

What kind of literature do you like reading?

Are there any kinds of literature which would be inappropriate or harmful for a Christian to read?



● Art

Men and women have always enjoyed making beautiful, ornamental and significant objects from the materials around them. In the Bible we find metal, wood, fabrics, leather, ivory, stone, paper, clay, precious stones and dyes used to produce paintings, carvings, sculptures, pottery and embroidery. See Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 2:1-4:22).

* Exodus 20:4-6 * Deuteronomy 27:15 * Isaiah 44:6-20

What are the dangers in making images and statues?



Are there other dangers in art?

Are there any types of art which you are particularly fond of?

● True wisdom and knowledge

* 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 * James 1:5-7

How do we get wisdom? _____

* 1 Kings 4:29-34

What kinds of wisdom did Solomon get? _____

* Job 28 * Proverbs 1:7 * Proverbs 8

What is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge?

* Philippians 3:4-8

Paul was educated and cultured with lots of worldly knowledge. He counted all this rubbish compared with one thing. What was it?

* 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:16

Worldly wisdom does not lead to knowing God. What is the clue to finding godly wisdom?

knowledge

● The universe and nature

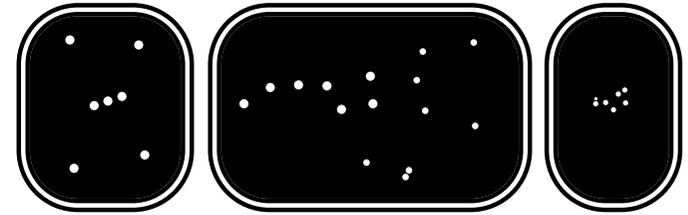
* Psalm 19:1-2

What do the heavens declare? _____

What do the skies proclaim? _____

* Job 9:9

Which three constellations are mentioned here? Which are they? Can you find them in the sky?



* Job 38:1-39:30

What point is God making to Job about creation and nature? _____

* Job 40:1-5 * Job 42:1-6

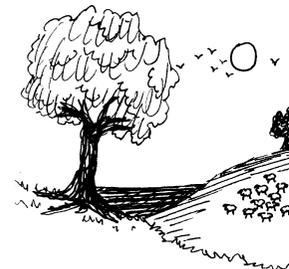
What should our response be to the wonders of nature? _____

* Romans 1:20

What does the universe tell us about God? _____

* Genesis 2:8-14

Which things are mentioned in this passage that human beings find beautiful or enjoyable?



Since we are made in the image of God we are able to enjoy the things which he has made (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We may find people beautiful too (Genesis 29:17, 1 Samuel 16:12, Esther 1:11).

Heartsearch

Do you ever stop and look at the universe and the world which God has made? Do they fill you with awe and wonder (Psalm 8:3-4, Revelation 4:11)?

What things do you enjoy most?



* Proverbs 6:25 * 2 Samuel 11:2-5

What danger is associated with beautiful people?

* Joshua 7:19-23

What danger is associated with beautiful things? _____

* Romans 1:25 * Deuteronomy 17:3 * Isaiah 47:13-15

What danger is associated with appreciation of nature?

Are these dangers still in the world today?

● Science and technology

* Genesis 1:28 * Genesis 2:15 * Psalm 8:5-8 * Psalm 115:16

Science

- The first step in science is naming things. Animals, plants, parts of animals and plants, rocks, stars, cells, atoms, parts of atoms etc. We analyse and measure nature.
- The second step is understanding how the different parts of the world and universe work together. We formulate scientific laws.
- The third step is using this knowledge to enable us to control the world around us, make new materials, medicines, tools, machines etc.

What is our job on the earth?

* Genesis 2:19-20

What was one of Adam's early scientific jobs?

* Genesis 4:22

Who was the first engineer in the Bible?

Good

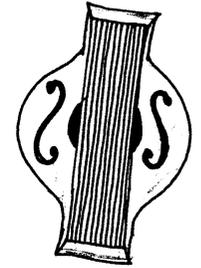
Bad



What do you think of the scientific efforts of human beings? Which are good and which are bad?

● Poetry, singing and music

Much of the Bible is poetry. Hebrew poetry depended on *rhythm* not *rhyme* and it would sometimes be sung. Musical instruments were used to accompany singing, to celebrate, to mourn and to bring encouragement and comfort (1 Samuel 16:14-23, 2 Kings 3:14-19).



What were the occasions of the following songs?

2 Chron 5:11-13 _____ Ps 98:4-6 _____

Ex 15:1-18 _____ Col 3:16 _____

Ps 45 _____ Acts 16:25 _____

2 Sam 1:17-27 _____ Song of Songs _____



What are the main themes of modern songs today?

What kind of songs and music do you like?

Are there kinds of songs and music which you think are bad or harmful? Why?

* Revelation 5:9-13 Where is this song being sung? _____

* Zephaniah 3:17 Who is singing? _____

* Psalm 150 List the instruments in this Psalm.

David is the most famous musician in the Bible. He sang, played instruments, wrote songs and organised musicians and singers for the worship of God (1 Chronicles 25:1-8).

● Literature and history

The Bible itself is literature and history. Careful written records and historical accuracy were valued greatly in Bible times (Luke 1:1-4).

* Daniel 2:20-21 * Acts 17:26 Who is in charge of history? _____

History is the story of mankind's foolishness and God's plan to put things right and bring salvation.

* 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

What are the most important historical facts for mankind?