**Bible Trivia**

**Sonny and Cher, at the start of their careers, appeared in Bible advertisements produced for the American Bible Society. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 172)***

**Aging Gracefully: Moses was 120 years old when he died. The only woman whose age is mentioned in the Bible is Sarah, who bore Abraham a child, Isaac, when she was ninety. She was said to die at the age of 127. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old, according to Genesis. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 170)***

**During Prohibition, temperance activists hired a scholar to delete all references to alcohol beverages from the Bible. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 3)***

**Two chapters in the Bible, 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 37, are alike almost word for word. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 21)**

**The Old Testament mentions almonds 73 times. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**The word “and” is used 46,277 times in the King James Bible. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 170)***

**The five animals most often mentioned in the Bible are sheep, lambs, lions, oxen, and rams. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Saint John was the only one of the 12 apostles to die of natural causes. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**The bagpipe is mentioned in the Bible (Daniel 3:5). (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**Built in 1862, the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church in Wabaunsee, Kansas, gets its name from abolitionist minister Henry Ward Beecher, who sent rifles in boxes marked “Bibles” with the town’s first settlers on their journey from Connecticut. *(American Profile magazine)***

**According to Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with roughly 2.5 billion copies in distribution since 1815 in over 2,200 languages and dialects. (*Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 48)***

**The most common name in the Bible is Zechariah. There are thirty-three of them. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 169)***

**It is estimated that between 1815 and 1975, one and a half billion copies of the Bible were distributed by Bible Societies, making the Holy Scripture by far the best circulated book of all time. In the year 1979 alone, over 9 million copies were distributed. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts , p. 101)**

**What the Bible does not say: That three wise men came from Bethlehem, Jonah was swallowed by a whale, forbidden fruit was an apple, Methuselah died before his father, and Christ was born in December. (World Features Syndicate)**

**An irreverent wag has pointed out that two drinks are mentioned in the Bible – Wine: which gladdeneth the heart of man, and Water: which quencheth the thirst of the jackasses. *(James Meyer, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 368)***

**The final word in the Bible: “amen.” (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**There are 49 different foods mentioned in the Bible. Salt is mentioned more than 30 times. Almonds and pistachios are the only nuts mentioned in the Bible. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 11)**

**There are more than 1,700 references to gems and precious stones in the King James translation of the Bible. (Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 16)**

**In addition to providing their well-known Bibles in hotel rooms, the Gideons also distribute Bibles to members of the military of various countries, to hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 20)***

**The first book Gutenberg published was not the Bible. It was the Ars Grammatica, a dour twenty-eight-page primer on Latin grammar, published sometime around 1450. Gutenberg decided to publish the Bible because he was looking for a best seller. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 91)***

**According to Leviticus, shaving one’s beard is a sin. Getting a tattoo or wearing a cotton-poly T-shirt (or any garment of mixed fiber) will also incur God’s wrath. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 85)***

**The Bible does not say there were three wise men, or magi, it only says there were three gifts. Some scholars believe there were anywhere between two and nine magi. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 11)**

**Oprah Winfrey’s first name should have been the biblical name Orpah, from the Book of Ruth, except the midwife made a mistake in spelling it when she filled out the birth certificate. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 5)***

**In the summer of 1794, on a very hot afternoon, in the village of Lalain, France, a rain fell which lasted for 30 minutes. What was unusual about this rainfall was that tiny toads in great numbers dropped from the sky.
The Bible student will remember this phenomenon as one of the plagues visited on Pharaoh's Egypt just before the Jewish exodus. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts , p. 152)**

**The spud is so rooted in Western cooking that it's sometimes hard to believe the vegetable was totally unknown in Europe just a few hundred years ago. In Scotland, some Presbyterian clergymen declared that since the potato was not mentioned in the Bible, it could not be fit for human consumption! (James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia , p. 205)**

**Bibliomancy, or divination by the Bible, entailed opening the Bible at random and taking the first passage the eye fell upon as a prediction of the future. This practice, also called Lots of the Saints, was so common by the fifty century that several Church councils expressly forbid it. In 793, Charlemagne condemned the practice in an edict. (James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 251)**

**Every U.S. president is sworn in with one hand on a passage on an open Bible. What’s the passage? Whatever passage the president-to-be chooses, if any. No two presidents have been sworn in with the same passage. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A “marionette” is a type of puppet that is controlled by strings. The word marionette is derived from “Little Mary” puppets that were used by priests to teach stories of the Bible during the Middle Ages. *(Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)***

**During the Middle Ages, it was widely believed that men had one less rib than women. This is because of the story in the Bible that Eve had been created out of Adam’s rib. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 148)***

**The two robbers crucified next to Jesus were Dismas and Gestas. Their names are not mentioned in the Gospels but can be found in the Gospel of Nicodemus (Acts of Pilate), one of the many books of Christian Apocrypha. (*Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 45)***

**Salt is mentioned more than 30 times in the Bible. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**The Bible is the most shoplifted book in the world. (*Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 50)***

**Worldwide, about 50 Bibles are sold every minute. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**Long ago, when many people were unable to read the Bible, pictures were put in stained glass windows to remind them of the stories. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 10)**

**The Bible is stolen more often than any other book in the world. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**There are two talking animals in the Old Testament: the serpent in the Garden of Eden (Genesis) and Balaam’s talking ass (Numbers). *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 19)***

**Studies of the Dead Sea Scrolls indicate that the passage in the Bible known as the Sermon on the Mount is actually an ancient Essene prayer dating to hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts , p. 21)**

**No one is immune from making foolish statements. One of France's greatest thinkers, Voltaire, once said that in 100 years the Bible would be a forgotten book, found only in museums. When the 100 years were up, Voltaire's home was occupied by the Geneva Bible Society. (Bits & Pieces)**

**In 1631, Robert Barket and Martin Lucas, the royal printers in London, published a King James Bible with a couple of egregious errors. The Wicked Bible, as it has become known, left the word not out of the seventh commandment so that it read, “Thou shalt commit adultery.” A second error read, “the Lord hath shewed us his glory and his great arse,” instead of “the Lord has shewed us his glory and his greatness” (Deuteronomy 5:24). Barket and Lucas were fined L300, the equivalent of about $60,000 in today’s dollars, and lost their printing license. All but eleven of the one thousand printed copies of The Wicked Bible were destroyed. In 2008, one of the surviving copies went on the market for $89,500. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 87)***

**Nowhere in the Bible does it say that there were three wise men. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**Ken Roberts, a fifth grade teacher, noted that without knowledge of the Bible, some of the most important achievements of Western culture--passages from the works of Longfellow, Twain, and Whittier, as well as the paintings of Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Rubens and the music of Bach and Beethoven -- would have little significance. (Reader's Digest)**

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