

Letters to the Editor

Making it larger

We often get letters from older readers telling us they would like to have our magazine with a bigger print. However, there is a limit to how big we can go and still have enough space for worthwhile articles. So we are offering this practical solution from a reader in Kentucky.

My mother-in-law loves the magazine, but her eyes are failing and she is finding it harder to read. We solved the problem by printing out the articles in a larger type. It is quite easy. Here's how you do it:

- Go to Christian Odyssey's web page: www.ChristianOdyssey.org
- Click on the article you want to enlarge.

- Left-click the mouse and drag it down the text. (Or just key in "Control-A," which will highlight the entire article.)
- Right-click and choose "copy." You can now exit the web site.
- Open a new Word document.
- Right click and choose "Paste." The document will now appear as a Word document.
- Using "Control-A," select all text.
- On the tool bar, select the font size you need. Sizes 16 and 18 are good.
- Print the document.

It doesn't take very long, and my mother-in-law can now once again enjoy the magazine.

Christine Stewart, Pikeville, KY



Letters for this section should be addressed to "Letters to the Editor." Send your letters to Worldwide Church of God, PO Box 5005, Glendora, CA 91740-0730, or by e-mail to john.halford@wcg.org.

The editor reserves the right to use letters so addressed in whole or in part, and to include your name and edit the letter for clarity and space. We welcome your comments.

I've Been Reading...

The Year of Living Biblically:

One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible

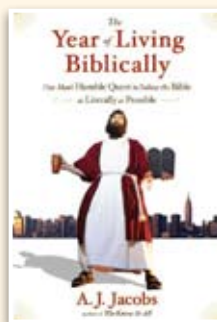
by A.J. Jacobs

Reviewed by John Halford

Who would have thought that legalism could be so much fun? In a previous book, *The Know-It-All*, this innovative author chronicled his attempt to read through the *Encyclopedia Britannica*—every word of it—in one year. What could he do as an encore? His answer: to not only read through the Bible in one year, but to try to put everything he discovered in its pages into action in his life.

Jacobs takes his self-imposed assignment—although not himself—very seriously. Much of what we read or write about the Bible is filtered through our theological perspective. Jacobs has no such restriction. He is not a religious man, and has little previous understanding of the Scriptures. As he discovers something, be it a major commandment or a minor statute, he tries to apply it. His question is not "does this apply today?" so much as "how can I do this today?" He makes efforts to love his neighbors, he employs an expert to search his wardrobe for clothes of mixed fibers, he learns to pray, to play on a ten-stringed harp and to blow a *shofar* trumpet. He also visits fundamental religious communities and travels to the Holy Land to experience firsthand the Bible environment.

The result is a fascinating, profound and often hilarious commentary, quite unlike anything I have ever read before. He is never disrespectful, although it is obvious that some of what he writes is with tongue very much in cheek. He exposes, perhaps more effec-



tively than any doctrinal argument, just why a fundamentalist legalistic approach just does not work. But he also begins to discover the value of prayer and worship.

At the end of his year, Jacobs shaves off his by now prodigious beard, goes back to his usual diet and resumes a normal life. But his experience has changed him. As he concludes: "I'll never live with so many restrictions. But a part of my biblical alter ego has carried over. If my Bible self had a foot-long beard, what remains is barely a five o'clock shadow, but it's there. I think it'll always be there."

I know that many readers of this magazine have rejected, or are in the process of rejecting, a legalistic approach to Christianity. Too often, the questions you must wrestle with along the way are presented in a confrontational style. I think you will find A. J. Jacob's gentle, humorous and yet profound account of his attempt to "live biblically" to be a delightful change of pace. In fact, as the dust jacket warns, "Thou shalt not be able to put it down."

A.J. Jacobs, *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible*, Simon and Schuster, 388 pages, \$25.