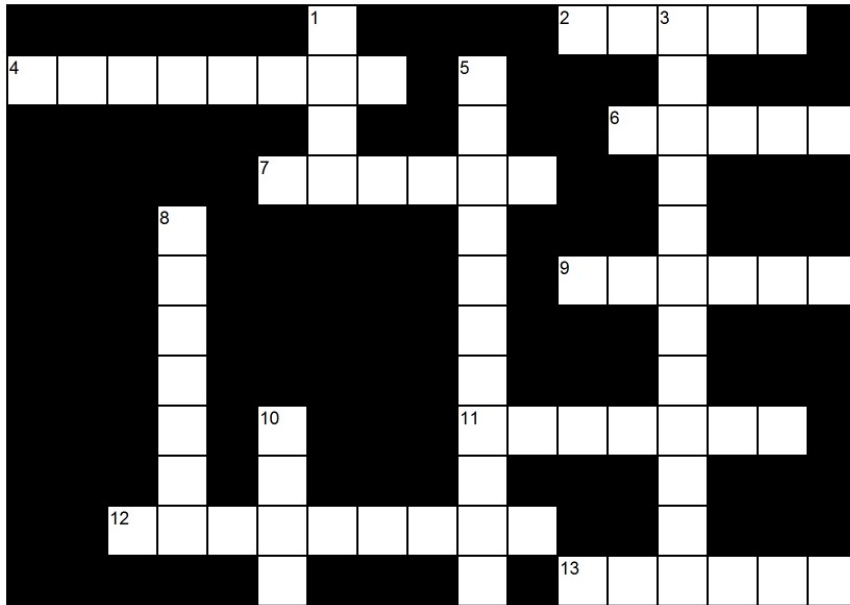


A Bible Crossword: The Book Of Acts, Part 8

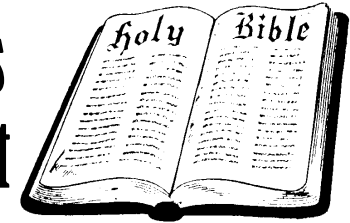


Across: 2. During the Jerusalem meeting, he recounted his preaching to the first Gentiles. 4. At Lystra, they thought he was Zeus. 6. Paul chose him to replace Barbabas as a travelling companion. 7. These were appointed in every church at the end of the first journey. 9. At Lystra, Paul healed a man who had never done this. 11. An unsuccessful attempt was made to stone Paul and Barnabas at this iconic city. 12. At the Jerusalem meeting, members of this sect argued the necessity of circumcision. 13. Jews from Antioch and Iconium persuaded the multitudes, and Paul was stoned at this city.

Down: 1. At Lystra, they thought he was Hermes. 3. We must go through many of these to enter the kingdom. 5. Men came from Judea teaching that the Gentiles had to be. 8. When the first journey ended, Paul and Barnabas returned to this city. 10. A disagreement over John called this, led to a parting between Paul and Barnabas.

—All answers can be found in Acts 14-15, NKJV.

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Listen To The Warning

In the months leading up to Christmas, Hallmark stores across the country sold about 3,500 snowman snow-globes. Priced at \$100 each, the 17-inch-high snowmen look delightful.

You wouldn't want to keep it in a window, though. The snow globes can magnify passing sunlight igniting house fires. Hallmark received two reports of fires, neither with injuries, before issuing a recall. Seven thousand snow globes were pulled from the shelves and warnings were issued to the customers who purchased the other 3,500.

Because Hallmark maintains personal sales records, the company was able to contact 2,000 specific customers. The response was curious. Though many customers will surely return the knickknacks, some customers replied that the figurines were too cute to give up. Rather than returning them, they decided to "just be careful" and keep them.

Recalls and warnings are given for our protection, but some people don't heed the warnings.

In Proverbs, the exhortation to "listen" is given in various forms on at least six occasions.

"Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth." (Proverbs 7:24)

“Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things” (Proverbs 8:6).

“Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways” (Proverbs 8:32).

“A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke” (Proverbs 13:1).

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days” (Proverbs 19:20).

“Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old” (Proverbs 23:22).

Instead of listening to the warning, the foolish actually place themselves in compromising positions that might lead to temptation.

Nehemiah dealt with the problem of merchants who violated the Sabbath day. He records, “Now the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. Then I warned them, and said to them, ‘Why do you spend the night around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you!’ From that time on they came no more on the Sabbath” (13:20-21).

Camping around the wall was not forbidden, but Nehemiah understood why they were there. If they intended to keep the Law, what were they doing camped around the wall?

A snow globe that ignites fires is not a good thing to keep around. Why hang onto a trinket if it is a fire hazard? Jesus warned of a place where the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:43-48). Why hold onto a habit or belief that is an eternal fire hazard? Listen. Pay attention. Heed. Do this, and you won't have to worry about the fire. —RAB

Bible Mysteries

Mystery of the Incarnation

1 Timothy 3:16: Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Mystery of the Divine Indwelling

Colossians 1:28: To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Mystery of the Union of Jews and Gentiles in the Church
Ephesians 3:6: This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Mystery of the Translation of the Saints

1 Corinthians 15:51-55: Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.

Mystery of the Church, the Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:22-33: Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.... This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church.

—Adapted from The Bible Book of Lists

Prayer List

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Dennis Depew
David Depew

Herman McKenzie
Louise Moore
Sara Nance

Faye Seiler
Gene Shannon