# Contents

Introduction	xiii
ONE: THAT WAS THE WORLD THAT WAS	
In the Beginning–Famous Firsts	3
Confusing Bible Terms	6
You Don't Say–Understatements in the Bible	7
What Happened-A Short History	8
The Patriarchs (2000–1250 BC)	8
Exodus (13th century BC)	9
Conquest of Canaan (13th to 12th centuries BC)	9
The United Monarchy (c. 1025–928 BC)	10
In All His Glory	11
The First Gift Horse?	12
Did Solomon Export Wisdom?	12
Divided Kingdom: Israel, the Northern Kingdom (928-732 BC)	13
Divided Kingdom: Judah, the Southern Kingdom (928-587 BC)	13
Persian Empire (539–333 BC)	14
Even God Loved Cyrus	14
The Greeks: Egyptian Ptolemaic, Syrian Seleucid (332–167 BC)	15
Maccabeans, or Hasmoneans (167–64 BC)	15
Roman Empire (64 BC on)	16
Imported Idols	18
An Egyptian Prayer	18
Give Me That Old-time Religion	19
The Sumerians	19
A Sad Sumerian Story	22
The Babylonians	23
More Laws from Hammurabi	28
Love Thy Neighbor–The Babylonian	29
The Canaanites	29
Too Short to Rule	33
Thou Shalt Not Make unto Thee Any Graven Image	34
Love Thy Neighbor–The Canaanite	34
The Egyptians	34
Love Thy NeighborThe Egyptian	38
None Other Gods	39
A Happy Equation St	39

National Brotherhood Week	40
The Neighbors-Who Was Who	41
Curious Words of Biblical Origin	47
Proof of the Past	49

#### TWO: PROMISES! PROMISES! --STRUGGLING FOR THE PROMISED LAND

What and Where Was the Promised Land?	57
A Land by Any Other Name	57
The Exodus	59
Barefoot in the Bible	61
The Holy War	63
God Takes Canaan	63
God Ordains Defeat	64
14 Threats Made by God	65
First Steps in the Promised Land	66
Conquest of Canaan	67
10 Truths about Princes	75
A Soldier's Prayer	76
Onward Hebrew Soldiers	77
The Prophet Who Captured an Army	81
Death Tolls	85
The Losers	87
20 Biblical Fears	90

#### THREE: I LOOKED OVER JORDAN AND WHAT DID I SEE?

Land of Sand and Thorns	95
The Coast—The Burden of Tyre	96
The Mountains—The Everlasting Hills	96
The Jordan Rift-Fire and Brimstone	99
What's the Lowest Point on Earth?	100
Transjordanean Hills–The King's Highway	100
10 Great Views in the Bible	100
Country Living	101
Earthquakes	102
A Joke about Rocks	103
Guide to Biblical Caves	103
11 of the Most Dangerous Places in the Bible	104
Every Man under His Vine and Fig Tree	106
The Burning Bush	108
A Drop Becomes a Lily	115
Under the Oaks	117
Basket Cases	120
Sayings about Thorns	123
	106

Hanging Harps on Willows	125
Sayings about Trees	125
Thou Shalt Not Plant a Tree	126
Eating Books	126
Biblical Bugs	128
Every Creeping Thing	132
Snakes	134
The Voice of the Turtle	140
Creatures of Uncertainty	141
All Creatures Great and Small	142
Why You Should Never Touch the Hors d'Oeuvres at	
a Canaanite Garden Party	152
The Pigs Who Committed Suicide	155
Monsters	156

## FOUR: ALL IN THE FAMILY

Keeping the Seed Alive	163
Child of Adultery	164
Twins	168
Circumcision	170
Dinah's Revenge	173
A Good Name	174
The Longest Name	175
Most Common Names in the Bible	175
Names and Meanings	177
In the Name of God	178
Argument over Naming John the Baptist	180
The Children of Israel	181
Parent Power	184
Child Murder	185
The Banished Child	188
The Only Boy with Lunch	188
Kids Who Got a Second Chance	189
Holy Matrimony	190
Battered Spouses	193
How Many Wives?	194
Bigamy?	195
God as Matchmaker	196
Guaranteed Honeymoon	198
What Was the Biggest Wedding Present in the Bible?	198
Why Remove a Shoe?	199
Onan II	200
The Unpuritanical Bible	201
Censored	203
More Instances of Incest	204

## FIVE: MATTERS OF THE MIND

<b>Biblical Covenants</b>	209
Who and What Was Cursed	210
A Gentleman's Agreement	210
Cursed Curses	212
Does the Bible Forbid?	212
Build Your Own Altar	214
Patriarchal Altar	214
Tabernacle Altar	214
Solomon's Altar	216
Ezekiel's Altar	216
Cornerstone Kids	217
How to Act When You Meet God	217
When God Calls You	218
Build Your Own Solomon-style Cherubim	219
How Do the Cherubim Serve God?	220
Poor Construction	221
12 Broken Things in the Bible	221
Urban Decay	222
Solomon's Temple	223
What Was the Most Gruesome Temple Decoration in the Bible?	225
What God Didn't Know	225
Articles of Faith	226
Holy but Lethal	227
What God Does	228
Old Testament Miracles	229
Miracles	239
Jesus' Miracles	243
Endless Food	244
Dreams	245
False Dreams	248
The Four Beasts of Daniel	251
Festivals of the Hebrews	254
Passover	254
Parties and Feasts in the Bible	255
Birthday Parties in the Bible	256
The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	257
The Party's Over	258
The Sabbath Holidays	259
Hosting Strangers	263
Hannukah	263
Purim	264
Great Hosts	265
Christmas	267
For We Have Seen His Star in the East	268

Longer than the Bible: The Book of Life	269
Astronomy and Astrology	271
Twelve Tribes	272
Numbers	273
How Many Israelites?	276
How Large Were Armies?	276
Funny Figures	277
The Almighty Shekel	278
Shekels	278
Shekels of Silver	279
Shekels of Gold	281
Talents	282
Talents of Silver	282
Talents of Gold	283
High Finance	283
Pence	284
Unemployment Compensation	284

## SIX: THE DARK SIDE

Cheering God and Men	287
Why Drink?	288
The Vineyard of the Lord	288
An Old Southern Story	289
A Sweet Savour unto the Lord	289
Cold Sober	290
Firewater	290
There's a Tavern in the Town	291
Song of the Drunkards	291
Boozing It Up	292
Teetotalers	293
Awake Ye Drunkards, and Weep!	294
Slavery	297
The Slave Trade	298
Value of Life	298
How Hebrews Became Slaves	298
Treatment of Slaves	299
Branding Slaves	300
Emancipation	301
By the Skin of My Teeth	302
Prisons	304
Who Was Jailed and Why	305
What the Fool Does	306
Great Prison Breaks	308
10 Signs of the Wicked	309
Cities of Refuge	311

Disease	313
She Should Have Sued for Malpractice	316
Curing	316
Drilling for Devils	317
Great Expectorations	319
Devils and Lunatics	319
Capital Crimes	321
Cruel and Unusual Punishment	323
Hangings in the Bible	327
People Who Were Stoned to Death	328
Most Tasteless Moments-Cannibalism in the Bible	331
The Depths of Hell	332
The Wages of Sin Is Death	334
10 Punishments for the Wicked	334
Funerals	335
Funeral for a Head	337
Mourning	337
A Season for Weeping	338
Crocodile Tears?	339
Famous Last Words	343
What Jesus Said on the Cross	344
Keeping Body and Soul Together	345
Back from the Dead	347
The Lock on Heaven's Door	352
Awake and Sing	352
Who Went to Heaven?	354
Heaven	354
SEVEN: WINNERS AND SINNERS	
Angels	361
Naked Came I	363
Antichrists	364
The Apostles	366
What a Way to Go!	380
Eunuchs	382
Best-dressed List	384
The Unpopular Queen	386
Kings	387
United Monarchy	387
Kings of Judah (928–586 BC)	388
Kings of Israel (928–723 BC)	391
The Seven-year-old King, Joash (836-798 BC)	393
The Eight-year-old King, Josiah (639-609 BC)	395
Another Eight-year-old King?	395
The Lame Prince	396

The Magi	397
Coming out of the Closet (Unexpected Appearances)	399
Mary the Mother of Jesus	401
Worst Dressed	407
What Not to Wear	407
The Mystery Man	408
Messiah	409
The Patriarchs (2000-1250 BC)	411
The Prophets	414
The Twelve Minor Prophets	416
The Major Prophets	417
What Were Job's Strangest Eccentricities?	419
Who Had Twenty-four Fingers and Toes?	419
Who Was a Road Menace?	419
17 Famous Women in the Bible	420
Seven Forgotten Women	428
Whores and Harlots	431
Biblical Suicides	433

# **EIGHT: ABOUT THE GOOD BOOK**

Who Wrote the Bible?	437
How Did God Write?	437
The Old Testament	437
Where to Keep Your Bible	439
Some Same Psalms	442
Bible Statistics	443
Did You Know People Wrote?	443
What the Bible Says about Itself	444
The New Testament	446
Five Inconsistencies and Contradictions	448
A Few Words about Words	449
The Dead Sea Scrolls	450
The Manual of Discipline	451
The Zadokite Document	453
The Scroll of Thanksgiving Psalms	454
The War of the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness	455
Verse Facts	456
Have You Copied Any Good Books Lately?	458
A Good Line Is Hard to Find	459
Clichés in Everyday Speech	461
In Other Words-The Bible in English	462
Thou Shalt Read Proof Carefully	464
Hands Off!	466
Index	469