

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

JOHN 1 – 7

One chapter a day. Check it off.

☐ SUN 10/25	John 1
☐ MON 10/26	John 2
☐ TUE 10/27	John 3
☐ WED 10/28	John 4
☐ THU 10/29	John 5
☐ FRI 10/30	John 6
☐ SAT 10/31	John 7

KEY VERSE · JOHN 6:68-69 (NKJV)

But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

FREE BOOK OF THE WEEK

DEFENDERS SERIES, BOOK 1: DEFENDING GOD — HIS EXISTENCE & CREATION

BY KYLE BUTT & ERIC LYONS

“This first book in AP’s Defenders Series (*Defending God: His Existence and Creation*) is for young people who want to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God exists and is the Creator of all things.”

Description quoted from Apologetics Press
(store.apologeticspress.org/products/defenders-god-his-existence)



Scan to download the free PDF
Free PDF from Apologetics Press · 193 pages · the “Watch This” videos go with this book

<https://apologeticspress.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Defenders-1-web.pdf>

Book page: <https://apologeticspress.org/issue/defenders-series-defending-god/>

WATCH THIS

Two short videos to start the Defenders series. One new pair each week.



DEFENDERS · BOOK 1 · VIDEO 1
What Is Apologetics?

“Is Christian apologetics about apologizing for one’s beliefs? If not, why is the word apologetics used? Is this word even found in the Bible? Join Eric Lyons as he answers these questions and more in under 3 minutes.”

<https://video.wvbs.org/video/what-is-apologetics/>

Videos: World Video Bible School, video.wvbs.org — the companion videos to Apologetics Press’s *Defenders Series* (video.wvbs.org/defenders). Descriptions quoted from each video’s page.



DEFENDERS · BOOK 1 · VIDEO 2
Faith and Reason

“What is the relationship between faith and reason? Is faith a warm, fuzzy belief without evidence? Is scientific reasoning a contrast to biblical faith? Follow along with Kyle Butt as he discusses the intersection between faith and science in view of the evidence for God.”

<https://video.wvbs.org/video/faith-and-reason/>

GOT A BIBLE QUESTION? TEXT IT.



Ask any Bible question. Scan to start a text, or text **918-550-2246**.

No question is too hard or too simple.

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Read John 1–7 this week. Each day, write down one thing Jesus said or did that shows who He is. Start a Bible notebook and keep your answers in it.



MADE IN SIX

Exodus 20:11

TEENS

A work of the Catoosa church of Christ

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026 · VOL. 1 · NO. 1

“For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them ...”

Exodus 20:11 (NKJV)

AGES 12-18 · KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE — AND WHY

FEATURE · VALOR & VIRTUE · APOLOGETICS PRESS’S RESOURCE FOR TEENS

CHRISTIANITY: FOUNDED ON FACTS

BY KYLE BUTT

“Why do you believe in Jesus Christ?” Many Christians have been asked that question. Unfortunately, it is sometimes the case that those Christians cannot give good reasons for their belief. They may respond by saying, “Because I have faith in Jesus.” But the idea most people have of the word “faith” is not what the Bible says about it. You see, when most people use the word “faith,” they mean a strong feeling in their heart **that is not based on reasons or evidence**. They think that since they have such a strong “faith” (feeling in their heart), then their belief must be the truth. The problem with this way of thinking is that people in other religions use the same idea of “faith” for their beliefs. Many people would say they have a strong feeling that Jesus is not the Son of God. Muslims would say they have “faith” that Mohammed is the prophet of God. Just because someone has a strong feeling about something does not mean they have a good **reason** to believe it.

The truth is, the faith found in the Bible is always based on real evidence. Let me show you how that works. During the time that Elijah was a prophet, the evil King Ahab began

worshipping the false idol named Baal. Many of the people of Israel followed their wicked king and left the true God. Elijah arranged a contest on the top of Mount Carmel. Four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal came to meet him. Elijah explained that the prophets of Baal should build an altar and put a sacrifice on it, and he would build another altar to the true God and put a sacrifice on it. Then, the prophets of Baal would ask their god to send fire and burn up their sacrifice. Elijah would pray to God to send fire to burn up the sacrifice on his altar. Whichever god (or God) sent fire was the true God.

All of Israel gathered to see which God would send fire. The prophets of Baal cried out to Baal. They danced around. They cut themselves with knives and lances. Since Baal was just an idol, and not really a god, nothing happened for hours and hours. Then, during the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah prayed to the God of Israel. The prophet did not have to wait long. God sent a blast of fire from heaven that burned up the sacrifice, burned up the stones, and burned up the dirt around the altar. When all the

people who were watching the contest saw the fire burn up Elijah’s sacrifice, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, He is God. The Lord, He is God” (1 Kings 18:39).

You see, Elijah knew that the prophets of Baal had a “strong feeling in their heart” that Baal was a true God, but they did not have any evidence for their belief. They did not have the kind of faith that the Bible talks about. When Elijah presented them with real evidence, they could form a true faith, based on the fact that God sent fire down from heaven.

God has always provided plenty of evidence to prove His truth. The Creation shows His power. The fulfilled prophecies, miracles, and resurrection of Christ prove that Jesus is God’s Son. The correct predictive prophecy and perfect factual accuracy prove the Bible is God’s Word. The truth about Christianity has never been based simply on strong feelings and emotions. Unlike every other religion in the world, Christianity has always been founded on facts and evidence that can be used to show that it is the one true religion of the one true God.

“Christianity: Founded on Facts” by Kyle Butt, *Valor & Virtue* – Issue 6. Reprinted unaltered from Apologetics Press, apologeticspress.org — <https://apologeticspress.org/christianity-founded-on-facts-5159/>

INSIDE P2 · BIBLE LANDS: THE CYRUS CYLINDER · P3 · ESCAPE ROOM: LOCKED IN THE ARCHIVE · P4 · THIS WEEK

EVIDENCE FILE • ARCHAEOLOGY & THE BIBLE

THE CYRUS CYLINDER

Cyrus was the king of the Medo-Persian Empire in 540 B.C. He was one of the most important foreign rulers of the Israelite nation. In fact, many Old Testament prophecies talk about him. The prophet Isaiah foretold that Babylon would fall to the Medes and the Persians (Isaiah 13; 21:1-10). Not only did Isaiah explain that Babylon would fall, but he also stated that Cyrus was the king who would defeat it (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-5). Amazingly, Isaiah’s prophecy was made about 150 years before Cyrus was born. We know this because Isaiah prophesied in about 700 B.C. and Cyrus took the city of Babylon in 539 B.C. Isaiah also predicted that Cyrus would act as the Lord’s “shepherd.” In fact, Isaiah recorded these words of the Lord concerning Cyrus: “And he shall perform all My pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ and to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid’” (Isaiah 44:28).

In 1879, an archaeologist named Hormoz Rasam found a small clay cylinder (about nine inches long) in the ancient city of Babylon. (This cylinder is now in the British Museum). Upon the clay cylinder, King Cyrus wrote about his victory over the city of Babylon and his policy toward the nations he had captured. He also detailed his policy toward their various gods and religions. Cyrus explained that he sent back all the idols to the various nations. He also wrote that he rebuilt their temples. His decree that is written on the cylinder matches perfectly what the Bible predicted he would do. Cyrus decreed that the temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt and all the exiled Israelites who wished to return had his permission and blessing to do so (Ezra 1:1-11). This little nine-inch clay cylinder is strong evidence that the Bible is 100% accurate and inspired by God.

“The Cyrus Cylinder”, *Discovery*, August 1, 2018. Reprinted unaltered from **Apologetics Press**, apologeticspress.org — <https://apologeticspress.org/the-cyrus-cylinder-5593/> (AP’s photos not reproduced).

ARTIFACT OF THE WEEK
THE CYRUS CYLINDER



Museum number: 90920 (registration 1880,0617.1941)
Material: fired clay
Length: 21.90–22.80 centimetres
Excavated by: Hormuzd Rassam
Findspot: Amran (Babylon)
Production date: 539BC (after)
On display: Room 52 – Ancient Iran

Quoted from the British Museum’s collection record (britishmuseum.org), checked Oct 21, 2026.



See it at the British Museum collection record



Fly there in Google Earth
Babylon (Iraq) • 32.5425° N, 44.4211° E

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS • EZRA 1:2-3 (NKJV)

Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.

TOUGH TEXT • IS THE BIBLE CONTRADICTING ITSELF?

Genesis 1 vs. Genesis 2: Which came first?

- THE CHALLENGE** “Genesis 1 says plants and animals came first and people last. Genesis 2 says Adam came first, then plants and animals. So the Bible contradicts itself.”
- LOOK CLOSER** Genesis 1:11–12, 1:24–27; 2:4–8, 2:19. Genesis 2 zooms in on Adam and the garden; it doesn’t replay the week. The plants missing in 2:5 are plants “of the field,” with “no man to till the ground”: crops that need a farmer. In 2:19, “formed” can be read as *had formed*.
- THE ANSWER** Genesis 1 is the timeline: six days in order, man made last. Genesis 2 is the close-up: God forms Adam, plants a garden for him, and brings him the animals He had already made so Adam can name them. A wide shot and a close-up of the same scene don’t contradict each other.

Learn more: “Are There Two Creation Accounts in Genesis?” by Wayne Jackson • Apologetics Press, apologeticspress.org



Scan to learn more

TALK IT OVER • WITH YOUR FAMILY OR YOUTH CLASS

- The article says Cyrus’s decree “matches perfectly what the Bible predicted he would do.” Why is a prophecy written long before the event such strong evidence?
- Elijah gave Israel evidence, not just a feeling. If a friend says faith is “just a feeling,” what would you say?
- In John 6, many disciples turned back, but Peter stayed (John 6:66–69). What made him stay?

BREAK THE CODE
LOCKED IN THE ARCHIVE

You’re locked in the archive beneath the museum. The lights flicker. Five locks stand between you and the exit — and every code is hidden in your Bible or in the articles in this bulletin. Work alone or as a team. You’ll need an NKJV Bible, pages 1–2 of this bulletin, and a pencil.

ESCAPE ROOM
20-30 MIN
5 LOCKS

LOCK 1 • BIBLE LOOKUP
The Scroll Shelf

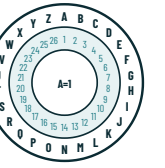
Look up each verse in the NKJV and count to the word number (every word counts; a hyphenated word is one word). Write that word’s FIRST letter in the box.

John 1:40	word #10	_____	<input type="text"/>
John 3:3	word #2	_____	<input type="text"/>
John 4:30	word #7	_____	<input type="text"/>
John 6:30	word #11	_____	<input type="text"/>
John 7:25	word #7	_____	<input type="text"/>

LOCK 1 WORD:

LOCK 3 • CAESAR WHEEL
The Cylinder Cipher

The archivist scrambled three labels with a Caesar wheel: every letter was moved FORWARD in the alphabet by the key number. Move each letter BACK by the key (A comes after Z).



The key: how many inches long is the clay cylinder in “The Cyrus Cylinder” (page 2)? Key =

S X Q W →
Y A X E N A K B →
X K J M R J Q →

LOCK 2 • ARTICLE CODE (A=1 ... Z=26)
The Feature-Article Code

Fill each blank from “Christianity: Founded on Facts” (page 1). Take the letter shown, then turn it into a number (A=1, B=2 ... Z=26). Write the letter in the first box and its number in the second.

“...God sent a blast of _____ from heaven...”	letter #1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
“...the evil King _____ began worshipping the false idol named Baal...”	letter #2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
“...Elijah arranged a contest on the top of Mount _____.”	letter #5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
“...they mean a strong _____ in their heart...”	letter #7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
“...When Elijah presented them with real _____.”	letter #4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

LOCK 4 • BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
The Canon Lock

Number the books of the Bible in order (Genesis = 1 ... Revelation = 66). Write the number of each book you decoded at Lock 3. The three numbers are a BOOK • CHAPTER • VERSE. Turn there.

BOOK CHAPTER VERSE

LOCK 5 • FINAL PASSPHRASE
The Exit Door

Put your five Lock 2 numbers in order, smallest to largest. In the verse you found at Lock 4, those are word numbers. Write those words. The passphrase is your Lock 1 word, then these five words.

_____ — _____

LOOK FOR THE ANSWER IN NEXT WEEK’S BULLETIN.