



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

WORD OF GOD
Psalm 138:2

WINTER | 2024

BLUE LETTER BIBLE

MAGNIFYING GOD'S WORD

A Thirst for God's Word

Buck Hurlbut grew up in a home that was governed by biblical morals, but his family was not saved. His first exposure to a gospel-centered Christian church was at the age of five when he and his sister began attending a Vacation Bible School. He did so for several years without ever attending the church. However, the Lord used the association with that church to intervene in his family's life. When Buck was twelve years old, two older women from the church came to meet with his mother in their home. They began asking her several questions about her faith and gave her the tract, *Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?* from Bill Bright. During that conversation, Buck's mother broke down and received Christ as her Savior. That night, Buck recalled something that had been said about



Buck leading a Bible study group

Christ being a friend to the friendless, which resonated with him. He was the regular victim of after-school beatings and bullying, making it difficult to have friends. And so, he was direct: "Jesus, if You are real, I would like to be Your friend." In that moment, Buck received salvation and was so

overwhelmed that he began to cry with joy. He found that he had an immediate desire and thirst for studying God's Word. He told us, "After finishing school around 3:00, I would rush home. I would begin studying Scripture around 3:30 and wouldn't stop until dinner around 6:00." By the time he was 14, he had

Continued on page 2

P2 STAFF TIP:
A SITE FOR
SORE EYES

P3 NEW RESOURCES
FROM JOHN BUNYAN

P4 STUDYING
SCRIPTURE
TO KNOW CHRIST

A Thirst for God's Word

Cover Story (continued from page 1)




Buck Hurlbut

saved up enough money to purchase his own copies of Strong's Concordance, Vine's Dictionary, and several of Matthew Henry's commentaries.

Several years later, Buck was doing a search for a Bible-related topic and came upon an early version of Blue Letter Bible. "I had never heard about it before...The Lord had led me right to the site." His usage began to significantly

increase after we released our mobile apps, and it became a mainstay right next to his Greek-Hebrew study Bible. He began using the BLB search tools, original language resources, and text commen-

taries daily. "Little by little, as Blue Letter Bible began to grow and mature, I didn't need my paper copies anymore! Everything I needed was in one place."


Buck's fervor for God and His Word has been abundantly rewarded. He serves as a bivocational associate pastor at his church, working as an independent systems analyst during the day. He is an avid ambassador for BLB, sharing it with his congregation from the pulpit and in the study classes he teaches during the week. He has also authored multiple books on varying theological topics. And in his most recent two-volume work on the end times, he directly acknowledges Blue Letter Bible's part in the research process. It is so wonderful to see God glorified through Buck's fruitful ministry in spreading His Word. And we are beyond blessed to be a part of it! 

STAFF TIP: A Site for Sore Eyes



DOUG LONG

As a mature student of God's Word, I've come to appreciate large-print Bibles more and more. I've recently discovered a feature on the Blue Letter Bible website that makes my reading more comfortable—and I don't think I'm alone in wanting a more comfortable reading experience. The varied selection of font styles, colors and sizes you have at your disposal on the main Bible page make reading text easy on the eyes. A convenient pop-up dialog box will appear when you click on the small (Aa) button located in the upper-right corner of the Bible window where you can easily make your selections. This feature works well for both Greek and Hebrew texts as well. Once you are done, just click the (x) button and the dialog box disappears.

Also next to the (Aa) button, you'll see a button with a two-sided arrow. This allows the main Bible text window to expand horizontally, accommodating the larger Scripture text. I can imagine this would be useful as a teaching aid in homeschool or small group settings. Instead of being on your individual devices, a single computer screen could be viewed by multiple people from a distance with these features. My hope is that you are able to experiment with these additional features to further enhance your user experience, along with the rest of our website's many capabilities. 

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




New Smith & Van Dyck Arabic Translation

Blue Letter Bible has been blessed by God to reach all corners of the world with our tools and resources. It is immensely humbling to be used in such a significant manner for the spread of God's Gospel. Thus, our ministry has desired to provide as many non-English resources as possible. And so, we are excited to add the Smith & Van Dyck Arabic translation to our version library.

Work on this translation began back in the mid-1800s by Reverend Eli Smith. After thoroughly studying and learning the Arabic language, Smith began an effort to translate the entire Bible into Arabic in 1848. By 1851, the Syria Mission was fully supporting Smith's efforts. Though he completed translating a vast majority of the Bible, Smith sadly passed away in 1857 after nine years of work.

Shortly thereafter, the mission appointed Dr. Van Dyck to continue the work. The translation had come under the purview of the American Bible Society, however, which according to the Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry website, "required a strict adherence to the Textus Receptus of Hahn's Greek Testament." This led to Dyck revising every verse in the New Testament. He also translated the remaining books from the Old Testament, consisting mainly of the prophetic books. He completed his work on August 22, 1864. The complete Arabic Bible went to print in March of the next year, nearly two decades after Smith began the work in the 1840s.

It is so amazing to see how God had His hand upon this thoughtful translation. To learn more about the Smith & Van Dyck Arabic translation, we highly recommend reading the history using the link at blb.org/newsletterlinks. 




New Resources from John Bunyan

John Bunyan is most well-known for his work on the bestselling *Pilgrim's Progress*. But he wrote many more volumes than just that great work of fiction. He penned numerous sermons and treatises, three of which we are excited to now provide for you on Blue Letter Bible. All three of these publications are immensely beneficial for a believer to engage with and read through. The experiences in Bunyan's life and his giftings in writing make any work of his a delight to read.

Firstly, Bunyan's work *Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ* is now available. This resource focuses on Christ's open arms of fellowship to all believers who receive Him as Lord and Savior. The editor describes the work thusly: "It is an enlightened display of the dealings of the Father in giving sinners to Christ; the Son in saving them by His atonement, mediation, and intercession; and the Holy Spirit in sanctifying and fitting them for glory."

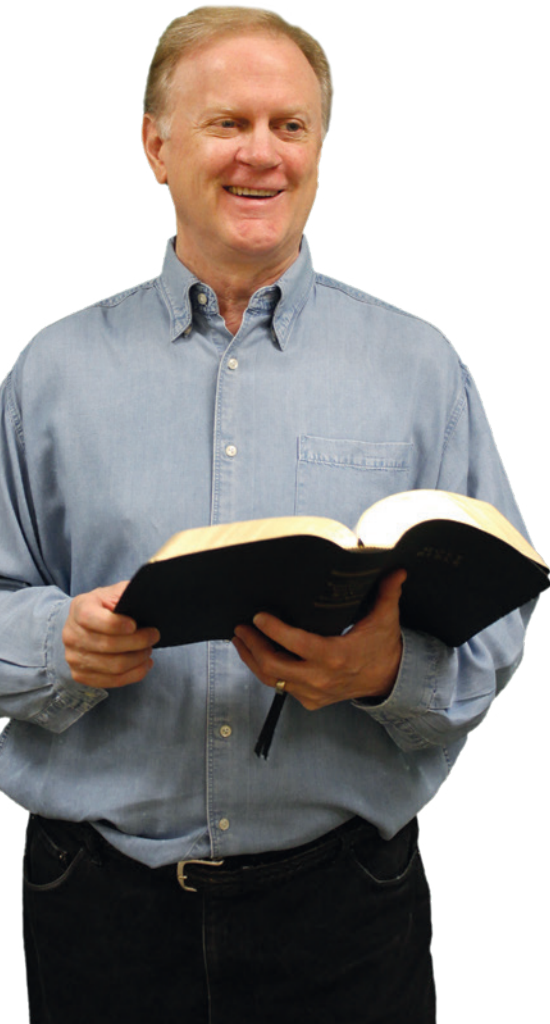
Secondly, we offer *A Treatise of the Fear of God*. In this volume, Bunyan provides a biblical examination of how we are to view our Almighty God with the proper fearful and reverential worship that He so deserves. He highlights what a blessing it is to us as Christians to fear the only One Who has power over all things and, in turn, our very lives.

And thirdly, *Christ: A Complete Saviour* has been added. This work aims to make clear the role and significance of Christ in both our justification and sanctification. An excerpt from the section titled "The Use" reads as follows: "Let me exhort you to the study of this...the priestly office of Christ is the first and great thing that is presented to us in the gospel—namely, how he died for our sins, and gave himself to the cross, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us through him." 



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

Studying Scripture to Know Christ



Blue Letter Bible has always focused on providing free study resources that anyone can use. This is one of the main reasons why we are so thrilled to be adding versions like the Smith & Van Dyck (SVD) Arabic translation to our library. We recognize the need for sound Arabic study tools and resources and have a desire to serve our Arabic-speaking brothers and sisters.

In our journey to provide an Arabic Bible, we received much feedback that the SVD is overwhelmingly the translation of choice. And so, we moved forward with preparing it for our site. In the midst of our work on the Smith & Van Dyck, we released Chuck Smith and Dr. J. Vernon McGee's audio series in Arabic as well. These book-by-book, expositional studies through Scripture were taught

by solid, God-fearing men. And they are a rich, thorough examination of the Word of God—no matter what your native language is.

Our recent focus on the release of multilingual resources and international translations stems from our vision. And that is to provide biblical resources for people to study the written Word of God in order to better know the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that God continues to bless our efforts and use these additions to BLB to reach the uttermost parts of the world. All glory to Him and Him alone!

Until the whole world hears,

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

User Testimony

“We use BLB daily! We look at the meaning and tense of words, listen to great sermons from pastors, and copy/paste Scripture in our texts and emails! What an incredible Bible to have everywhere we go!”
— *Mary (Texas)*

BlueLetterBible.org

If you are led to give, you can do
so easily at our secure website:

BlueLetterBible.org/give

Or mail your gift to: Blue Letter Bible

PO Box 80670

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-9918

Youtube: BLB.org/YouTube

Blue Letter Bible Institute: Study.Bible

facebook.com/BlueLetterBible

instagram.com/BlueLetterBible

twitter.com/BlueLetterBible