

God Times V.16. Ezra bible study & 1963 trivia & more.

You Are Not Alone You Are Amazing.com, is a Nonprofit Faith based charity, engaged in alleviating social & spiritual decay, in our communities. We do this by reaching out to the lost, lonely, suffering individuals e.g. seniors, veterans, sick, addicted, imprisoned etal. as we work to provide a renewed sense of belonging, through a new positive mindset of hope, love & faith, via some free social & spiritual memory tools, for all individuals & groups. We are in the field of sharing truth, love, faith & hope & need the help of all who can share these pages of love, with family, friends & neighbors & all.

God Times is a Faith based, social, memory enhancement tool for all, including seniors, veterans, disabled & troubled persons & all who may be looking for a daily lift in heart, mind & spirit, from some true friends through Christ. We hope to assist all people, including Christians & non-Christians alike, in realizing that we are never truly alone, regardless of what our lying thoughts, beliefs & feelings tell us.

We are all navigating through this overly prideful broken world together, while keeping faith, patience & hope alive for all, including those who have entrusted their spirit to an eternal loving Father, through Christ, as well as those who exercise their right to dismiss God & hold onto other personal beliefs, as we all have the right to be loved, respected & cared about & for, regardless of individual or societal knowledge bases of learned beliefs, that seem to lack the empathy that once made us a strong nation & family of loving, caring, God filled, God trusting people.

We must love all, regardless of life, religious & political beliefs, that we all differ on. Free will gives us the right to think & be different, while still being friends. You have the right to personal beliefs, just as I have mine & at the end of the day, it's not our jobs to judge each other, as life can be lived in peace with friends who think differently, dismissing those who think that one way, their way, is the only way?

Let's respect each other's right to personal beliefs, while enjoying some social time & maybe learning some important truths together, as we leave judgements up to the One, who has already filled that position & needs no help from us, lest we be judged, as we judge others.

Forgive & it will be forgiven you, forgive not & your Heavenly Father will no longer forgive your trespasses, Matt. 6:14

1963 Trivia fun.

01. This big political story of 1963 happened in Dallas Texas & shocked the world?
02. The United States Post Office added this to their mailings?
03. This US Car Maker went out of business?
04. This dream speech came from one whose birth name was really Michael?
05. This new device by Bell, could eliminate the slow spinning type?
06. These music & voice holders, came out before yet kind of replaced 8 tracks?
07. This 1076 steps Gateway to the west monument begins?
08. Due to high maintenance costs, this famous Federal "rock" closes?
09. Their 1st #1 single in the U.S. held many hearts, as well as hands?
10. This most expensive film ever made opened in NYC starring Taylor & Burton?

Trivia & memory are fun, as most brain games are, as brains are amazing & yet they still only know & believes what we allow it too. So if we want to feel better, than we have to start telling ourselves that we are valuable & loved & that we are going to be joyful just because we can. We must forgive ourselves for all past negative behaviors & realize that if we want to feel & be positive, than we have to flood our minds with happy, positive thinking & thoughts, as we cannot feel good if were thinking negative, just as we cannot feel bad, if we're thinking positive.

We are in control of our thoughts & God is in control of our future & when we match these 2 things up to His will, then our lives become what they were meant to be; not necessarily what we want, but exactly what God wants.

Think about it & you will find that many of the foundational beliefs that so many hold onto, such as; the right way to be, right way to think, right way to live etc. come from what we were told; by parents, teachers, society etc. whom learned it the same way, through traditions & carried down learned beliefs, which are not necessarily truths ? just someone's learned beliefs.

Tradition doesn't equal truth, nor does it equal the right, or only way to live & think, as we all learned & followed different ideals, yet we all basically learned the same way, by hearing another's beliefs. The point being that there are many thoughts, traditions & ways of living, but when it comes down to it, though we may live by different beliefs, we are all sharing the same world, with all it's good & bad & are being followed closely by God, as we all start equal in His eyes & now need to concentrate on how we will finish & God does want us to finish well.

EZRA bible Summary Study.

The Book of Ezra, with the Book of Nehemiah, are the final chapters of the historical narrative of the Hebrew Bible. Ezra was a priest, in the line of Aaron the chief priest under Moses, to the Israelites, during & in the return from the exile, he was a skilled scribe & a great leader among Biblical heroes, via his teaching of the Torah (1st 5 bible books of Moses).

Even in Israel's darkest hour, Jeremiah had prophesied that God would use Israel's time in exile for their benefit, winning back their hearts.

Ezra covers the return of exiles, after 70 yrs., to Israel, from Babylonia as God had promised & the rebuilding/ dedication of the new Temple in Jerusalem, which was halted by those who did not want to see Israel gain strength back again, but via the prophets Haggai & Zechariah, God encouraged the people & their faith & enthusiasm were reestablished showing what it means to stay committed to a task, as these volunteers on the temple dealt with active opposition & long delays on the project, yet, held onto their passion to rebuild & keep the vision alive & the work of the temple was completed, after 20 yrs.

Ezra was also given the struggle of purifying the Jews, from inter-marriage with non-Jews & their pagan religious practices & so 60 yrs. later, when he returned with another group of exiles, he found the temple restored to glory, but he also found that God's people, the people of Israel, including the priests & the Levites, had not kept themselves separate from the foreigners & their pagan practices & had taken some of them as wives & had mixed the holy race with those around them, Ezra 9:1, placing the future of Israel in danger.

Deeply burdened & humbled, Ezra began weeping & praying for the people, 9:3–15, which moved them deeply & he called for the exiles to gather in the city, where he told the men to separate from their foreign wives & children & the people obeyed, confessed their sins to God & even re-established the practices of tithing & observing the sabbath, as Ezra was able to lead them back to renewing their covenant with God, while separating from the pagans.

Ezra was devoted to God's word & he gained knowledge & wisdom through intense study of the scriptures, as God's commands became the guiding force of his life, he

set a pattern for the rest of God's people, through his spiritual zeal & dedication to prayer & fasting. He was an intercessor, seeking the Lord's mercy for himself & others, as he knew the power of confession & repentance to reawaken faith, which he longed for the Jewish people to experience, as he had a heart to restore worship life to the people.

The book of Ezra reminds us that discouragement & fear are two of the biggest obstacles to fulfilling God's plan for our lives, as we can expect opposition from unbelievers & spiritual forces in doing the Lord's work, but if we prepare our faith, we can become fully equipped to face opposition. God can & did even set the hearts of & use foreign kings to fulfill his plans, showing His sovereignty over the world & leaders, as He will always accomplish his purpose.

Through Ezra's leadership, Israel would learn to rebuild their lives on the Word of God, rediscovering their identity in God's promises, God's law & stories of God's goodness & faithfulness, which God's people should be clinging to.

In the Hebrew Bible, Ezra & Nehemiah were once one book & can still be read that way & even the prophets Haggai & Zechariah ministered during this same time & can be studied alongside Ezra, as they all emphasize the restoration of, God's followers, physical & spiritual life.

Ezra encourages us to stand up for our faith. He knew that the Torah had been neglected by many during the Jewish exile. So in Jerusalem, he boldly spoke up for God's Laws, as Ezra's focus was on studying, applying & teaching God's word to others, surely a discipline that all Christians would be wise to adopt, as submitting our lives into God's care means we can find peace, even in situations that might at times look bleak, as the more we align with God, the less distractions & resistance will hold us back from what we're called to do.

Doing what God calls us to, even when it inconveniences us, or makes us uncomfortable, shows a true desire to please the Lord & Ezra, reminds us of some powerful ways to worship God, through His practices of prayer, Ezra 9:5-15, fasting, Ezra 8:21, 23 & confession, Ezra 10:1-15, which helped to revive the soul of the Israelite nation, just as it can with us as well.

What was life like, for you, in '63.

What age group were you 0-9, 10-17, 18+ If you were too young then use your 1st memories of '73. If in school what grade were you in?

What was your role in the family & how did you fill that role?

What were your big plans & dreams, were you able to fulfill some of them? What would you change, or do differently, if you could?

What's some differences compared to that age group from then & now?

What is the biggest differences that you see between family life then & now?

What memories do you have of social activities with family & friends?

Were you able to stay in touch with any school friends once adult life started?

Did you have children & if so, did you raise them by the standards you were raised by, or did you ease up with the changing world?

What's some things that you were glad to see change, to make life easier, or better?

So what kinds of things did you watch on tv, or in theaters. What were your favorites? Discuss any thoughts about the following? Like Alfred Hitchcock's thriller-The Birds? Or were you more into the soaps- with the final episode of Young Doctor Malone, or premieres of the Doctors, or General Hospital?

How about the new documentary Wild Kingdom? Or maybe the Broadway musical Oliver? How about spy film's e.g. Dr. No, or the sci-fi Outer Limits, or the drama of the Fugitive?

Maybe you were more light hearted liking sitcoms like the Dick Van Dyke Show? Phil Silvers show, or My Favorite Martian? Or how about them Beverly Hillbillies, or the new Peter Sellers comedy movie- The Pink Panther, or did you like the talk shows & guests like on the Judy Garland Show, or were you more of a game show aficionado with Let's Make a Deal?

What other shows or entertainment can you think of from this period?

Something else to think about from this time was that minimum wage was \$1.25 & the average household income in the U.S. was about \$84 a week. So can you think of what your families socioeconomic status was? Who worked & what were they able to supply for the family? Do you recall prices of items you liked & purchased, or which was purchased for you?

trivia answers 1-president jfk assassinated. 2-zipcodes.3-studebaker.4-mlk jr's, I have a dream. His father michael sr. changed their names to reflect the monk martin luther of the protestant reformation. 5-touchtone telephone. 6- audio cassettes.7-the Gateway Arch in St. Louis .8-Alcatraz prison. 9-the beatles.10-cleopatra.

Can I prove that God is real, absolutely NOT.

When asked if I could prove that God exists, all's I could say was, I know that He does; I have felt Him, seen Him, talked with Him, heard Him & witnessed His presence, signs & wonders, so many times, in so many things. So, I know that He is real & He is everything that He says He is. But my knowing Him, is not proof, for you, so I prayed, can I prove God is real? & the spirit told me "absolutely not"? Which stunned me & then was explained to me; why I could not prove this.

God says to prove all things, 1Thess.5:21, as there are many evil spirits working to keep us from His truth. He also says that those who are blinded & who doubt Him; cannot see, nor understand & will not turn to Him for truth, or healing, as He has blinded the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel, 2Corin. 4:4.

God only reveals Himself, to those who truly have faith in their need for Him; forcing none to believe, as He wants to be loved for who He truly is; a loving Father, not because of what He can do.

So to prove God exists, it can be done, but no one can do it for you. Only God can prove Himself to you, when you truly seek Him. God says to test Him; So, tell Him that you don't believe & ask that if He is real, for Him to prove Himself to you & then be patient & prepare. Study the bible, pray, talk to believers & prepare, as He is waiting for all to call on Him. God wants your faith, love & trust, as He wants to give you an inner life change unlike anything you have ever imagined, as He loves & believes in you & says in Math. 7:7-11, ask & it shall be given, seek, & ye shall find, knock & it shall be opened. For whosoever asks, receives & he that seeks, finds & to him that knocks, it shall be opened.

For who among you, if your son asks for bread, would give him a stone? If ye then, which are evil, give to your children good gifts, how much more shall your Father in heaven, give good things to them that ask Him? So open your heart, listen & follow His plans for your life & come to see how real He truly is. Open your eyes, heart & mind, as God has revealed Himself in all Creation, in His living powerful eternal Word & in His Son; the Heavens proclaim His mighty works, Psalm 19:1.

The universe, where He hung the Sun, moon & stars, declares His glory. So, can I prove to you, that God is real, no but you can! just by looking around & asking, believing, watching & waiting, as the time is coming, when you will be glad that you did. So call on Him today & prove for yourself that He does indeed exist & does love you & wants you in His eternal Kingdom, with Him, as He is waiting on you.