"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. "
~2 Corinthians 5:17

1. **The question that's on everyone's mind, today — are butterflies mentioned anywhere in the Bible?**
   a. yes, in Genesis 1, though not always translated as "butterflies"
   b. yes, in Joshua chapter 2, a reference is made to the Promised Land (Canaan), in which "wildflowers bloom and butterflies pollinate"
   c. yes, nearly 150 times, as the Koinos Greek word for “butterfly” is the same root word for “Holy Spirit”
   d. While "butter" is mentioned many times, and many insects are indicated, not the butterfly
   
   **Commentary:** The most frequently named bugs from the Bible are: Locust: 24, Moth: 11, Grasshopper: 10, Scorpion: 10, Caterpillar: 9, and Bee: 4

2. **What's the scientific difference between a butterfly and a moth?**
   a. the butterfly’s wings are held vertically when resting; a moth’s is held flat against its body
   b. there is no real taxonomic difference between butterflies and moths; both are classified in the order Lepidoptera
   c. in the pupal stage, the butterfly creates a chrysalis, whereas a moth makes a cocoon
   d. butterflies are colorful, and moths are dull in color
   e. butterflies are active during the day, whereas moths are active at night
   
   **Commentary:** There are exceptions to each listed, though they are all generally true. Examples include: 1) Luna Moths are colorful (green & white), and yet moths. 2) Hummingbird Moths are active during the day! 3) Winter Moths often rest with their wings folded vertically. Therefore, one of the best guiding principles is that butterflies have thin antennae and (with one exception!) have small balls or clubs at the end of their antennae. Moth antennae can be quite varied in appearance, but in particular lack the club end. The divisions are named by this principle: "club-antennae" (Rhopalocera) or "varied-antennae" (Heterocera).

3. **For how long do butterflies typically live?**
   a. 2-4 months
   b. anywhere from a few days up to a year—depending on the variety
   c. anywhere from a few days up to 6 months—depending on the variety
   d. up to 3 years, if nectar is made available (in captivity)
   
   **Commentary:** Some of the smallest butterflies may only survive a few days. Butterflies that overwinter as adults, like monarchs and mourning cloaks, can live as long as 9 months. The Brimstone butterfly has the longest lifetime of the adult butterflies: 9-10 months.

4. **Where does the butterfly get its name?**
   a. in English, it comes from flutter-by, though rearranged in the 1800s in Britain
   b. synonymous with the churning of butter in spring, from very old folk belief, butterflies were thought to land in kitchens and drink milk or butter left uncovered
   c. the excrement of butterflies was thought to resemble butter
   d. the old Anglo-Saxon name is “buttorfleoge” (butt-or-floog); also there is an alternative etymology in Britain that refers to “butter colored fly”, as the first English butterfly to appear in spring is the yellow brimstone, which has bright yellow wings
   
   **Commentary:** All the above are notable theories, but “B” is the most plausible (according to various websites); also supported by the old German word for butterfly, milchdieb (milk-deeb) meaning "milk-thief". (Actually, many of the European names are related to the “butter, milk, or cream thief” idea.) In medieval folklore, butterflies were believed to be disguised witches or fairies who stole butter from pantries and churns. The belief in butter-stealing fairies still existed in England at the time of Shakespeare, as depicted in his "Midsummer Night's Dream." The problem with “C” is that other than to void excess water, butterflies do not excrete!
5. With a 12.5 inch wingspan, what is the name of the LARGEST butterfly on earth?
   a. Goliath Birdwing (male)
   b. Eastern Atlas
   c. Queen Alexandra Birdwing (female)
   d. French Isabel

Commentary: The largest butterfly in the world is the female Queen Alexandra Birdwing butterfly. It lives in New Guinea and has a wingspan up to 12 1/2 inches; the male is much smaller than the female.

6. How about butterfly vision? Can they see colors?
   a. They are color-blind, but have infrared vision & an acute sense of smell which directs them to nectar-rich flowers.
   b. They can see red, green, and yellow, only.
   c. They can see red, white, blue, and yellow, only; as well as ultraviolet colors invisible to the human eye.
   d. They can see a range of red, green, and yellow, as well as ultraviolet colors invisible to the human eye; also perceive polarized light and use it for orientation when the sun is hidden.

Commentary: The butterflies themselves may have ultraviolet markings on their wings to help them identify one another and locate potential mates. Flowers, too, display ultraviolet markings that act as traffic signals to incoming pollinators like butterflies – “pollinate me!”

7. Unlike human beings, butterflies taste with ...
   a. their feet
   b. their antennae
   c. small "hair-like" structures located on their thorax & abdomen
   c. their proboscis (nose)

Commentary: Receptors on a butterfly’s feet help it find its host plant and locate food. A female butterfly lands on different plants, drumming the leaves with her feet to make the plant release its juices. Spines on the back of her legs have chemoreceptors that detect the right match of plant chemicals or dissolved sugars.

8. With a wingspan of 5 to 6 inches, this → beautiful blue butterfly is called the:
   a. blue-phase starwing
   b. blue morpho
   c. spring azure
   d. moonlight dancer

9. What’s the first thing a butterfly does after emerging from the chrysalis?
   a. praises the Lord for its new & improved appearance
   b. extends its wings in order to get them prepared for flight
   c. assembles its mouthparts
   d. “dances” back and forth in order to stimulate its new wings and body

Commentary: Both “A” and “C” are correct. A butterfly that can’t drink nectar is doomed, so one of its first jobs as an adult butterfly is to make sure its mouthparts work. When a new adult emerges from the chrysalis, its mouth is in two pieces. Using palpi located adjacent to the proboscis, the butterfly begins working the two parts together to form a single, tubular proboscis. You may see a newly emerged butterfly curling and uncurling the proboscis over and over, testing it out. The butterfly also must immediately pump body fluid through its wing veins to expand them. Once its wings reach full-size, the butterfly must rest for a few hours to allow its body to dry and harden before it can take its first flight.

10. Butterflies cannot fly if ...
    a. they lose any of the “dust” on their wings
    b. their body temperature is less than 86 degrees
    c. they have low self-esteem
    d. they remain inactive for more than a few hours

11. Who made the following statement? “It's so bizarre, I’m not scared of snakes or spiders. But I'm scared of butterflies. There is something eerie about them. Something weird!”
    a. Oprah Winfrey, TV star
    b. Nicole Kidman, actress
    c. Hillary Clinton, politician
12. Since we all know Melissa has Portuguese ancestry, what is the Portuguese word for butterfly?
   a. “bordola" 
   b. “traca”
   c. “mariposa,” possibly from "la Santa Maria posa" meaning "the Virgin Mary alights/rests"
   d. “polilla”
   e. “fada lua,” literally meaning “moon fairy”
   Commentary: In Spanish, “mariposas” are butterflies and moths; in Portuguese moths are 'traca' which are also silverfish. (Crazy Portuguese!☺) “Polilla” is Spanish for moth.

13. What is the name of the smallest butterfly on earth, which has a wingspan of just a bit over half an inch?
   a. Western Pygmy Blue  
   b. Eastern Elfin
   c. Blue Harvester
   d. Southern Flitting-Fairy

14. What does it mean when a butterfly is “puddling.”
   a. the butterfly is pumping body fluid through its body (after exiting the chrysalis) in order to fly
   b. the butterfly is drinking from a puddle to supplement its diet of nectar, as it will occasionally sip from mud puddles, which are rich in minerals and salts
   c. the male butterfly is “dancing” in a specific pattern in order to gain a female’s attention
   d. drinking nectar from a flower
   Commentary: A butterfly cannot live on sugar alone; it needs minerals, too. Hence, it puddles.

15. Roughly how many species of butterfly have been identified on the earth?
   a. 2,400
   b. 12,000
   c. 24,000
   d. 600
   Commentary: The moths are even more numerous: about 140,000 species.

Bonus Questions (if needed)

1. According to scholars of the Bible, approximately how many pairs of butterflies did Moses take with him aboard the ark?
   a. 2
   b. 7
   c. none
   Commentary: It was Noah who went aboard the ark! In any case, he probably took zero because they would have flown on by themselves and taken up little-to-no space on the ark.

2. Ever heard of Julia Lorraine "Butterfly" Hill? So how did she earn her nickname?
   a. Julia discovered and preserved 4 species of butterfly (previously thought to be extinct), after having spent 3 years in the hill country of Holland.
   b. While stranded on a French Polynesian island for nearly 7 months, Julia miraculously survived on a diet mainly consisting of a few species of King Louis butterflies.
   c. Julia saved a 3-acre section of Redwood forest by spending 738 days on top of a 1500-year-old Redwood tree.
   d. So-called for her unusually graceful running style, Julia became the first female amputee to run the mile in under 6 minutes time.

3. As most of us are aware, in becoming a butterfly, the caterpillar goes through an amazing transformation process called metamorphosis. Have you ever wondered why God put this process into place in nature? Might there be any application for us? Indeed there is, and it’s in the Bible. The Greek root behind our English word for "repentance" is spoken of all throughout the New Testament, with regard to the inward change which the Holy Spirit
makes in the life of a new believer in Christ. Which of the Greek the words below is used for God-wrought repentance which leads to eternal life?

a. metanoeo  
b. metanoia  
c. metamelomai  
d. ameletos

Commentary: Perhaps the most important thing to point out is that in Christian circles, metamelomai ("to have a feeling of care, concern, or regret") is the most common form of "false conversion," which often results from being in a difficult life situation or when suffering the ramifications of wrong/sinful choices. Whereas "metanoia" ("a change of mind," turning around, to face a new direction, to turn toward something (i.e. the light.)) is "godly sorrow" which truly agrees with God and brings about a true and inward change of mind and heart. This is what being born-again/regenerated is all about (John 3, Jesus with Nicodemus).

- **metanoeo** (meh-tah-noy-o), meaning "to repent"
  
  Luke 13:4-5 - Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, do you think that they were sinners above all men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.

  15:7 - I say to you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety and nine righteous persons, who need no repentance.

  15:10 - Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

  16:30-31 - And he said, No, father Abraham: but if one went to them from the dead, they will repent. And he said to him, If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

- **metanoia** (meh-tah-noya), meaning 'repentance'
  
  Luke 5:32 - I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

  15:7 - I say to you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety and nine righteous persons, who need no repentance.

  24:47 - And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- **metamelomai** (meh-tah-mellow-my), meaning 'to regret'
  
  Matthew 27:3 - Then Judas, who had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, regretted it, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

- **ameletos** (ah-meh-leh-tose), meaning 'without regret'
  
  2 Corinthians 7:10 - For godly sorrow works repentance (metanoia) to salvation, not to be regretted (ameletos): but the sorrow of the world works death.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

~Romans 12:2