

DO YOU DO MUCH CHRISTIAN READING?

While lying in bed this week with a bad cold, I got to thinking about what Daniel wrote. I believe I have commented on it before but more comments will not hurt.

*"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase.**"*

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

We spent Christmas with our son and family in Reno. While there, we went into Costco and I bought a disk drive which I intend to fill with photos from our dog Reese's photos. This drive holds 1 Terabyte of data. In laymen's terms, this is 1,000,000,000,000 bytes of data (each byte typically would store one letter of the alphabet).

Currently, my electronic library consists of about 500 volumes. Some of these are a set of all 3,563 of Charles Spurgeon's sermons. Now, if I could fill this new disk drive with electronic books, I could have a library of 250,000 volumes! I can't because there are not that many Christian books (even in paper form) and I couldn't afford them if there were that many. To get an idea, here is information on the Library of Congress which has a copy of every (copyrighted) book in the country.

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with nearly 142 million items on approximately 650 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 32 million books and other print materials, 3 million recordings, 12.5 million photographs, 5.3 million maps, 5.6 million pieces of sheet music and 62 million manuscripts

According to this, my 250,000 volume library would take 20 miles of book shelves! But what good is even a moderately size library. If you had all 3563 of Spurgeon's sermons, would you look through book after book looking for a certain subject? I wouldn't!

Have you ever heard of Josephus? He was a Jewish historian (not a Christian, but lived during

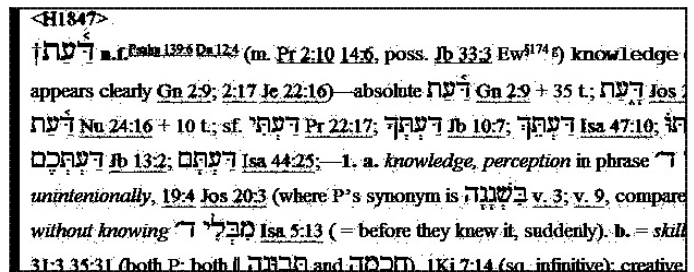
that era). I wonder if he wrote anything about Christ in his history! It took less than a second to find the following in Josephus' works.

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

— Complete Works of Josephus

I could search the whole 500+ volume library for "Jesus Christ" in less than 30 seconds! If you extrapolate this, if I really did have a 250,000 volume library, the search would take about 4 hours.

There is not only quantity of books to consider but quality as well. What is the Hebrew term used for "knowledge" in the passage above?



Brown, Driver, and Briggs, in the 1127page lexicon give the above definition. I have only shown the first part to illustrate that the computer must be able to display numerous strange alphabets!

I expect to be "snatched" before I can collect the 250,000 volumes!

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up (SNATCHED) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (KJV)
