

“Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read...” – Isaiah 34:16

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Introduction

Beginning with this edition of the newsletter, I took the advice from my book publisher to use a full-justification format, forcing all the paragraphs to align at the right side for visual appeal and greater ease of reading. I hope this helps. I certainly like “justification” – a word that occurs only three times in the King James Bible (KJB), all in Romans (4:25; 5:16; and 5:18). In the “Critics’ Corner” I include the exhortation to justify God – “justify” occurring eleven times in the KJB. Of course, us “justifying” God is quite different from God “justifying” us. Actually, there are 64 total occurrences of all “justif” words in the KJB (justify, justified, justifieth, justifying, justifier, and justification). And you may recall in prior newsletters what the number 64 might signify: $64 = 4 \times 4 \times 4 = 4^3$ (four raised to the third power). **Jesus Christ** (4) to whom all **power** is given in heaven and earth, due to all the fulness of the Godhead – all **three** that are one (the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost) – dwelling in **him**. (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:9; 1 John 5:7)

Science Snippet

1 Timothy 6:20

Way back when I was a late teenager in my early college years, I recall a “friend” who was a self-proclaimed atheist offering a reason why he disbelieved the Bible. His reason was his claim that the Bible used 3.0 instead of “pi” (~3.14) for the dimensions of an arc. Of course, he was merely parroting what he had heard someone else say, but he latched onto it because he wanted the Bible to be wrong in order to justify his “atheism”. Sadly (for his sake), it wasn’t until years later, when I was again confronted with that very same claim, that I bothered to go to the Bible and check it out to see what they were even talking about. So, here it is...

2 Chronicles 4:2 Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about. (The same is also given in 1 Kings 7:23.)

The 30 cubits “round about” is a circumference (call it “c”). The 10 cubits “brim to brim” is a diameter (call it “d”). The ratio of circumference to diameter is that well-known

number “pi” (symbol “ π ”) whose numerical value is approximately 3.14. So $c \div d \approx 3.14$. BUT, the Bible supposedly says that $c \div d = 30/10 = 3.0$, which is wrong; and therefore the Bible is supposedly in error.

But let us, who believe God, do what the unbelievers have no interest in doing ... seek a “**good understanding**” (a term that occurs four times (4x) in the KJB, by the way). Let us seek to divide the word of truth “**rightly**” (a word that also occurs 4x in the KJB).

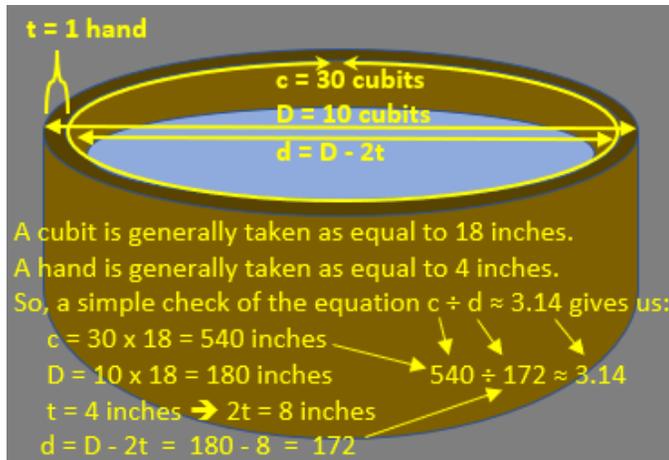
By reading more than just that one verse, we can get a fuller picture from the context:

2 Chronicles 4:2-5	1 Kings 7:23-26
2 Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim , round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about .	23 And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other : it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about .
3 And under it was the similitude of oxen, which did compass ...	24 And under the brim of it round about there were knops compassing it...
4 It stood upon twelve oxen, ...	25 It stood upon twelve oxen...
5 And the thickness of it was an handbreadth , and the brim of it like the work of the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies; and it received and held three thousand baths .	26 And it was an hand breadth thick , and the brim thereof was wrought like the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies: it contained two thousand baths .
(The <u>critics love</u> the <i>apparent</i> “discrepancy” at the end of verse 5 and verse 26. We’ll deal them – the critics, and the number of baths – in the “Critics’ Corner” below.)	

So, consider the parallel structure of the first and last verses:

- The 10 cubits includes the thickness of the brim (“from brim to brim”) whose thickness is a handbreadth.
 - ➔ 10 cubits is the outer diameter.
- The 30 cubits relates to the “baths” that it holds, and thus does not include the brim.
 - ➔ 30 cubits is the inner circumference.

To help us “picture” the description given, allow me to draw a picture:



So, God can do math quite fine, and he knows quite well what the value of “pi” is. There is no error here, and the unbelievers’ claim is shown to be made in ignorance. I’ll say this here, and I’ll say it again in the “Critics’ Corner”...

Let God be true, but every man a liar. (Romans 3:4)
 To take some words out of context and use them as a principle, consider 1 Peter 2:15 “...so is the will of God, that with well doing (e.g., studying to shew oneself approved unto God, 2 Timothy 2:15) ye may **put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.**” Sadly, I was not prepared to give an answer when I was first confronted with this particular false claim of “error” in the Bible. Let us work at becoming more and more prepared to **“give an answer”** (1 Peter 3:15); because the person posing the claim of “error” might just possibly be subconsciously asking us for a reason of the hope that is in us.

Numbers Nugget

Psalms 71:15

It is quite interesting to observe that the **two** passages pertaining to the “molten sea” each contain **four (4)** verses. As discussed frequently in prior newsletters (and in Appendix A of my book “The Last Time”), the number **four** has a very strong connection to things pertaining to **Jesus Christ**. Is it just coincidence that the **second** of these **two** passages, that contain **four** verses each, occurs in **2 Chronicles 4:2**?

Could it be that this “molten sea” represents the word of God (or, the **Word** of God)? Could it be an “example and shadow of heavenly things” (Hebrews 8:5) in which “the **washing** of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:26) is represented? We are specifically told that “the sea was for the **priests** to **wash** in” (2 Chronicles 4:6). In Revelation 1:6 we read that “...**Jesus Christ**...**washed** us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings

and **priests** unto God...”; and so we are now to have “our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our **bodies washed** with **pure water**” (Hebrews 10:22)... by the **pure word** of God (Psalms 119:140, Proverbs 30:5).

Critics’ Corner

Jeremiah 23:36, 2 Corinthians 2:17

In the two passages on the “molten sea”, I can see a couple things that critics (not just “text critics” but critics in general) might ignorantly criticize. The first one is the reference to “knops” in the 1 Kings passage, and “oxen in the 2 Chronicles passage. But it should be obvious to anyone that the “knops” were cast in “the similitude of oxen” ... and so there is no discrepancy there.

The second one, though, is a bit more obvious, and is the *supposedly* “real” discrepancy (in the mind of an unbelieving critic). This *supposed* “error” occurs at the very end of each passage. In 1 Kings 7:26 we read that “it contained **two** thousand baths”; but in 2 Chronicles 4:5 we read that “it received and held **three** thousand baths.” Aha! (saith the critic)... an error in the Bible! ... my unbelief is justified!

Well, **no!** Let us actually reject the critics and believe God. Don’t ever think that a critic has a leg to stand on. What a critic sees, he sees in ignorance and with an ulterior motive of *wanting* there to be an error, so that he can justify his rejection of God and God’s word. We believers, on the other hand, should always seek to **justify God**. So, what exactly is the problem with this “*seeming*” “discrepancy”? Nothing whatsoever.

- In 1 Kings, we are told how much water it “contained”... 2000 baths; i.e., *for use* (for a priest to step in and sit down and immerse himself in it, without the water overflowing the brim).
- In 2 Chronicles, we are told how much it “received and held” ... 3000 baths; i.e., *its volume* (how much it *would* hold if filled to the brim).

Always...

Let God be true, but every man (every critic) a liar. (Romans 3:4)

And seek to...

... put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. (1 Peter 2:15)

Quote to Note

The obvious quote to note from above would be ...

Let God be true, but every man a liar. (Romans 3:4)

In addition to that, though, I thought I’d include here something I discovered relative to the encouragement to

“give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15) to “**put to silence the ignorance of foolish men**” (1 Peter 2:15). The words “put ... to silence” occurs **four** times in the God’s book: Psalms 31:18, Jeremiah 8:14, Matthew 22:34, and 1 Peter 2:15.

Psalms 31:18 **Let the lying lips be put to silence;** which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Jeremiah 8:14 Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath **put us to silence**, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had **put** the Sadducees **to silence**, they were gathered together.

1 Peter 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may **put to silence the ignorance of foolish men**:

I would note that if *we ourselves* speak ignorantly or foolishly, the LORD our God may put *us* to silence. Jesus put the Sadducees to silence when they spoke ignorantly and foolishly concerning the resurrection of the dead. When the Pharisees then took their turn, Jesus put them to silence as well (no man was able to answer him a word, nor dared to ask him any more questions from that day forth, according to Matthew 22:46.

Anyway, for the full (combined) quote to note, allow me to combine the “bookends” of the above four verses with the words from Romans 3:4...

Let the **lying lips** be **put to silence**.
Let God be true, but every man a liar.
Put to silence the **ignorance** of foolish men.

Recipe Share

I’ve been waiting to share this **Tassies** recipe for quite some time. It is my brother Gary’s favorite “Christmas” cookie. And for me, it takes second place by only an infinitesimal degree to the nut horns recipe that I shared in the very first newsletter. So here it is...

No, wait! Is there a KJB tie-in for “tassies”?

Hmmm... I don’t see any such word in the KJB. Not even a partial match of a word with “tass” in it.

But I know what you’re thinking regarding partial words within a word.

So here goes...

There is a partial word in “**Tassies**” ... “**ass**”. Of course in God’s book that word refers to an animal. The only thing I’ll offer here is a set of word-counts...

ass – 90x

asses – 64x

ass’s – 4x

Anyway, here it is ... **Tassies** ! ...

Tassies

Dough: 2 sticks soft margarine

8 oz package Philadelphia cream cheese (soft)

2¾ cups flour (all-purpose), sifted

½ teaspoon salt

Roll thin (use flour to roll)

Cut in circles and place in mini-cups pan

Pecans: Chop 1 pound (4 cups) pecans to mix with filling

Filling: 5 slightly beaten eggs

1 box brown sugar (2–¾ cups)

2 tablespoons melted butter or oil
(e.g., Wessen/Mazola)

¼ cup Karo syrup (dark or light)

1 teaspoon vanilla

¼ teaspoon salt

Mix in the 4 cups chopped pecans

Fill mini-cups half-full (~1 teaspoon).

Bake at 325° for 25 minutes.

(Makes 90-100 tassies if rolled thin enough)

Wrap-up

Let us, who believe God and his word, never allow gainsayers, or ignorant or foolish men, or liars, or critics of any kind, to shake our confidence in the perfection and purity of God’s written word as he has given it to us in English in the KJB. Let us instead continually study, to “shew” ourselves approved unto God; and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. If we can’t answer a given question or criticism against God or his written word *on the spot*, let us hold fast to our knowledge that God’s word is true, and then go to God’s word and seek the answer *from him*. And always, always, always ...

Let God be true, but every man a liar. (Romans 3:4)