

"No one in the English-speaking world can be considered literate without a basic knowledge of the Bible... All educated speakers of American English need to understand what is meant when someone describes a contest as being between David and Goliath, or whether a person who has the 'wisdom of Solomon' is wise or foolish, or whether saying 'My cup runneth over' means the person feels fortunate or unfortunate. Those who cannot understand such allusions cannot fully participate in literate English..."

"No person in the modern world can be considered educated without a basic knowledge of all the great religions of the world -- Islam, Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Christianity. But our knowledge of Judaism and Christianity needs to be more detailed than that of other great religions, if only because of the historical accident that has embedded the Bible in our thought and language. "—E.D. Hirsch, The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy

Directions: For each of the biblical allusions below, find enough information to make yourself familiar with the meaning of the story. You may want to even find the passage in the Bible and add the reference.

1. Alpha and Omega. _____

2. Cain and Abel. _____

3. Abraham and Isacc. _____

4. David and Bathsheba. _____

5. Eye of the Needle. _____

6. David and Goliath. _____

7. Good Samaritan. _____

8. Ten Commandments. _____

9. Doubting Thomas. _____

10. Sermon on the Mount. _____

11. Original Sin/The Fall. _____

12. Gethsemane. _____

13. Samson and Delilah. _____

14. Solomon. _____

15. Four Horsemen. _____

16. The Exodus. _____

17. The Promised Land. _____

18. The Flood. _____

19. The Serpent/Garden of Eden _____

20. Job. _____

21. Jonah. _____

22. Judas/30 pieces of silver. _____

23. Jezebel. _____

24. Manna . _____

25. Pearl of Great Price. _____

26. Prodigal Son. _____

27. Armageddon. _____

28. Ruth and Naomi. _____

29. Sodom and Gomorrah. _____

30. Twelve Tribes of Israel. _____

31. Christ Figure. _____

