



A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO MAGNIFYING THE
"For You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name."

WORD OF GOD
Psalm 138:2

SUMMER | 2023

BLUE LETTER BIBLE

MAGNIFYING GOD'S WORD

The Prayerful Promise of a Young Man



The Whidbey Island Navigators team

Our military is a treasured part of our country. They leave their homes for various amounts of time, placing themselves in constant danger. They risk their physical and mental well-being for a country of people who they do not even know. In a similar manner, Christians continue to minister to a world of people that they do not know, putting themselves amidst an intense spiritual war that they cannot see with their physical eyes. Both groups need people to minister to them. And that is where

people like Clay Miller come in. We had a chance to speak with Clay, and he shared with us how essential Blue Letter Bible's tools have been in discipling military personnel and their families. He uses it in not only his personal study, but also when preparing messages and studies for his groups. He finds it absolutely invaluable and is always excited to dive deeper and deeper into the tools and resources that we offer, as well as share it with others. It has become a vital part

of their times together, whether they are searching through verses and words or examining the original Greek and Hebrew. But before Clay ever discovered Blue Letter Bible, he felt a calling from the Lord at a young age.

Clay was raised in a church family, but never had a personal relationship with the Lord. That all changed when he went to a youth Bible camp in Orcas Island, Washington, at 17 years old. One night, while sitting around the campfire, the head counselor said something that completely stunned Clay: "You can pay for your own sins...the problem is that you will spend the rest of eternity doing so." Those were the words the Spirit used to transform Clay. He promised the Lord, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do; wherever you want me to go, I'll go." Little did Clay know how literally that promise would be applied.

In his first year as a Christian, Clay read through the entirety

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The Prayerful Promise of a Young Man

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Clay and his wife, Bev

of the Bible. He shortly thereafter became the president of his church's youth group. One night, two Navy pilots came to speak and talked to Clay about their involvement with a ministry called Navigators. Navigators focuses on discipling believers, with specialized branches in areas such as military and international missions. Clay immediately desired to learn more about the ministry and was eventually connected with them at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Lieutenant Joe Derrick, one of the staff

there, disciplined Clay for 2¹/₂ years, teaching him about the Word and just spending time with him.

Upon graduating with his pilot wings, Clay was deployed to San Diego, where he met his wife, Bev. She was working as a missionary for the Wycliffe Translators, but costs eventually forced her to return home. She and Clay were married shortly thereafter and raised five sons—four of whom also enlisted in the military. Clay and his family moved to Whidbey Island in Washington after he retired, and Clay's promise all those years ago at the campfire was finally being called upon. He and his wife were asked to join the Navigators branch in Whidbey. After much prayer and encouragement, they did so.


Their time in Navigators has been amazingly fruitful. With a team of almost 20 people, they minister to around 90 different naval officers and their families. They host fellowships for singles, couples with kids, and couples without kids. They have dinner together, followed by a time of worship, teaching, and prayer. What a blessing to see how God is using Clay and his desire to minister! We love it when people use our resources to minister to others. 



STAFF TIP: *The True Meaning of Scripture*

Within church culture, it has become easy to read into Scripture what we want the outcome of our lives to be rather than looking to God to guide us through Scripture. Hermeneutical questions such as, “What is the context of the passage I am reading?” or “What did the passage mean to the original audience at the time?” are important to ask while reading and studying.

In my own studies, I find that the Strong's numbers provide clarity to and definitions for the passage's text. By clicking the Strong's number from our Interlinear tool, you gain access to the root in the original language that serves as the base for the building of words. For example, the root “theo” is used in *theos* (G2316; God), *theosebēs* (G2318; worshipper of God), and *philotheos* (G5377; lover of God); all of which are related to God.

The Strong's lexicon is immensely helpful in providing specific definitions to words in the original language, revealing deeper meaning that can be lost in translation and giving context to the passage as a whole. This is an example of a tool that can be used to enrich our Bible study as we seek what God is teaching us, rather than what we would like the Bible to say. This isn't just for Bible teachers or pastors, but for everyone. 

New Content Head to blb.org/newsletterlinks for links to content.



New Sermons and Articles from Pastor H.B. Charles, Jr.

Blue Letter Bible is pleased to announce a new partnership with Pastor H.B. Charles, Jr. through the addition of several new textual study resources including teaching manuscripts, articles, and sermon skeletons covering a broad range of Bible passages and topics.

Over the years, we have received feedback from many Christian leaders asking if we have any materials on pastoral resources and sermon preparation. Our newest author, Pastor H.B. Charles, Jr., has provided an absolute wealth of study materials covering key areas of pastoral leadership and Bible-centered teaching through his articles. Having pastored and taught since the age of 17, Pastor Charles brings a depth of biblical insight that we hope will be a blessing to Christian leaders, teachers, and students around the world.

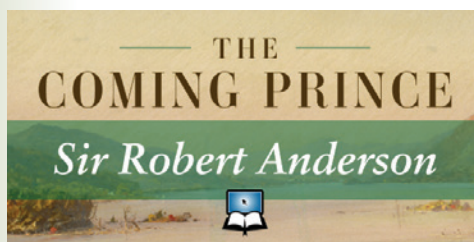
We pray that these study resources greatly enhance your understanding of Scripture. To start reading Pastor Charles's works, or to learn more about him and his ministry, head to the link listed above.



An Encouraging Word from Our Users

Back in November of 2022, we asked our users to submit brief videos detailing their experience with Blue Letter Bible. And what a response we received! It was incredible to see so many different types of users from all around the world enjoying the resources and tools we had put on the site. We received over 60 videos from our users worldwide.

It is always a blessing to the ministry to see how God has significantly impacted the users we serve for nearly three decades. To hear from the mouths of those who utilize what we offer every day is something that cannot be replaced. Our staff was strengthened and greatly encouraged by what you all had to say. You can find the five-minute video at blb.org/newsletterlinks.



The Coming Prince from Sir Robert Anderson

Biblical prophecy has been one of the most difficult areas of theology for Christians to grasp over the years. One of the most famous prophecies in Scripture is the 70 weeks in Daniel. Many different interpretations of this section of Scripture have been suggested throughout history from various theological viewpoints. However, one

of the most renowned historical works on this section is from Sir Robert Anderson, titled *The Coming Prince*. And we are excited to offer this resource on BLB.

In the original 1885 preface to the work, Anderson states, "It seems to be an axiom with many commentators that the prophetic Scriptures never mean precisely what they say; and the same license which is deemed legitimate in interpreting Scripture is used also when the facts of history are adduced as the fulfillment of it."

Anderson makes very clear his stance that biblical prophecies are often far more literal than many Christians give them credit for. This view set Anderson apart from his contemporaries, allowing him to pen a unique volume, where he focuses on the life and time of Daniel before zeroing in on the end of chapter 9. To start reading, you can head to Anderson's author page on our website.



GOD'S WORD IS **ALIVE** & **ACTIVE**

Serving Those that Serve Us



We have a spiritual war that continues unhindered and unseen around us every day. Angelic and demonic forces are at odds constantly, one side seeking to destroy humanity and the other seeking to protect it. As Christians, this is something that we are not fully aware of, but see glimpses of. Our armed forces are similar to the angelic forces, seeking to protect us from outside enemies that seek to threaten our home. That is why people like Clay are so important.

Those that serve in the military are put through intense training before being sent on tours, many of them experiencing and seeing simply unspeakable things during their service. That is why giving them the hope of Christ is so vital. Can

you imagine how much hope the promises of Scripture must give these distressed men and women? They have seen the worst of humanity, witnessed atrocities that we would never even want to consider. I praise God that there are those like Clay that have devoted their lives to ministering to these people. And I pray that the resources and tools we offer through Blue Letter Bible can continue to help them understand the Word of God.

Until the whole world hears,

Jim Milligan
C.E.O. and Co-Founder

User Testimony

I use it almost daily to look up the Hebrew and Greek words for Bible Study. It's easy to use, not complicated! I like that it has multiple translations. It's a wonderful tool that has aided me in understanding the context of the Word of God. Thanks to all who have been faithful to make this available to us all. — *-Letty B. (Gooding, ID)*

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