



YOUR GREATEST ADVENTURE

JAY LUCAS



Regular Baptist Press
Building Lives by the Book
www.RegularBaptistPress.org

YOUR GREATEST ADVENTURE

© 2015 Regular Baptist Press

www.RegularBaptistPress.org • 1-800-727-4440

Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved.

King James Version • RBP31318 • ISBN: 978-1-60776-873-9

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Lesson 1 The Adventure Begins.	5
Lesson 2 Disaster!	11
Lesson 3 The Main Character	17
Lesson 4 A Time to Choose	23
Lesson 5 A Promise Kept	29
Answer Key.	35
The Gospel	39

Introduction

Nearly everyone has had the experience of standing outside at night, looking at the vast starry sky. This can prompt us to ask ourselves some very important questions, such as

What is the meaning of my life?

Does it matter that I exist?

What is the universe like?

Does God care about me?

Looking at the stars and thinking about our lives can sometimes make us feel small, insignificant, and left without answers. However, God intends for the stars to tell a different story, a story that can change your life forever. The Bible explains the story told by the stars, and discovering it will put you on the path to Your Greatest Adventure!

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Something about the human spirit loves adventure. Do you remember, as a child, the ways you used your imagination to invent a world of adventure and your participation in that world? We never really outgrow that, do we? Back in 1939 James Thurber wrote a popular short story titled “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” The main character, Walter, is a middle-aged man leading a routine and somewhat boring life, but the reader is treated to a ringside seat for all of Walter’s exciting adventures invented by his imagination (bomber pilot, skilled surgeon, paid assassin). After all these years, it is still such an entertaining story that in 2013 it was adapted into a major motion picture.

1. Which of your childhood fantasies did you spend the most time thinking about?

It is because of our love for adventure that we use our imaginations to dream about exciting things we would like to do. The sad thing about Walter Mitty was not only that his adventures were unreal, but that he used his fantasies to escape his bleak and mundane world.

This study is titled *Your Greatest Adventure*. Unlike Walter Mitty’s life, this story is absolutely true. It is a story that God has written with you in mind. One of the ways you can be introduced to this true story written for you by God is to look up to the stars.

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour” (Psalm 8:3–5). The man who wrote this psalm was David, ancient Israel’s greatest king. David reigned from 1010 BC to 970 BC.

Looking to the Stars

2. Read Psalm 8. When David described the stars as the work of God’s fingers, what concept was he trying to convey?

3. David asked, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him?” What do you think David had in mind when he asked that question?

The book of Psalms is a collection of Hebrew poetry that the Jews put to music and used as worship songs. In other words, it is a hymnbook inspired by God. Some of the psalms are over three thousand years old, yet they still speak to the human heart today. The psalms deal truthfully with human emotions, such as joy, fear, discouragement, love, confusion, loss, and hope. The psalms also give us God's perspective. Because the book of Psalms was written before Jesus Christ came to Earth two thousand years ago, the book is in the Old Testament.

Ancient people who were contemporaries of King David had an amazing knowledge of astronomy, considering that they lacked the technology available to modern astronomers. Reflecting upon the vastness of the observable night sky prompted David to write Psalm 8. Imagine his level of wonder if he had had access to the findings of the Hubble telescope! Here are some of the things we know about the universe God created:

Our sun produces enough energy each second to power every city, town, and village on Earth for a year.

The sun is so huge that 1.3 million Earths can fit inside it. And our sun is only an average-sized star. Many stars are much larger.

Our sun belongs to the Milky Way Galaxy, which consists of over one hundred billion stars.

The Milky Way Galaxy is not alone. It is estimated that there may be one hundred billion galaxies.

Scientific reports on the number of galaxies and stars vary because every time a more powerful telescope is built, the numbers rise dramatically. Our minds are finite and limited, and it is difficult to comprehend how large the universe is and how small we are in comparison.

4. What goes through your mind as you think about the immensity of the universe?

5. How does Psalm 103:14 describe people?

6. According to Psalm 103:15 and 16, what are a human's days like?

7. Please read Psalm 39:4–6. What does verse 5 compare man's life to?

Eternity in Our Hearts

To think about the vastness of the universe and the size of the Earth—like a speck of dust within the universe—and then to consider the brevity of our lives can leave us feeling small and insignificant. Why do we even think about such things? Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us, “He [God] hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also *he hath set the world in their heart*, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end” (italics added).

God designed us humans to think about and long to connect with something greater and more enduring than our finite selves. We spend our lives on a small planet in a vast universe living in bodies that quickly fade away like grass or flowers of the field. However, we have a concept of eternity written into our hearts. This is the starting point of the amazing story God has written for us.

You have a concept of eternity written into your heart. This truth is central to discovering Your Greatest Adventure.

The God of the Universe

Do you remember these verses from Psalm 8: “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 8:3, 4)?

As vast as the universe is, it is amazing to think that God cares about each person as an individual. God is intensely interested in who you are and what you do. He is mindful of you, and He knows your name!

8. Please read Psalm 147:3–5. According to verse 4, what two things does God do to the stars?

9. According to verse 3, what two things is God willing to do for people?

God, Who created the universe and counts and names the stars, is interested in you as an individual and knows about the things that concern you. The opportunity to meet Him and to come to know Him is just the beginning of Your Greatest Adventure.

The Story Line for Your Greatest Adventure

10. When you hear the word “adventure,” what comes to mind?

11. Find a dictionary. How does it define “adventure”?

One dictionary defines “adventure” as “a hazardous or exciting experience.” In other words, an adventure is not just a casual event like watching television or eating a pizza. An adventure is out of the ordinary. Think of some of the great adventure epics that have been told through literature, music, film, or even video games. Classic adventures almost always include elements of conflict, hardship, danger, loss, bravery, love, victory, and the presence of good and evil. While a wonderful adventure story can be fictional, the best adventures are those based on real-life events.

12. What have been some of the most popular epic adventures in recent years (book or movie)?

13. Why do you think so many people connected with these?

A story line runs through the Bible, beginning with the first words of the first page: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

This story line unfolds in many remarkable ways throughout the rest of the Bible and concludes with the people who know and love God enjoying Him forever.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:3, 4).

14. How well do you think you know the details of the Bible’s story line?

- ☐ I know nothing about it.
- ☐ I know just a little of it.
- ☐ I know some of the central facts.
- ☐ I know it fairly well.
- ☐ I know it well from beginning to end.

The Bible is God’s Word to us. God used and guided people to write it, but it comes from Him. It is true and speaks with the very authority of God. In his book *The New*

Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Christian writer Josh McDowell lists some facts about the Bible.

- The Bible was written over a period of about 1,500 years.
- While God is the Bible's author, it had more than forty writers.
- It was written in three languages: Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.
- The writers came from different walks of life; for example, Moses was a shepherd and leader; Joshua, a warrior; David, a shepherd, warrior, and king; Jeremiah, a priest; Daniel, a statesman; Amos, a farmer; Luke, a physician; Paul, a former Pharisee and a missionary; John, one of the Twelve and a pastor.
- Not unexpectedly, with its different writers, the Bible is written in different genres (styles), including letters, biography, poetry, history, stories of various kinds/purposes, law, and prophecy.
- The content covers the range of human emotions, experiences, and events.

McDowell further points out:

The Bible addresses hundreds of controversial subjects, subjects that create opposing opinions when mentioned or discussed. The biblical writers treated hundreds of hot topics (e.g., marriage, divorce and remarriage, homosexuality, adultery, obedience to authority, truth-telling and lying, character development, parenting, the nature and revelation of God). Yet from Genesis through Revelation there is an amazing degree of harmony. . . .

In spite of its diversity the Bible presents a single unfolding story: God's redemption of human beings. . . .

Finally, and most important, among all the people described in the Bible, the leading character throughout is the one, true, living God made known through Jesus Christ. (Asheville, NC: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999)

God's Word, the Bible

15. How do you view God's Word?

16. What do Psalm 119:89 and 90 say about God's Word?

17. Please read 2 Timothy 3:16 (toward the back of the New Testament). According to this verse, what is Scripture given by?

Congratulations! By completing this first lesson, you have embarked on the path of discovery that can lead you to Your Greatest Adventure.

To learn what the Bible teaches about the way to Heaven, turn to “The Gospel” on page 39.

Memorize: “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names” (Psalm 147:3, 4).

Lesson 2: Disaster!