

VILLAGE VOICE

RIVER CHASE VILLAGE

January 2022

Vol. 3, No. 1

I



A Chilly Night Sky / Google Images

Drier, warmer southern temperatures expected this winter

As shown above, nights are much colder at this time, but according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Climate Change Prediction Center, "above-average temperatures are favored across the South and most of the eastern U.S. as La Nina climate conditions have emerged for the second winter in a row." Per NOAA's Winter Outlook — which extends through February 2022 — "wetter-than-average conditions are anticipated across portions of the Northern U.S., primarily in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and western Alaska"

For the facts on the La Nina phenomenon see page 19.

-by Wade David



VILLAGE VOICE

EDITOR – Wade David

ASSOC' EDITOR – Lauren David

PUBLISHER – River Chase Village

5090 Gautier Vancleave Road

Gautier, Mississippi 39553

Phone: 228 / 522-6700

www.riverchasevillagemsg.com

Village Voice is an in-house free monthly newsletter that is dedicated exclusively to River Chase Village elders; thus, we do not accept outside ads nor solicit subscriptions.



Elders: Howard Bargin (1/5); Emily Seymour (1/7); Marshall Holyfield (1/10) Juanellee Goff (1/24).

Care Partners: Shila McCreary (1/1,) Megan Denton (1/15); Saarllyn Sschmolke (1/ 24).



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Christmas at River Chase Village

River Chase Village is a place of warmth, sanctuary, and safety that always offers its residents and staff a magnificent Christmas experience every year.

In 2021, it seemed every wall, door, and “nook and cranny” was adorned with bright, festive decorations. Christmas trees had stacks of wrapped presents from Santa. When opening them, every resident got gifts; he left no one out.

Following the opening of presents, we were served a delicious Christmas dinner consisting of all the traditional food items and then some. The hospitality and fellowship were firmly in the spirit of the season.

On behalf of my fellow residents, I thank everyone involved in planning and putting together this special holiday occasion.

-

-by Wade David



Art by Molly Ferguson for STAT News

Winter is here, again! What Can We Expect?

“A year ago,” per [statnews.com](https://www.statnews.com), “experts warned that the United States faced a grim winter if Americans didn’t mask up and social distance to slow transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus before ‘indoor weather’ — aka winter — settled in for its long stay. We all know how well that warning was heeded. In January, cases topped 300,000 a day; Covid ended the lives of about 95,000 Americans before the month was out.

“This month indoor weather again looms in many parts of this country, and daily case counts are rising well into the six figures. The highly transmissible Delta variant is driving [the] spread, even among fully vaccinated people totaling 50 million

cases and 800 thousand deaths,” per worldometers.info/coronavirus. “And now, there’s the newly identified coronavirus variant named [Omicron](#) which is much more transmissible than Delta. College and pro sports are drawing tens of thousands fans all clustered together with no social distancing nor masks. It’s the same for movie theaters, concerts, and other entertainment events.

“Children are back in classrooms possibly functioning as germ incubators. As we walk around in public, we see noses protruding out of masks, masks drooping under chins, faces without masks. What can we expect this winter, really?”

- *by Wade David as adapted*



New Year's Resolutions – New Insights

*"Change is the law of life.
And those who look only to
the past or present are
certain to miss the future."
- John F. Kennedy*

A new year is beginning, and you may be considering changes in your life. It's time for you to make reality-based resolutions and sticking to them. To help you put things in proper perspective, we are offering the following advice and insights from Sarah Jakes Roberts, Bishop T.D. Jake's daughter, who alongside her husband, Touré Roberts, co-pastors The Potter's House at One LA and The Potter's House in Denver. For more, visit <https://sarahjakesroberts.com/blog/category/Life>.

-by Wade David

Welcoming Change via reality-based resolutions by Sarah Jakes Roberts

Have you ever wanted to just snap your fingers and be over a hurdle? Sometimes I wish that God would make my mountain easier to climb. I wish that He would give me the strength I see in others. Before I can let that thought fully live in my mind, I remind myself that God won't just give me the power that someone else possesses because I may not be able to handle the weakness that comes along with it. No,

instead he places me in situations where I must prove to myself what He's known all along: I've got what it takes. He makes me dig deep within and face my fears so that when I finally taste the victory of overcoming, I won't forget the preparation it took to get there.

Some of you have been waiting for God to reveal how you're supposed to move, this

blog post is not for you. This post is for the person who has known what God wants from them for a very long time, but they've been afraid to move. I'm serving you notice that there's no way around it.

Your happiness and wholeness depend on this move. God gave you grace on credit because he wanted to increase your faith. You're not just going to wake up one day and have your life together. No, it's going to take every ounce of willpower you can muster. There will be pleasant distractions that pacify your stagnancy, but they will only be temporary. You will have to force yourself to have unprecedented discipline, or you will find yourself stuck. You weren't meant to go to bed questioning your life every night. You're supposed to rest confidently because you know regardless of what the day holds you know you're in God's will. There are benefits reserved for those who can make the tough decisions that lead to destiny. Those benefits promise that your discipline and decision to be obedient is not just seen but rewarded.

So, this message is for you, my friend. I can't tell you how much time you'll be given on this earth. I just know that you've got to make each moment count. The change you've been hoping will happen in your life will not come instantly, change this monumental occurs each second of everyday. It's in how you choose to handle your heart. It's in whom you choose to handle your insecurities. It's in how you honor your body. It's in how you treat others.

You graduated that test, but now you're going to have to do the work of stretching your faith by stepping into obedience. Yes, I said the "O" word. Obedience is the word that makes every rebel shudder. To procrastinate your surrender is to protest what God wants to do in your life. He will not force you to move.

If you're in a toxic relationship, it's time to start pulling your heart back. If you're downplaying your intellect and wisdom to be accepted, you're going to have to find your voice. If you spend too much, you'll have to cut back. If you devalue the treasure of your heart, body, and soul for attention, no one will ever fully understand your worth.

There may be something in your life that seems like it has control of you, but the reality is you've forgotten how much power is within you. You have become so comfortable in the rhythm your pattern has created that you've failed to fully maximize your potential. No one you admire got there by staying on cruise control. They decided to kick into another gear. They chose to not be confined by excuses when they could take control.

This kind of change will shake up your world. That shaking will be scary at first, but then you will realize God is only shaking off mindsets, relationships, and opportunities that you should have never clung to in the first place.

I ask you to join me on my journey of change. *-by Sarah Jakes Roberts*



THE PROMISED ONE

2: The Perfect Lamb

Previously, Joseph and a very pregnant Mary undertook the tedious journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem Ephrathah because the current Roman Emperor Augustus, had mandated that all Jews must return to their place of birth to be recorded by the Roman officials. Along the way Phillip, a childhood friend of Joseph, joined them for a while and in departing, asked Joseph and Mary to join him and his wife, Hava Nagila, at the Inn in Bethlehem. Once Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem, they were told by the owner that there was no room at the Inn, but he offered them a corner in the manger. Joseph accepted and there with the gentle help of a late attending midwife, Mary gave birth. He, The Promised One, the Messiah, had arrived! He was also to be the Perfect Lamb!

Joseph adjusted the blankets brought to them by the midwife. He, too, had finally chosen to rest. He lay near his new family unit and with his body as a shield, he protected them from the curious eyes that would glance their way while the owner brought more animals in during the night. They had traveled so far and had found safety and eventual rest. But there were others on their way to them that night, for they could not remain silent. They felt compelled to find them. Their arrival and news would confirm and set alarms off in Joseph's and Mary's hearts. Time for them would always be draped in the changing fabric of friend or foe.

“Stop! Quiet! Leave!” shouted the inn keeper. Joseph, startled out of deep slumber arrived at the manger's doorway, knife drawn ready to do battle to protect his family. Standing in the doorway was a bedraggled band of shepherds. What could they want and at this time of night, nearly three in the morning?

“What has brought you here?” demanded Joseph in a dangerous tone while his hand rested on his dagger's unlocked hilt.

“Good sir, we came because we followed the star that has pointed the way and as the glorious angels have directed us. This night we were tending our sheep on yonder hill, and we beheld



a bright star that has not appeared before in the night sky.” Joseph looked about and saw no threat. However, he kept the sheath’s lock open, just in case. He stepped slightly away from them and looked up. Indeed, there above the manger, brighter than any star he had seen, shone a new star magnificent in its glory. He perceived its meaning, but neither he nor Mary, apart from sharing her news when visiting her Aunt Elizabeth, had ever breathed a word to anyone about who their child would be to Israel. “Ay. It is a star of great brilliance, I agree. But what of its meaning say you since you are here on this doorstep and at this hour? Uhm?” Fatigue was beginning to lay claim to his alertness and his good grace. The shepherd’s deferred to the eldest of their motley group to be their spokesperson. “We were tending our flocks on yonder hill as we do every night. He pointed to the same hill Joseph had spotted earlier in the day to encourage Mary as they neared Bethlehem Ephrathah. The others nodded and various “Aayes,” were muttered with awe. “Then suddenly, we were surrounded by a host of angels singing praises to Yahweh and the main messenger spoke to us saying, “Do not be afraid—for we were indeed-- “This very day in David's town your Savior was born – Christ the Lord!” Thus, we have come following the star and we have seen with our own eyes that the child is swaddled in cloth just as we wrap the selected sacrificial lamb that is offered by the Levitical Priest for the sins of our people in both Judah and Israel. Joseph’s distant memory confirmed the account of the Levitical Priest arriving in town when he was a youngster. Everyone who shepherded flocks would hope that their blemish-less first-born male lamb would be selected and the celebrations that would follow.

Joseph glanced back at the swaddled child and lifted his eyes to meet Mary’s who now was wide awake. Now they held each other’s glance exchanging some unspoken knowing. These lowly shepherds had unwittingly confirmed that Mary’s child was indeed the *Promised One*, the Savior who would take away the sins of those descending from the first Adam. After the shepherd’s time of adoration, they left.

Eventually, Joseph and Mary and the *Promised One* were able to fall into the deep sleep that they so desperately needed.



The Magi had assembled all that they needed for their journey to behold the *Promised One*. They had their servants pack many opulent gifts for King Herod II as they would have to travel through his authority before moving onward. It was renowned that Herod II was mercurial in his temperament and not unlike some of the kings that were surrounding their own domains. So, offering such exotic and opulent gifts to him would hopefully assuage any imagined threats Herod II might assume that they presented. The Magi truly came in peace. They prayed to the Hebrew God for safety in travel and for wisdom when being presented to King Herod II. No doubt King Herod II would exercise them with clever questions in the presence of his wise council to ensure their intentions were honest and peace filled.

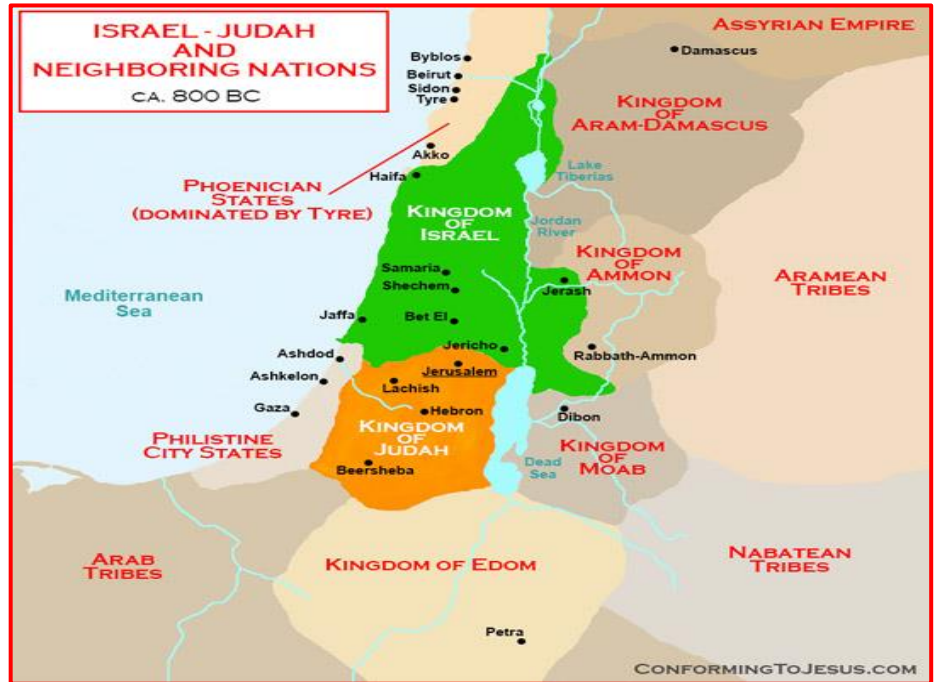
Finishing their spiced coffee and their quick meal of dates and dried smoked meats, the captain of the caravan called all to prepare to move forward. The three magi quickly drank the last of their coffee and prepared to mount their nondescript camels, ordinarily their camels would have been elaborately decorated, however, today they wanted to hide their wealth from other travelers lest they lure bandits. Their clothing was equally pedestrian and dusty and, in some places, skillfully torn that they might blend with all in the caravan.

Each king had an entourage of private soldiers in disguise as lowly servants doing the bidding of their masters. They were in fact traders too and had all the necessary documents and a variety of coin depending on which markets they would eventually bid for contracts. This conveniently served them as their cover story thereby hiding their true motive. Their desire originally was to discover, bless, and worship the promised Messiah for they were obedient and secret believers to Yahweh within their realms.

Herod the Great (father of the now ruling King) was of Edomite descent, though of Jewish faith, and was allied through his mother with the nobility of Nabataean Petra, a familiar and wealthy Arab state that lay to the east of the Jordan River which also bordered the traveling

Kings of the East's realms. So, many of its shared customs were familiar to them which also made their journey and presence less intimidating to others.

Eventually, they entered Jerusalem where King Herod II was enjoying his dead father's vast wealth and expansion which had been built during his 30-year reign. The Eastern Kings entered Jerusalem quietly with others. They sought temporary quarters amongst those offered to traders visiting their proud city.



As the three kings quickly took in the city's fineness, they were struck by and more than a little surprised at its greatness. Obvious growing wealth for the city had expanded even beyond the new double line of walls. The Temple Mount esplanade was artificially enlarged with supporting walls to house Herod the Great's legacy—"This grandly reconstructed Jewish Temple took more than a generation of workers to complete," boasted the local tour guide. Though the Eastern Kings were impressed, their countenances remained unreadable.

Herod's taxes had been grueling, but more money was needed for he had added to his private estate—the new royal palace, which had required builders to ensure its real estate engulfed much of the area of what had been the Armenian quarter.

In addition, it was necessary for immensely tall and strong towers to be built to ensure the security of the citizens and visitors entering and exiting the city. Herod the Great spared no expense for he included a new citadel to stand adjacent as defense to the new Temple. Herod's goal had been to make Jerusalem the Centre of religion, the goal of obligatory pilgrimage, and the seat of the ruler and of the unique and autonomous court of the Jewish Sanhedrin which was the Jewish Council of Elders. King Herod the Great had succeeded in making Jerusalem into a great metropolis of the Hellenistic Age. (To be continued)

-by Lauren David, © 2022, Seeker&Sage. All rights reserved.

Note: This is a fictionalized account of actual biblical events and people. All photos and print are representational and unless noted otherwise, are Google Images under General License Use and are used for illustrative purposes only.



U.S. reaches record new Covid-19 cases; at least sixty-five million people unvaccinated

Just when we were beginning to put Covid-19 behind us, it rose its ugly head out of nowhere in a new variant form called Omicron. The U.S. reached a seven-day average of 254,496 new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, the highest this number has ever been over the course of the pandemic, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. This number beat the previous record of 251,989 new cases, set on January 11, 2021. The U.S. has seen a rapid acceleration in new cases since late November, and as the number of Omicron cases continues to rise, we are told we must all be fully vaccinated if Covid is to be finally eradicated. This calls for getting booster shots.

Here's the latest data on vaccination efforts in the U.S., published Monday, December 27, 2021, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and as reported by CNN:

- Fully vaccinated: **61.9%** of the total US population (all ages) – more than 205 million people.
- Not vaccinated: **22.3%** of the eligible population (age 5+) have not received any dose of Covid-19 vaccine – at least 65 million people.
- Current pace of vaccinations (seven-day average): **1,091,279 doses are being administered each day.**
- An average of **722,888 million booster doses** are being administered each day.
- An average of **120,289 people is becoming fully vaccinated each day.**
- More than **67 million people have received an additional dose, or booster.**
- The Omicron variant was estimated to account for **58.6% of U.S. infections** as of Christmas Day, (which is 30% higher than Delta), according to CDC data released on December 28, and reported by Reuters.

Those are amazing statistics, especially the fact that despite unrelenting pressure to “Get the Jab, or Else!”, **at least 65 million are not vaccinated!** How can this be? The answer could be due to one or a combination of the following myths about the vaccines on social media or from

influencers in their lives. Let's apply CDC facts to debunk these myths.

Myth: The vaccine is not safe because it was rapidly developed and tested.

Fact: Many pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for Covid-19 because of the world-wide impact of the pandemic. The emergency warranted a rapid response but that does not mean that companies bypassed safety protocols or didn't perform adequate testing. Vaccines with FDA emergency use authorization or approval include Pfizer-BioNTech; Moderna; and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson.

Myth: I already had Covid-19 and recovered, so I don't need the vaccine.

Fact: Getting Covid-19 might offer some natural protection or immunity from reinfection with the virus that causes Covid-19. But it's not clear how long this protection lasts. Because reinfection is possible and Covid-19 can cause severe medical complications, it's recommended that people who have already had Covid-19 get the vaccine

Myth: There are severe side effects of the Covid-19 vaccines.

Fact: Reports of serious side effects are exceedingly rare. For the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, you may experience some mild side effects, primarily injection site pain, fatigue, and chills. These symptoms get better without medical care, and usually within 24 to 48 hours.



Myth: The vaccines don't work because you can still get Covid after vaccination.

Fact: Vaccination will protect most people from getting sick with Covid-19, ranging from 66% to 100% effective. A very small percentage of fully vaccinated people will still get Covid-19, if they are exposed to the Covid-19 virus. However, vaccination might make illness less severe. It is therefore highly recommended that Covid vaccination be taken.

Myth: The vaccine was developed to control the general population either through microchip tracking or "nano transducers" in our brains.

Fact: There is no vaccine microchip, and the vaccine will not track people or gather personal information into a database. This myth started after comments made by Bill Gates from The Gates Foundation about a digital certificate of vaccine records. The technology he was referencing is not a microchip, has not been implemented in any manner and is not tied to the development, testing or distribution of Covid-19 vaccines.

Myth: Covid-19 vaccines will alter my DNA.

Fact: The first vaccines to reach the market were messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. According to the CDC, mRNA vaccines work by instructing cells in the body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. Injecting mRNA into your body will not interact or do anything to the DNA of your cells. Human cells break down and get rid of the mRNA soon after they have finished using the instructions.

Myth: COVID-19 vaccines were manufactured using fetal tissue.

Fact: Neither the Pfizer/BioNTech nor Moderna vaccines for COVID-19 contain fetal cells, and fetal cells were not used in their development or production.

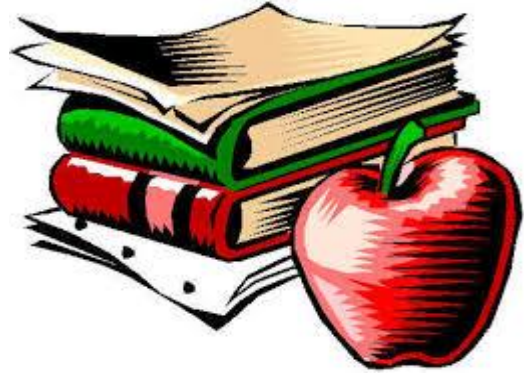
-by Wade David as adapted from

<https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/omicron-variant-coronavirus-news-12-28-21/index.html>

<https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/featured-topic/covid-19-vaccine-myths-debunked>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-tally/u-s-coronavirus-cases-hit-record-high-idUSKBN2J80J2>

Note: This information was accurate at the time of its posting. However, due to the fluid nature of the pandemic, guidelines, and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date.



Back to School!

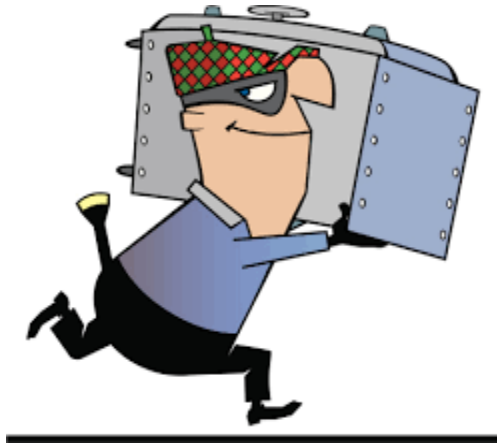
January means new beginnings and celebrations of the coming of a New Year and more significant opportunities to start over and to fulfill new promises.

January means the return of school. Kids will fill the halls with the joy of seeing each other again after a long holiday at home. Finals and tests will be the order of the day while evenings are devoted to studying and homework. School means no more sleeping in late and waking up in the middle of the day.

Students may hate the idea that school is back, but sooner or later, they will begin to wonder how fast the year will have flown by amid the realization that summer is back and that they will be in another grade of study or, for seniors, graduation.

-by Wade David





The Laff's on Us

Calling 911

When a man was going to bed, his wife told him he'd left the light on in the tool shed. When the man opened the door to go turn off the light, he saw a thief in the shed stealing things. He immediately phoned 911 who explained that all patrols were busy, an officer would come when available. "Alright," said the man and hung up. After counting to thirty, he called 911 again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago about a thief in my shed. "Well, I've just shot him." Then he hung up. Within minutes three squad cars and an ambulance showed up. "Where's the body of the thief?"

"Over here busy stealing my stuff!"

One of them said, "I thought you'd shot him!"

The man replied, "I thought there was nobody available!"

Quality Counts

A certain woman kept the ashes of her dearly departed father in a silver box on a table. One day, after not having looked at her "father" for a long time, she opened the box and was horrified to discover it was nearly empty! Furious, she accosted the house cleaner and demanded to know, "Have you touched this box?" Whereupon the maid protested "I didn't think you'd mind! After all, it's very poor-quality dope!"

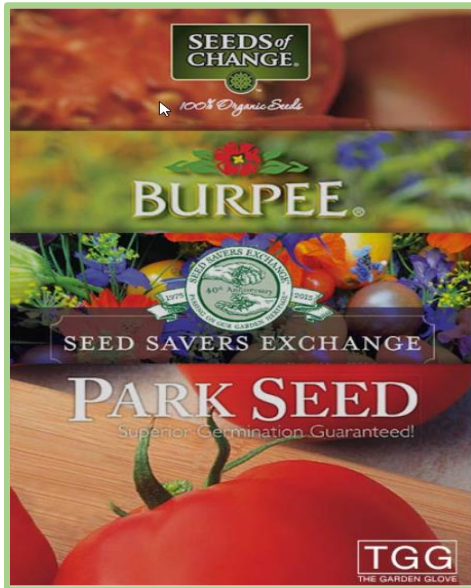
Careful, Mommy!

A young boy and his mother were standing in a grocery store behind a large woman who wore a beeper on her belt. Suddenly, the beeper went off. The little boy cried, "Careful, Mommy--she's backing up!"

A Simple Answer

In a recent TV interview, Clint Eastwood was disparaged by the hostile host, who began by defining a Clint Eastwood picture as a violent, ruthless, lawless, and bloody piece of mayhem, and then asked Eastwood himself to define a Clint Eastwood picture. "To me," said Eastwood calmly, "what a Clint Eastwood picture is, is one that I'm in."





Gardener's Shed

It's time to plan for that early spring garden. Go ahead and assemble all your favorite vegetable and flower seed catalogs. It's time to dive into pages of beautiful seed catalogs and find your spring, summer garden standbys, and explore new varieties that promise rich harvests and fragrant bouquets. With so many options for seed catalogs in print and online, you may want to consider these questions by new and old gardeners:

Question: I am a new gardener. Are there seed catalogs for gardeners that are just starting out?

Answer: Yes. Not all seed catalogs give as much gardening instructions or information as others. With more planting and care instructions, your gardening knowledge will increase and so will your confidence. Below are five of the best seed catalogs with their links to aid you in growing your plants and gardening knowledge.

Territorial Seed: <https://territorialseed.com/pages/catalog-form>

Seed Savers Exchange: <https://www.seedsavers.org/catalog>

Johnny's Selected Seeds: [https://www.johnny I seeds.com/catalog-request/](https://www.johnnyIseeds.com/catalog-request/)

Prairie Moon Nursery: <https://www.puestiorairiemoon.com/catalog-request.html>

High Mowing Organic Seeds: <https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

Baker Creek Seeds: <https://www.rareseeds.com/requestcat/catalog>

Fedco Seeds: <https://www.fedcoseeds.com/connect>

Question: What about the new raised-bed gardening for self-sufficiency or small space gardening? Are there any guides or product catalogs for gardeners like me?

Answer: Yes. You are focused on a hot new trend in gardening—the raised-bed system. It has the benefit of being built at heights that are easy on your back and for the maintenance of the garden itself. These raised gardens can be bought as kits from your local and national chain stores such as Home Depot, Lowes, or order from online sources.

You will want to consider how long you will want the raised gardens to last. Depending on the material used to build the beds, they can last up to 50 years! That's not a typo.

Here are links to get you started:

https://www.gardeners.com/raised_bed_kits/gardening and [Amazon.com : box garden kit raised](#) I was surprised that these were available via Amazon! Ordering through Amazon saves the gardener time and gas, too.

Question: Should I compost my raised garden?

Answer: Raised-garden beds usually need a mixture of soil and compost. You can mix the soil in with the compost thoroughly, or layer them, which is more what you'd find in nature. Compost is a useful source of nutrients and should be proportional to the square footage of your raised-garden bed. You will want to add one to three inches (2.5 to 7.6 cm.) of compost to your flower or garden beds as a rule.

Question: We are interested in Heirloom seeds. Do you know of any sources for these types of seeds?

Answer: Seed Savers Exchange Catalog for 2022 is filled with non-GMO organic seed varieties, beloved heirlooms, and newly available varieties from their rich seed bank. Their catalog began mailing in early December. While you're waiting to receive your copy; you can shop their website at [shop our website](#). They do offer their digital catalog at [2021 digital catalog](#).

Seed Savers Exchange offers seeds that are open-pollinated and non-GMO. They also provide extensive [growing guides](#) and [blog](#) posts to keep you informed of new techniques and happenings in the garden world. Finally, here's a place to find grandpa's tomatoes and grandma's favorite vegetables! Remember, you can shop 24/7 online from anywhere. Happy 2022 planning! -by Lauren David





Thai Red Curry Noodle Soup

The Rovin' Gourmet here! Tired of the heavy holidays meals? Well, let me suggest Thai soup to give your stomach a needed break. I'm on the Thai food binge for the near future, starting with this noodle soup. Now you know I love a red curry. But I love it even more with rice noodles. It's so cozy, it's so comforting, and it's so fragrant with all the cilantro, basil, and lime juice—plus, it's easy enough for any night of the week. I always add a little bit of extra lime juice to my bowl for that extra zesty kick! Try it; you'll like it!



Thai Red Curry Noodle Soup Recipe

Yield: six servings (8 cups)

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 35 minutes

Total time: 50 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch chunks

- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 tablespoons red curry paste
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated ginger
- 6 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 1 (13.5-ounce) can coconut milk
- 1/2 (8-ounce) package rice noodles
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice

Directions:

1 Heat olive oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Season chicken with salt and pepper, to taste. Add chicken to the stockpot

and cook until golden, about 2-3 minutes; set aside.

2 Add garlic, bell pepper and onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes.

3 Stir in red curry paste and ginger until fragrant, about 1 minute.

4 Stir in chicken broth and coconut milk, scraping any browned bits from the bottom of the pot.

5 Stir in chicken. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and cook, stirring occasionally, until reduced, about 10 minutes.

6 Stir in rice noodles, fish sauce and brown sugar until noodles are tender, about 5 minutes.

7 Remove from heat; stir in green onions, cilantro, basil, and lime juice; season with salt and pepper, to taste.

-by *Lauren David* as adapted from @damndelicious





Riddle Me This! **(Answers on page 21)**

01 Riddle: Why are ghosts bad at lying?

Answer: _____

02 Riddle: What five-letter word gets shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answer: _____

03 Riddle: A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter and 12 remains, what is it?

Answer: _____

04 Riddle: How many letters are there in the alphabet?

Answer: _____

05 Riddle: What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?

Answer: _____

06 Riddle: What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Answer: _____

07 Riddle: What's black, white, and blue?

Answer: _____

08 Riddle: Starting on the fourth floor, a mouse climbs up five stories, down seven stories, up six stories, down three stories, and up four stories again. What floor is she on?

Answer: _____

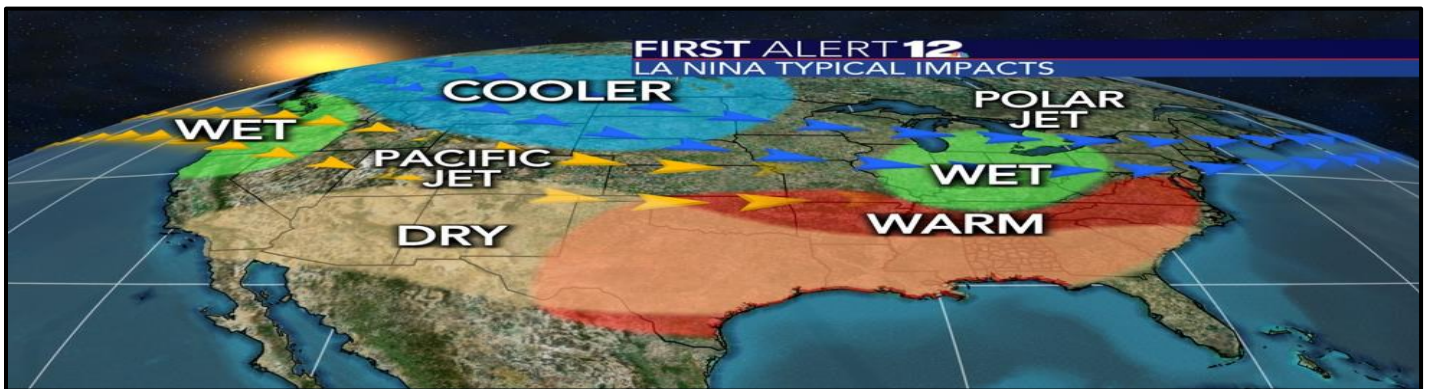
09 Riddle: I turn once, what is out will not get in. I turn again, what is in will not get out. What am I?

Answer: _____

10 Riddle: I am a word of letters three; add two and fewer there will be. What word am I?

Answer: _____





What a typical La Niña winter looks like. / WSFA-TV 12 News

La Niña expected this winter

There's an 87% chance of La Niña running through February, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Climate Change Prediction Center. Per Tyler Sebree of Alabama's WSFA-TV 12 News, "That is about as high as it gets when looking at future probabilities of a La Niña [which] ...is defined as cooler than normal sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that impact global weather patterns. These cooler sea-surface temperatures occur because the negative phase of ENSO results in faster trade winds over the central Pacific Ocean. Those faster winds cool the water, which can lead to La Niña conditions.

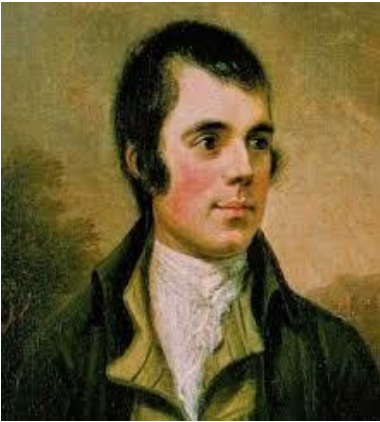
"When these cooler sea-surface temperatures set up and persist, the weather patterns across the United States can be affected -- at least to an extent. To get a better idea of how a La Niña may impact our weather, we can look at just how "strong" the La Niña is forecast to be. A La Niña can be weak, moderate, or

strong. This winter, at its peak intensity, La Niña is projected to be moderate in strength. That results in a pattern supportive of warmer-than-normal and drier-than-normal conditions here...during the winter months. When talking winter, we use meteorological winter, which is December, January, and February. Of course, this is the opposite of what an El Niño winter brings to ... the Southeast [where] winters are usually wetter-than-average and cooler-than-average.

'It's important to remember that the ENSO phase we're in -- El Niño, La Niña or neutral -- doesn't provide an exact forecast for winter. It gives us a more general idea of what to expect: December, January and February are more likely to be warmer and drier than normal. For additional information, see https://www.sunherald.com/news/coronavirus/article256197187.html?utm_source=pushly&intcid=pushly_1652699

-

-by Wade David as adapted



Robert Burns and “Auld Lang Syne”

Robert Burns, (January 25, 1759, Scotland—died July 21, 1796), acclaimed as national poet of Scotland, wrote poems and songs both in Scots and in English. He was also famous for his amorous inclinations and his rebellion against the Calvinist orthodox religion and morality, per *birtannica.com*. It's likely that you and your friends and family sang Burns' "Auld Lang Syne" at the end of 2021; as did millions world over. Burns has always been tremendously popular and respected around the world. On the evening of every January 25th, his birthday, **Burns Night** is celebrated in his honor in Scotland and elsewhere.

"Burns was a man of great intellectual energy and force of character who, in a class-ridden society, never found an environment in which he could fully exercise his personality" according to *britaannica.com*. "It may be argued that Scottish culture in his day was incapable of providing an intellectual background that could replace the strong Calvinistic beliefs that Burns rejected.... The only substitute for the rejected Calvinism seemed to be, for Burns, a sentimental Deism, a facile (weak) belief that God did

exist but was not engaged in human affairs. This was not a creed rich or complex enough to nourish his great poetry. That Burns despite this produced so much fine poetry shows the strength of his unique genius, and that he has become the Scottish national poet is a tribute to his hold on the popular imagination."

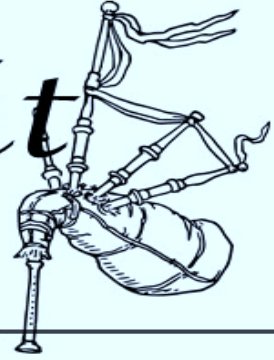
"In addition to his poems, Burns worked on something like four hundred songs. He always found the time to write." Burns wrote his first poem when he was 15. By the time of his death, at age 37, he had completed about 220 poems. In addition to "Auld Lang Syne," some of Burns' best songs and poems are "To a Mouse," "A Red, Red Rose," "Halloween," "To a Louse," "A Man's a Man for A' That," "The Banks o' Doon," "John Anderson My Jo," "Holy Willie's Prayer," and "Tam o' Shanter."

For more about Burns, see <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-Burns>. -by Wade David as adapted

Name: _____

Burns Night

Word Search



FIND THE WORDS

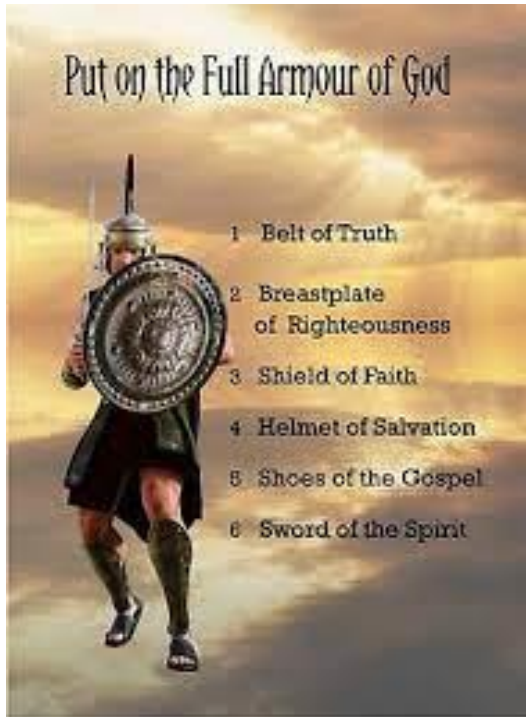
P	Q	B	E	D	I	Q	F	H	P	D	B	L	V	D	P	P
O	L	Z	I	M	M	H	W	H	O	D	C	N	A	T	I	L
E	L	V	R	O	B	E	R	T	B	U	R	N	S	T	P	I
M	L	S	A	C	X	K	B	A	E	M	Q	Z	O	X	E	B
S	Q	D	K	W	C	U	F	V	N	F	Y	L	U	B	R	W
M	N	A	Q	J	K	J	E	U	J	Q	K	B	P	K	D	Q
N	C	N	B	D	H	U	I	B	X	O	F	W	S	H	E	J
R	N	C	V	X	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	H	R	Z	P	O
E	Z	I	I	L	A	D	R	Z	A	R	Z	X	B	W	I	A
K	U	N	F	K	E	G	N	E	E	P	S	A	U	H	X	T
X	B	G	S	O	Z	X	U	J	G	S	M	R	R	N	F	C
C	J	R	S	U	J	A	B	I	P	P	I	F	N	K	Q	A
V	B	P	Q	T	O	A	S	T	S	F	G	J	S	C	U	K
J	C	B	I	I	V	H	B	V	P	J	H	C	N	P	T	E
A	A	T	G	X	I	C	S	A	J	D	A	Y	I	V	T	S
Q	I	Z	K	X	A	C	V	Q	V	B	G	K	G	A	Y	I
S	U	P	P	E	R	V	X	Y	M	B	G	G	H	J	X	H
V	H	F	Q	G	X	M	J	Y	H	B	I	E	T	I	L	C
S	V	Q	V	C	T	A	T	T	I	E	S	Q	E	S	M	T
T	D	J	M	U	Q	C	X	V	H	S	E	P	X	F	I	M
B	A	G	P	I	P	E	S	X	F	P	H	U	V	M	T	O
M	K	F	G	F	O	Z	G	S	O	N	G	S	B	W	U	Y

ROBERT BURNS
SOUP
JANUARY
OATCAKES
SUPPER
DANCING
TOASTS
SONGS
POEMS
HAGGIS
TATTIES
NEEPS
PIPER
BAGPIPES
BURNS NIGHT



© Monsterwordsearch.com

Answers to Riddle Me This. 1 You can see right through them 2 Short 3 Dozens 4 3 in 'the,' 7 in 'English,' and 8 in 'alphabet' 8 The future 7 A sad Zebra 8 The ninth floor 9 A key 10 Few



What Is the Whole Armor of God?

In this, the first month of a new year, people are engaged in planning for the future and making resolutions to better themselves. (See pages 4-5) This is all well and good, but superficial in actuality. As is true in every situation Christians face, the Bible has an answer or a plan to combat or deal with the future. In the case of self-betterment and protection, the answer is found in [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) NLT, ¹⁰“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against

mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ “Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”

“We are facing spiritual attacks on every front! The enemy is doing all he can to catch God’s people unprepared and unequipped. But God has given us His spiritual armor and weapons of warfare to overcome the attacks of the enemy.” April Motl, writing for *crosswalk.com*, offers the following commentary (edited*) on Ephesians 6:10-18: “The armor of God is a metaphor in the Bible that reminds Christians about

the reality of spiritual battle and describes the protection available to them. The full armor of God that Christians are called to put on is comprised of the:

Belt of Truth -- Quoting late priest David Chadwick, ‘Every other piece of the full armor of God is attached to the belt of truth. If you don’t begin with truth, you’ll never defeat the enemy. And Jesus said God’s Word is true ([John 17:17](#)).’

Breastplate of Righteous -- Righteousness means being made right. The enemy tempts with all kinds of sinful entanglements, ...[but] obedience to God is a protection for your heart from being wounded by sin.

Gospel of Peace -- In Greek, peace means oneness or wholeness. The gospel, which means good news, is the forgiveness of sins and access to and oneness with God through faith in Christ. This oneness with the Lord produces peace.

Shield of Faith -- When Paul wrote this passage, Roman soldiers carried shields that were covered with heavy animal hide. Before a battle, they would dip their shields into the water so that when fiery darts hit them, the wet hide would extinguish the darts. In a similar way, a Christian’s shield of faith needs to be regularly dipped in the water of God’s word to be replenished and fully functional – because “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” ([Romans 10:17](#)).

Helmet of Salvation -- The helmet of salvation (like the breastplate of righteousness) rests on the work of Christ to save us, but also involves us as we journey with the Lord and allow Him to work that salvation into every part of our thoughts. The battlefield of our mind is the primary place spiritual battle is fought.

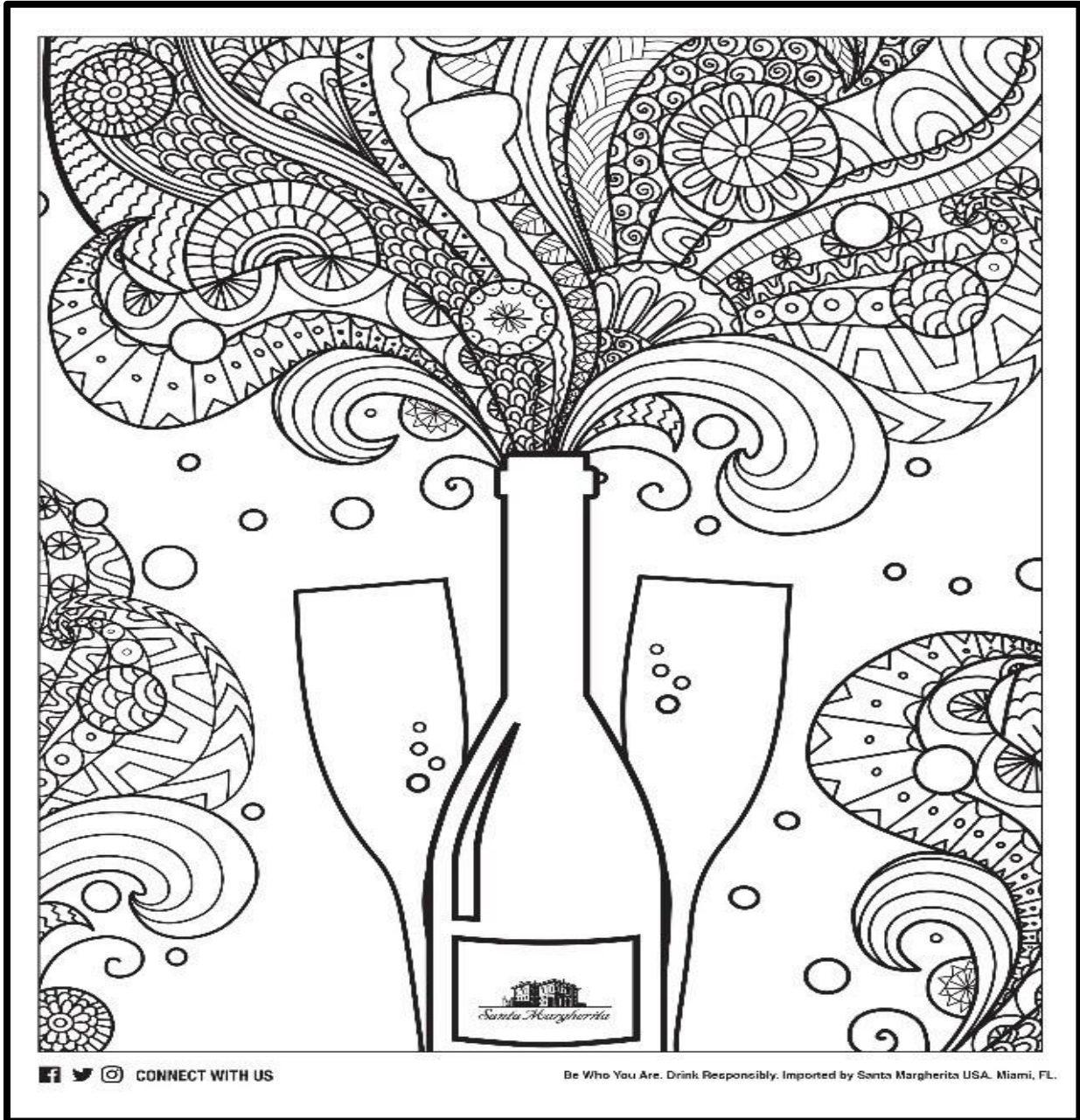
Sword of the Spirit -- Quoting Pastor Greg Laurie, ‘When we are tempted, the most effective weapon that God has given to us as believers is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Jesus modeled this so beautifully during His temptation in the wilderness. ([Luke 4:1–13](#)).’ When the devil tempted him three times, Jesus responded with the truth of God’s word – every time.”

*And that, according to April Motl, is what the whole armor of God is. Motl is a pastor’s wife, mom, and women’s ministry coordinator. Her love of words led her through a BA in linguistics and her love of God’s Word through a Master’s in Religious Studies. You can find more encouragement from her and her husband at [MotlMinistries.org](#). *For the complete unedited version of this article, click on <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-the-full-armor-of-god-how-can-i-put-on-the-whole-armor-of-god.html>*

-by Wade David



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!



COLOR ME: "HAVE MORE BUBBLY!"