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# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*



# CAVE LIVING

KYLE BUTT

## HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MOVIE OR READ A BOOK about cavemen? What were those "creatures"

like? Most of the time "cavemen" are pictured as unintelligent, grunting creatures that are not really human. Modern humans supposedly evolved from these "cavemen." Did you know that such "cavemen" never existed? You see, God created Adam and Eve as the first two humans. They were very intelligent and they lived in the Garden of Eden and could talk to God. Modern humans did not "evolve" from cavemen years ago. Humans were intelligent humans from the very beginning.

That does not mean, however, that no humans have ever lived in caves. In fact, many people over the years have lived in caves. Caves can make good homes for several reasons. For one, they offer protection from harsh weather such as thunderstorms, snowstorms, or tornadoes. Second, the temperature in caves is much more mild than the outside temperature. During the summer it is cooler in caves than

it is outside, and during the winter it

is warmer. Third, caves do not take many resources to build. There is no need to make brick or blocks, and no need for a roof since the rock that makes the cave is already there.

In the Bible, we read about several people living in caves. During David's life, King Saul tried to capture him and kill him. David had to run for his life and live in the wilderness. In the wilderness, he and his men lived in caves. One of the caves where he lived was known as the cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1). In another part of the Bible, we read that a righteous man named Obadiah once hid 100 of God's prophets in caves (1 Kings 18:4). And in the New Testament we read about a demon possessed man living in caves (Mark 5:3).

Even today there are millions of people who live in caves. In the country of China there are special caves called yaodongs that are dug out of the sides of cliffs. Over 30 million people live in these caves. Some of the caves are very simple and small, but some are elaborate with many rooms and decorations. In Spain, in the area of Grenada, a group of people known as Gitanos live in caves. God has provided many unique places for people to live; caves have been one of those special places.



YAODONG



# LIVING IN Tents

IN BIBLE TIMES

DAVE MILLER

## HAVE MOM AND DAD EVER LET YOU SET UP A TENT IN THE BACK-YARD SO YOU COULD "CAMP OUT" OVER

night? Or maybe you've gone camping with your family in a national park. I suspect that you really enjoyed the experience. There's something special about living and sleeping outside—even if you do not have all the conveniences of home.

The Bible is filled with references to people living in tents. The first reference to tent life involves a man named Jabel who was "the father of such as dwell in tents" (Genesis 4:20). The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all lived most of their lives in tents, in and around the land of Canaan (Hebrews 11:9). The Israelites lived in tents during their 40 years in the wilderness. In fact, God wanted each tribe to pitch its tents around the main tent of the nation—the Tabernacle (which is just the normal Hebrew word for "tent").

Tents were made of animal skins (usually from goats). Unlike our nylon "pup tents" and other flimsy tents made for modern camping, the tents of ancient times were much stronger, larger (more like circus tents!), and contained multiple rooms. These separate apartments were divided from each other by goat hair curtains. The women and children, as well as servants, could have their own living areas. Though separated by curtains, Sarah could hear what was



being said in the reception apartment of Abraham's tent (Genesis 18:10-15). It took several tents to care for the large family of Jacob, including maidservants (Genesis 31:33).

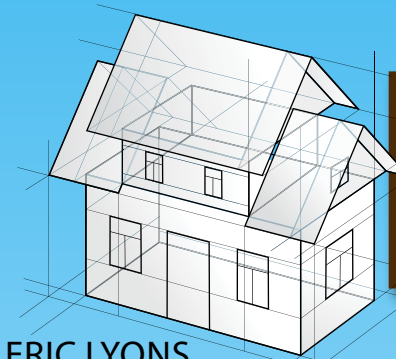
Israelite soldiers lived in tents when encamped for battle (2 Samuel 11:11). When the tribes gathered together at places like Gilgal and Shiloh, they undoubtedly brought their tents with them. After the permanent temple was built at Jerusalem, the people would make their annual pilgrimages there to celebrate the feasts commanded in the Law. Many thousands of Jews would sleep in tents on the mountains surrounding the city.

One fascinating feature of tents is the quickness and ease with which they can be set up or taken down. When taken down, the tenants are left without covering in the lonely desert. In like manner, Paul said our physical bodies will soon be dismantled and we will need a brand new resurrection body so we can live with God in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:1)!



TABERNALE REPLICIA





ERIC LYONS

# HOUSES

## in Bible Times

### WHILE MANY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE MADE THEIR DWELLING PLACES IN CAVES OR tents, more permanent, man-made houses of various kinds have been widely used as well. Lot and his family lived in a house in Sodom. The Israelites lived in different kinds of houses in Egypt and Canaan. The apostle Paul once rented a house in Rome for two years.

The houses mentioned in Bible times were quite different than what we are used to seeing in America. Although there were some houses with multiple rooms, one-room houses were very common. For the average person, houses were not built with the intention of remaining inside for many hours at a time throughout each day. Instead, people "lived" outside (working, playing, and sometimes eating), while the house was largely what they used for storage and where they went to sleep. [Remember when Jesus told the parable of the friend at midnight (Luke 11:5-8) and mentioned the father

who had children with him in bed? It appears this set-up was a necessity in a one-room house, where a kind of pallet was rolled onto the floor for all family members to sleep on, side by side.]

Many houses in Bible times (just like some today around the world) had as their flooring packed dirt or small chips of rocks. House walls were often made of sun-dried mud bricks. Where was all of the wood you might ask? Why not wood flooring and walls? For the general population, wood was too precious and expensive to use in much of the house. What little wood that could be found in the houses of the common man in Bible times was in the roofing (in the form of beams), and often in the door and doorposts.

You don't see many roofs in America like the ones in Bible times. Roofs then were often made of reeds, straw, and perhaps various bushes, which were covered with mud or clay. Sand or small rock pebbles were then sprinkled on top of the earthen roof. Most would attempt to smooth out their roofs with a small roller of some kind in hopes of packing the tops of houses so that roofs would be easier to shed rain and less likely to leak.

The roofs of most houses in Bible times were fashioned in such a way that, if broken, they could be repaired fairly easily, at least in some places. Recall that once, when Jesus was preaching in a crowded house in Capernaum, a paralytic was brought to Him. Yet, since the house was so packed, those carrying the paralytic "could not come near Him." Rather than give up, however, "they uncovered the roof where He [Jesus] was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying" (Mark 2:4), and Jesus healed him.

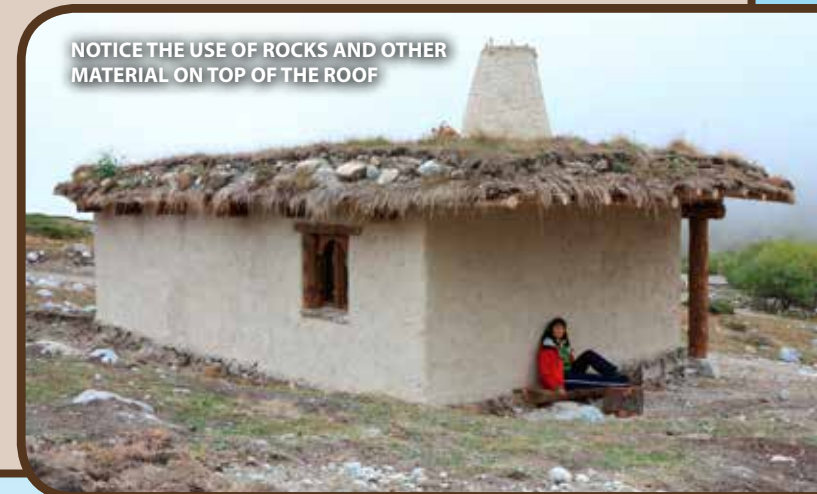
People in Bible times would often build rooms on their roofs. Some of these upper rooms were bigger than others, but many houses had them. Elijah once lived for a while in the upper room of a widow's house (1 Kings 17:19). Peter raised Dorcas from the

dead while in her upper room (Acts 9:37). And Jesus and His disciples ate the last Passover meal on the top of a gentleman's house—in his upper room, which also served as his guest room (Mark 14:12-26).

- It often served as a place to **store** things. Remember how Rahab the harlot hid the Israelite spies among the stalks of flax that she had stored on her roof?
- The roof was where many went to **rest**, especially in the summer mornings and evenings. Prior to the prophet Samuel anointing Saul as the first king of Israel, you may recall how Saul had been resting "on the top of the house...about the dawning of the day" (1 Samuel 9:26).
- People throughout history have also used their rooftops as a place to **worship**. The Old Testament prophet Zephaniah referred to "those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops" (1:5), while the apostle Peter once prayed on the housetop of Simon the tanner before going to teach the Gospel to Cornelius (Acts 10:9).

Houses have been important to people around the world for thousands of years. They have served a number of important functions, not the least of which has been to shelter families from all sorts of potential physical harm. But the greatest house that you could ever consider is the spiritual house of God (1 Peter 2:5), which is "the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). Only in this "house"—God's spiritual house—is there a promise of everlasting protection from sin and death.

NOTICE THE USE OF ROCKS AND OTHER MATERIAL ON TOP OF THE ROOF



NOTICE THE USE OF ROCKS AND OTHER MATERIAL ON TOP OF THE ROOF



MUD-DRIED BRICKS



# ACTIVITY PAGES



## TRUE OR FALSE

- \_\_\_ Most people in ancient times spent much of their days in their houses.
- \_\_\_ One-room houses were common in Bible times.
- \_\_\_ Adam was an ignorant, grunting caveman.
- \_\_\_ People have not lived in caves for thousands of years.
- \_\_\_ Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived much of their lives in tents.
- \_\_\_ The Israelites lived in nice houses during the 40 years they wandered in the wilderness.
- \_\_\_ One nice feature of tents is how quickly they can be set up and taken down.
- \_\_\_ Wood was used throughout most houses in Bible times.
- \_\_\_ Paul referred to "the house of God, which is the church of the living God."
- \_\_\_ Modern humans evolved from "cavemen" over millions of years.

## FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)

- "I write so that you may know how you ought to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15).
- Abraham "waited for the city which has \_\_\_\_\_, whose builder and maker is \_\_\_\_\_" (Hebrews 11:10).

## ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

- List three reasons why caves can make good homes.
- Discuss the most important home you will ever have and why.

## MATCHING

- \_\_\_ Lived in a cave while being hunted by King Saul
- \_\_\_ "The father of such as dwell in tents"
- \_\_\_ Those who live in caves in Grenada, Spain
- \_\_\_ Were often made of goat skins
- \_\_\_ Once hid 100 prophets of God in caves
- \_\_\_ Was often used as fuel for fires
- \_\_\_ Once lived in the upper room of a widow's house (1 Kings 17:19)
- \_\_\_ Special caves in China that are dug out of the sides of cliffs

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| A. YAODONGS | E. JABAL   |
| B. ELIJAH   | F. DUNG    |
| C. DAVID    | G. GITANOS |
| D. TENTS    | H. OBADIAH |



## Dear Digger Doug,

Is it true that people in Bible times used dried dung (droppings) as fuel for their fires to cook their meals?

Dear reader,

In Bible times, people did not have large kitchens with electric ovens, microwaves, and refrigerators to help prepare and store food. Also, people often had a hard time finding wood for fires. Wood could be expensive, and many poor people couldn't afford to buy it. Oftentimes, they had to use whatever they had access to as fuel for their cooking fires. One of the easiest things that people could find was dried dung. That may sound kind of gross, but people in Bible times had to use what they could to survive. [In Ezekiel 4:9-15, God once told Ezekiel to use dung to cook with.] It truly is amazing how God created the world so that even the things that we don't think are very pleasant, like dung, can serve a valuable purpose in helping His people survive and serve Him.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# This **WORLD** is **NOT MY HOME**

JEFF MILLER

**MOST OF US GET HURT IN SOME WAY, AT LEAST ONE TIME EVERY DAY. MAYBE WE TRIP AND FALL AND GET A** bruise, or we catch a cold. Maybe someone else hurts our feelings, or we argue with a brother or sister. Maybe we lose something that is very special to us, or a family member dies. God set up Earth to be the perfect place to prepare us for eternity and decide where we want to go—either to heaven or to hell. Part of that preparation is the pain and suffering we go through in our lives (Hebrews 12:5-11; Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2-3).

One of the great things about “buying” a home in heaven is that there will be no tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain there (Revelation 21:4)! We cannot even imagine such a life, because we go through so much pain now. It is difficult to imagine what heaven will look like, because it will be a spiritual place, instead of a physical place like Earth. John tried to describe the beauty of a heavenly home using a

physical description in Revelation 21-22, but we know heaven will be even better than that. After all, God, Himself, is the Masterful Builder of that eternal home (Hebrews 11:10)!

Jesus warned us not to spend so much time thinking about stocking up earthly treasures in our homes, trying to get everything we want from the store. On this Earth, there are thieves who will break in and take our things, and there are moths and rust that will cause our treasures to grow old or break. Instead, Jesus taught us to store spiritual treasures in heaven, where they will last forever (Matthew 6:19-20). While “the world is passing away,” those who live with God will live in His home forever (1 John 2:17).

When we obey Jesus’ commands, we are building a spiritual home in heaven, like the wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24-27). If we become Christians and obey God in this life to the best of our abilities, He will graciously give us that heavenly home with Jesus (John 14:2-3). And even better, we will live with Him forever (Revelation 22:5)!



## ANSWERS

FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES: 1. conduct, house; 2. foundations, God.  
 MATCHING: 1. C (David); 2. E (Abel); 3. G (Gittanos); 4. D (tents); 5. H (Obadiah); 6. F (dung); 7. B (Bijah); 8. A (Yadong).  
 TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-F; 5-F; 6-F; 7-T; 8-F; 9-T; 10-F.

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