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A SPECIAL BOOK

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

Do you like to read? Then make sure that you have and read the best selling book of all time. This book is at the top the best seller lists every year and world sales are more than 100 million every year. It is a book about good people and bad people, about battles and journeys. It has stories, poetry, songs, history, prophecy, and more. What is this book? The Bible!

Now understand that the Bible is no ordinary book. It is a book unlike any book ever written. The Bible is actually a collection of 66 books. The 39 books of the Old Testament were written from about 1450 B.C. to 400 B.C. [B.C. means before Christ]. The first chapters of the Old Testament are about the history of man from Creation (Genesis 1-11.) From Genesis 12 onward, the Old Testament tells about the Israelite people, and how God used them to get the world ready for the coming of a savior, Jesus. The 27 books of the New Testament were written between A.D. 50 and A.D. 100 [A.D. means



Anno Domini - in the year of our Lord or after the birth of Christ].

God used about 40 men to write the Bible over a period of about 1600 years. These Bible writers lived at different times in history, some of them hundreds of years apart. In many cases these men were complete strangers to one another. They were also very different from each other. Some were businessmen or traders; others were rich kings, soldiers, fishermen, musicians, teachers, a doctor, a politician, a herdsman, shepherds, and tax collectors... men from all walks of life. Some of the men had very little education, while others were well educated. They wrote from three separate continents — Asia, Africa, and Europe, and in three different languages — Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. Some of the Bible writers wrote while traveling, some in prison, in the wilderness, and other places. Over the years, the writings of these men were put together in a book that we call the Bible.

Here is one of the wonders of the Bible: When the 66 books of the Bible (KJV) with their 1,189 chapters made up of 31,102 verses (<http://www.thebelieversorganization.org>) are brought together it shows amazing unity. Although written hundreds of years apart by different men, they still fit together so that they read like one story or account.

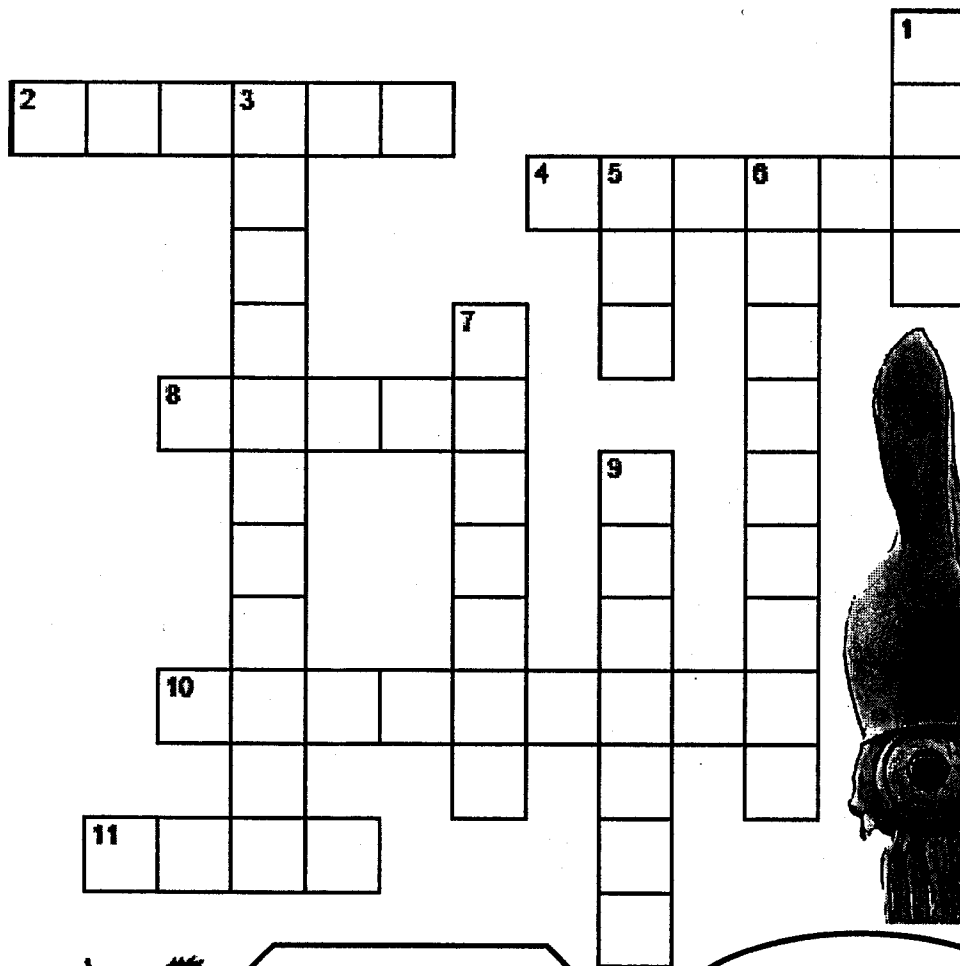
Imagine that a man came to your house one day carrying a strangely shaped piece of stone which he places on the floor of your front room. Then without a word the man leaves.

Other men follow one after another until about 40 different men have each laid their numbered piece of stone into place. When the last one has

gone, you are amazed that they have put together a beautiful statue. Then you learn that most of the men had never met each other; they came from North America, South America, Europe, China, Russia, Africa, Australia, and other parts of the world. What would this tell you? That someone had planned the statue and had sent to each man a detailed description of the shape the man was to carve his stone.

The Bible as a whole tells one connected story - just like a perfect stone statue. One mind planned it all — the mind of God. The wonderful way that the books of the Bible fit so well is evidence that it is not simply the writings of man but in fact the Word of God. II Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God ...”** ‘Inspiration’ means that God guided men to write down exactly what He wanted us to know. Some of these men wrote about things they had seen for themselves; sometimes they wrote about things they could not have known if God had not told them. Everything they wrote was God’s Word! The Bible truly is a special book unlike any other book ever written! Make sure you have one, and read it every day!





Solve the crossword using words that can be found in **A SPECIAL BOOK** on front page

Across

- 2 The Bible writers wrote from Asia, _____, and Europe. (6)
- 4 A person who heals other people. (6)
- 8 Best selling book of all time. (5)
- 10 Men who catch fish for a living. (9)
- 11 A male ruler of a country. (4)

Down

- 1 The Bible is God's _____. (4)
- 3 God guided men to write down exactly what He wanted us to know. (11)
- 5 There are 39 books in the ___ Testament. (3)
- 6 There are 27 books in the New _____. (9)
- 7 Someone who teaches others. (7)
- 9 The Bible writers wrote in Hebrew, Greek, and _____. (7)



The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world -- the size of a basketball.

The world's smallest mammal is the bumblebee bat of Thailand, weighing less than a penny.



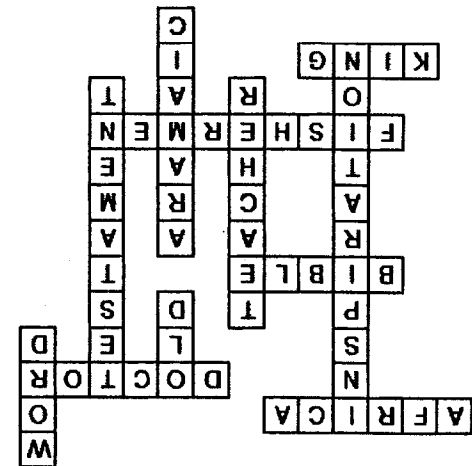
There are more beetles than any other kind of creature in the world.



A woodpecker can peck twenty times a second.



The hummingbird, the loon, the swift, the kingfisher, and the grebe are all birds that cannot walk.



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