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15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
16 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 CALIFORNIA PARENTS FOR THE
18 EQUALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL
19 MATERIALS, a California non-profit
20 corporation,

21 Plaintiff,

22 v.

23 KENNETH NOONAN, et al.,
24 Defendants.

Case No. 2:06-CV-00532-FCD-KJM

**DECLARATION OF ARVIND KUMAR
IN SUPPORT OF CAPEEM'S
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

Date: March 7, 2008

Time: 10:00am / courtroom 2

25 1. I, Arvind Kumar, make this declaration based on personal knowledge as to the
26 matters set forth herein. I am over the age of 18 and a Board member and one of the
27 founders of California Parents for the Equalization of Educational Materials ("*CAPEEM*").
28 As such, I am familiar with its affairs. I also participated extensively in the most recent
textbook adoption process and I am one of the "predecessors-in-interest" referenced in
CAPEEM's Second Amended Complaint.

1 **CAPEEM – Background**

2 2. CAPEEM is a membership-based organization (in contrast to HAF) and brought
3 claims on behalf of its members. None of the members can possibly be members of HAF,
4 since HAF is not a member-based organization. (I know from personal knowledge based on
5 my dealings with HAF and inquiries with respect to membership.) In addition, none of
6 CAPEEM’s members participated or were represented in the HAF Case. Neither I nor any
7 directors of CAPEEM exerted any control in the HAF Case, nor did we have any ability to.

8 3. Section 4.61 of CAPEEM’s SAC alleges the following:

9 On January 6, 2006, the SBE (or select SBE members) conducted a closed-door
10 meeting with Professors Bajpai and Witzel. The representatives of the Hindu
11 Groups were not invited, despite requests to be present. Plaintiff’s members and
12 predecessors-in-interest attempted to intervene at this juncture, by sending a letter
13 to Defendants advising that Defendants were not fairly considering the input of the
14 Hindu Groups and were treating them unfairly.

15 The Motion for Partial Summary Judgment filed by Defendants implies that Deborah
16 Caplan (counsel for HAF) sent the letter referenced in Section 4.61, and by implication,
17 Ms. Caplan represented both HAF and the predecessors of CAPEEM. This is incorrect.
18 When knowledge of the Defendants’ January 6, 2006 meeting leaked out, it set off a flurry
19 of objections from concerned parties. On the eve of the meeting, I personally wrote in
20 asking that I be invited to the meeting and that the Department officials should be
21 accountable to California taxpayers like me. In the weeks that followed, there were many
22 Hindus who accused the CDE of discrimination and I too sought an explanation (in an
23 email) from CDE on why they actively discriminated against Hindus. At no point did
24 Deborah Caplan or any HAF lawyer represent CAPEEM or any of the members or
25 predecessors of CAPEEM.

26 **CAPEEM’s Content-Based Claims**

27 4. I am the person most knowledgeable regarding CAPEEM’s claims around the
28 content of the textbooks adopted by Defendants.

5. I reviewed the textbooks both during the adoption process and following their
ultimate adoption.

1 6. Attached as **Exhibit A** hereto is a document containing true and correct verbatim
2 excerpts from the textbooks highlighting areas in which the textbooks indoctrinate
3 Abrahamic religions. Except for the few lines in square brackets paraphrasing some of the
4 contents, all other statements are verbatim quotes. The only exception to the square
5 brackets containing my paraphrase is in the line, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
6 [lack anything].”

7 7. The materials adopted by Defendants will result in indoctrination of Abrahamic
8 religions due to their content. Biblical claims are presented as historical events and are
9 assigned dates. For example the books note that in 33 AD, Paul had a vision of Jesus,
10 Moses heard a voice in 1290 BC, that angels spoke to Mary, and there were “reports” of
11 Jesus rising from the dead, etc. One of the textbooks lists in the timeline that in 1225 B.C.,
12 “Moses receives the Ten Commandments.” The books contain one-page “biographies” of
13 characters whose existence is not verifiable, a creationist view of the formation of the world
14 is presented along with claims that the Hebrew Bible “explains” why the world has many
15 languages, and timelines are given for biblical stories. The gospels are defined as “reports”
16 of the life of Jesus. Miracles and resurrection are presented as facts. e.g.: “soon afterwards,
17 reports that he had risen from the dead would lead to a new religion—Christianity.” and
18 “When Jesus grew to manhood, he chose twelve disciples—close, devoted followers—to
19 help him in his work. Then he began to preach, teach, and work wonders in the villages
20 and synagogues near the Sea of Galilee.” The chapters on Judaism and Christianity
21 together read like a condensed version of the Bible. The content of these chapters is almost
22 identical to what is taught in Sunday schools in churches in America – the story of creation
23 in seven days, the deluge and Noah’s Ark, Tower of Babel, Moses and Ten
24 Commandments, Exodus, Mary’s conversation with angels, birth of Jesus to a virgin,
25 Sermon on the Mount, miracles of Jesus, Parable of the Lost Sheep, Parable of the Good
26 Samaritan, Parable of the Prodigal Son, Crucifixion of Jesus and the Resurrection of Jesus.
27 Historical aspects of Christianity are virtually absent from the books. Some of the
28 exercises ask students to read the Bible. An activity in the teacher’s manual asks the

1 students to match pictures representing biblical events with biblical verses and instructs the
2 teacher to provide explanation of the verses. One textbook explains the ideas of cause and
3 effect and the flowchart explaining the concepts gives the cause as Constantine having a
4 vision and the effect as his conversion to Christianity. Another publisher describes this so-
5 called vision in clearer terms – “according to tradition,” Constantine saw a flaming cross in
6 the sky with a message beneath it. The language used while describing biblical events is
7 both obfuscated and ambiguous or consists of outrageous claims.

8 8. The chapters dealing with Islam also indulge in indoctrination. E.g.: “In about A.D.
9 610, he was visited by an angel and told to preach Islam” and “God’s messages to
10 Muhammad dealt with many topics . . .” The books treat the claims of Muhammad as
11 historical events and use words like “startling experience” and describe in great length the
12 claims of Muhammad.

13
14 I certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 21, 2008 at Stamford,
15 Connecticut.

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Arvind Kumar

EXHIBIT A

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Examples of biblical indoctrination in sixth grade textbooks

All quotes are from the textbooks. Paraphrases and descriptions are within square brackets.

Assigns dates to biblical events and characters

1) In the 1200s BC, God told Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses went to the pharaoh and demanded that the Hebrews be freed. The pharaoh refused. Soon afterward a series of terrible plagues, or disasters, struck Egypt.

The plagues frightened the pharaoh so much that he agreed to free the Hebrews...The Exodus is a major event in Hebrew history, but other people recognize its significance as well. Throughout history, for example, enslaved people have found hope in the story.

– **Page 227, sixth grade book by HOLT**

2) The patriarch Abraham probably lived about 1800 B.C.

– **Page 134, sixth grade book by Prentice Hall**

3) Exodus says that the Israelites stopped at the foot of Mount Sinai while Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. Moses returned with the laws known today as the Ten Commandments. A commandment is an order to do something. In addition, Moses **received** many other laws.

...The Exodus probably occurred about 1250 B.C.

– **Page 135-136, sixth grade book by Prentice Hall**

4) 1225 B.C. Moses **receives** the Ten Commandments

– **timeline on plate before page 193, sixth grade book by Harcourt**

5) **Experts believe** this event may have taken place in 1225 B.C. This event is described in the second book of the Bible, which is called Exodus.

– **Page 207, sixth grade book by Harcourt**

6) Abraham leads his people to Canaan (c. 1800 B.C.)

– **Page 196, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill**

7) Moses leads Israelites from Egypt (c. 1290 B.C.)

– Page 196, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

8) Around 1290 B.C., while tending sheep in the wilderness outside Egypt, Moses saw a burning bush and heard a voice. He believed that God was telling him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to freedom.

– Page 202, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

9) Jesus preaches in Galilee A.D. 30

– Page 500, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

10) But after careful study, later historians now believe that Jesus was probably born in about 6 B.C.E., during the reign of King Herod.

– Page 350, sixth grade book by Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Biography page for biblical characters

1) [1-page Biography of Moses]

– page 209, sixth grade book by Harcourt

2) [1-page biography of 'The Apostle Paul']

– Page 555, sixth grade book by Harcourt

3) Biography of Jesus of Nazareth (c. 6 B.C.—A.D. 33)

– Page 504, sixth grade book by Harcourt

4) Ruth and Naomi

– Page 377, sixth grade book by Macmillan

Defines religious literature as historical texts

1) “The first book of the Torah is called the Book of Genesis, a Jewish **account of the early history of the world**. One of the most famous parts of Genesis is the story of Noah’s Ark.

– Page 238, sixth grade book by HOLT

2) Some of Jesus’s disciples wrote accounts of his life and teachings. These accounts are called the Gospels. Four Gospels are found in the New Testament of the Bible. They

were written by men known as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Both historians and religious scholars depend on the Gospels for information about Jesus' life.

– Page 388, sixth grade book by HOLT

3) Much of what we know about Jesus comes from the writings of early Christians, especially from the Gospels. These are four early Christian writings that tell about events in the life of Jesus and record some of his teachings.

– Page 540, sixth grade book by Prentice Hall

4) They wrote down their history and many of their religious beliefs in what later became the Hebrew Bible. In general, the Hebrew Bible is what Christians call the Old Testament.

– Page 201, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

5) Much of what we know about Jesus, whose life and teachings established the Christian religion, is based on accounts found in the New Testament in the Christian Bible.

– Page 504, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

6) The Hebrew Bible is really a collection of writings. It includes the five books of the Torah and 34 other books. These books describe events in Jewish history. They also tell how Jews believed that God had a special role for them in history and that certain events had meaning.

Book of Genesis

Genesis, the first book of the Torah, describes how God created the world. Genesis also contains an account of Noah. God warns Noah that He will send a great flood. Then God tells Noah to build an ark or a large boat. Noah, his family, and two of every animal boarded the ark. When the flood covered the land, only those on the ark escaped. After the flood, a rainbow appeared as God's promise not to destroy the world with a flood again.

Genesis also tells an account about the world's languages. It tells how the people of Babel, in Babylon, tried to build a tower to heaven. God disapproved and made the people speak in different languages, then scattered them across the Earth.

– Page 372, sixth grade book by Macmillan

7) Instead, most of the information about him comes from the writings of his followers. These writings make up the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Among them are four gospels. The gospels are accounts of Jesus' life that were written in Greek by four of his followers.

– Page 349, sixth grade book by Teachers’ Curriculum Institute

Treats biblical stories as historical events

1) Abraham and Moses lead the Hebrews

– Section heading on Page 226, sixth grade book by HOLT

1) “The first book of the Torah is called the Book of Genesis, a Jewish **account of the early history of the world**. One of the most famous parts of Genesis is the story of Noah’s Ark.

According to the Torah, God became angry with people for their wicked behavior. To punish the wicked people, he decided to cause a great flood that would destroy everything. But one man, Noah, was not wicked, and God did not want him to die. He told Noah to build an ark, a great ship, that would carry him and his family safely through the flood. In this passage, God tells Noah to bring animals onto the ark as well, so that they might be spared.

[This introduction is followed by a 1-page narration of the story of Noah’s Ark complete with sentences like “God said to Noah...” and “Noah did all that God had commanded.”]

– Page 238, sixth grade book by HOLT

2) The Book of Genesis also tells of the story of the Tower of Babel.

[The above statement is followed by a 1-page narration of the Tower of Babel story. In the previous page, the Book of Genesis is defined as an “account of the early history of the world.”]

– Page 239, sixth grade book by HOLT

3) Lesson Summary

- Abraham led the Hebrews to Canaan.
- Moses received the Ten Commandments from God.
- The judges led the Israelites in Canaan.

–Page 329, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin

4) The 12 tribes of Israel in the land of Canaan were descendents of Abraham.

– Page 197, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

5) What is in the Hebrew Bible? The Hebrew Bible is really a series of 34 books collected together. The Torah, The Prophets, and the Writings that were added later make up the Hebrew Bible. Some of these books describe events in Jewish history, others are books of poetry, literature, and proverbs.

For example, Genesis, the first book of the Torah, tells how God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. He also created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. Genesis also tells how God punished the world for its bad behavior. In Genesis, God tells Noah to build an ark, or large boat. Noah, his family, and two of every animal boarded the ark. Then a great flood covered the land, and only those on the ark escaped drowning. After the flood, God promised to never again destroy the world with a flood.

– Page 215, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

6) Genesis also explains why the world has many languages. It tells how the people in the city of Babel tried to build a tower to heaven. God disapproved and made the people in different languages, then scattered them across the earth.

– Page 215, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

7) Parts of the Hebrew Bible describe God's plan for the future. The book of Daniel addresses this issue.

– Page 215, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

8) According to the Hebrew Bible, God parted the Red Sea to let his people pass. When the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back and drowned the soldiers. The Israelite escape from Egyptian slavery is known as the Exodus. Jews today celebrate a holy day called Passover to remember this event.

– Page 202, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

9) There they were to worship the one true God. In return, God promised that...

– Page 201, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

10) The Egyptian pharaoh enslaved the Israelites. To prevent a rebellion he ordered all baby boys born to Israelites thrown into the Nile River.

– Page 202, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

11) According to the New Testament, Jesus' birth was guided by God. An angel visited Mary, Jesus' mother, to tell her she was going to have a baby. The angel told Mary her baby would be called the Son of God. An angel also visited Joseph, Mary's fiancé, and instructed him to marry her.

– Page 504, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

12) At this point, the Christian Bible provides many stories of Jesus' travels and the miracles he performed. The accounts of Jesus' miracles, such as giving a blind man sight, raising a man from the dead, and calming a storm at sea, brought many followers to his teachings.

– Page 504, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

13) Soon afterwards, reports that he had risen from the dead would lead to a new religion—Christianity.

– Page 504, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

14) After Jesus' death, his followers made a startling claim. They announced that Jesus had risen from the dead. Christian tradition states that Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, was the first to see Jesus alive again. Others, including Jesus' disciples reported seeing him as well. The disciples pointed to his empty tomb as proof that Jesus was the messiah. These reports of Jesus' resurrection, or rising from the dead, led to a new religion called Christianity.

– Page 505, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

15) Suddenly, he fell from his horse, blinded by a light from heaven. HE heard a voice calling, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

– Page 356, sixth grade book by Teachers' Curriculum Institute

16) On Sunday, the gospels say, Jesus rose from the dead. His followers call this event the Resurrection. Belief in the Resurrection convinced Jesus' disciples that he was the son of God. According to the gospels, Jesus left them again sometime later to join his Father in heaven.

– Page 355, sixth grade book by Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Powerful indoctrination technique of teaching secondary ideas that assume the primary biblical claim as the truth

1) According to ancient writings, a large, bright star would appear in the nighttime sky when the Messiah was about to be born. And in his story about Jesus' birth, Matthew describes exactly that. He tells how wise men (probably philosophers or astrologers) followed a brightly shining star to Jerusalem. Then, not knowing where to find the infant king, the travelers went to King Herod's palace and asked. It was the logical place to look.

– Page 156, sixth grade book by Oxford University Press

2) A cause is an event or action that makes something else happen. What happens in the effect.

Cause-And-Effect-Chart

Constantine the Great had a vision that led him to believe that the God of the Christians helped him with the battle for the city of Rome.



Because of his vision and his victory over Rome, Constantine became a Christian.

– Page 557, sixth grade book by Harcourt

Indoctrinates with religious ideas

1) The second part is made up of eight books that describe the messages of Hebrew prophets. Prophets are people who are said to receive messages from God to be taught to others.

– Page 235, sixth grade book by HOLT

2) As punishment, the king had Daniel thrown into a den of lions. The story tells that Daniel's faith in God kept the lions from killing him, and he was released. Jews tell this story to show the power of faith.

– Page 235, sixth grade book by HOLT

3) When Jesus grew to manhood, he chose twelve disciples—close, devoted followers—to help him in his work. Then he began to preach, teach, and **work wonders** in the villages and synagogues near the Sea of Galilee.

– Page 156, sixth grade book by Oxford University Press

4) After three years of teaching, preaching, and **healing the sick**, Jesus was arrested by his enemies and brought before a Roman official, Pontius Pilate, for trial.

– Page 158, sixth grade book by Oxford University Press

5) After he was **taken into heaven by God**, the disciples, led by a fisherman named Peter, began to preach about Jesus—that he had risen from the dead and that he would come again at the end of the world.

6) Was this the destruction that the Jew named Jesus had **foreseen**, 30 years before?

– **Page 539, sixth grade book by Macmillan**

7) The main points of Jesus' message are given in a group of teachings known as the Sermon on the Mount. In them, Jesus made it clear that a person had to love and forgive from the heart. Among Jesus' sayings were "Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy" and "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God."

Jesus told his listeners to love and forgive each other because God loves and forgives people. He repeated the age-old Jewish teaching: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your mind and with all your strength."

– **Page 540, sixth grade book by Macmillan**

8) After Jesus' death, his followers announced that Jesus had risen from the dead. Christian tradition states that Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, was the first to see Jesus alive again. Other followers of Jesus reported seeing him as well. These followers also pointed to his empty tomb as proof that Jesus was the messiah. They later claimed to see a vision of Jesus before he ascended to heaven. These reports of Jesus' **resurrection**, or rising from the dead, along with his teachings, led to a new religion called Christianity.

– **Page 541, sixth grade book by Macmillan**

Quotes verbatim from religious texts and narrates biblical stories

1) One of the most famous psalms is the Twenty-third Psalm. It includes lines often read today during times of difficulty:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want [lack anything]. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul [life]; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

—Psalms 23:1-3

–**Page 235, sixth grade book by HOLT**

[In the above example, the square brackets and the words enclosed by them appear in the textbook.]

2) Paul's Letter to the Romans

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent

[strong] in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all”

—Romans 12:9-18 NRSV

Analysis Skill – Analyzing Primary Sources
How did Paul’s letter express Jesus’s teachings?

3) [Narration of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in two pages.]

– **Page 551, sixth grade book by Prentice Hall**

4) [The Ten Commandments listed verbatim]

– **Page 327, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin**

5) [Four page narration of the story of The Exodus]

– **Page 330-333, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin**

6) [Two Parables of Jesus – The Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son are narrated with rhetorical questions at the end that reinforce religious teaching.]

– **pages 472-475, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin**

7) [Text of the Ten Commandments]

– **Page 207, sixth grade book by Harcourt**

8) [Three Proverbs of Solomon quoted verbatim]

– **Page 216, sixth grade book by Harcourt**

9) God endowed Solomon with wisdom...in great measure, with understanding as vast as the sands on the seashore.

– **Page 216, sixth grade book by Harcourt**

10) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

– Page 545, sixth grade book by Harcourt

11) [Narration of Noah's Ark story]

– Page 224, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

12) Singing the Praises of God

Hear my cry, O God,
Listen to my prayer;
from the end of the earth I call to you
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I,
for you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.

–Psalm 61:1-3

– Page 225, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

Uses religious vocabulary

1) During Nero's reign, in the year 62 CE, he became a **martyr**, which means that he chose to die rather than deny his belief in Jesus as Christ.

– Page 159, sixth grade book by Oxford University Press

2) Later that night, **Christ** appeared to him in a dream. The next day, before the battle began, Constantine ordered his soldiers to paint the first two letters of **Christ's** name—the Greek letters *chi* and *rho*—on their shields. His army won the battle, and he was sure that **Christ** had given him the victory. Although Constantine never gave up his pagan gods, he worshipped **Christ** from that day on.

– Page 161, sixth grade book by Oxford University Press

3) Return to the **Promised Land**

– heading on page 328, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin

Paranormal events described as historical events

1) According to the historian Eusebius, “. . . he saw with his own eyes . . . a cross of light in the heavens, above the sun, and bearing the inscription, ‘Conquer by this.’ At this sight he himself was struck with amazement, and his whole army also.”

– Page 161, sixth grade book by Oxford University Press

2) According to the Gospels, an amazing event happened. Jesus’ disciples said he had come back to life and that they had seen him.

– Page 545, sixth grade book by Harcourt

3) However, in about A.D. 33, Paul had a vision of Jesus.

– Page 555, sixth grade book by Harcourt

Reinforces Indoctrination in exercises

1) Critical Thinking

What covenant between God and the Hebrews did the Hebrews believe the Ten Commandments reaffirmed?

– Page 329, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin

2) Understanding Cause and Effect

What was one effect of each of the following causes shown in the chart?

[Under Causes column in the table]: Moses climbs Mount Sinai.

[the only possible effect that the student is expected to fill in is that Moses received the Ten Commandments from God.]

– Page 329, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin

3) Reading and Writing

With a partner, discuss the character of Moses as it is revealed in his actions.

– Page 333, sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin

4) What do you think the message of the parable is? (Possible answers: It is never too late to seek forgiveness. Family is more important than money.)

– Page 475, teacher’s manual of sixth grade book by Houghton Mifflin
[this is given at the end of a 2 page narration of The Prodigal Son.]

5) Explain What message did Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount? How was his message received?

– Page 524, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

6)

Noah and the Ark

1. Why do you think God chose to make a covenant with Noah?
2. Why did God tell Noah to bring two of every living thing, male and female, into the ark?
3. What was the sign God gave that he would not cover the earth with a flood again?

Proverbs

4. Rewrite in your own words what you think each of the proverbs means.

Singing the Praises of God

5. What does it mean to say that God is a strong tower against the enemy?
6. Think about what the rock and tower represent. What do these images tell you about how the writer views God?

Read to Write

7. Reread the passages. Do you think that Noah would agree with the psalm and the proverbs? Explain. What do all of these passages tell you about the relationship the ancient Israelites believed they had with God?

– Page 225, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

7) [Four pages of “Visual Discovery Activity” in which children are asked to match up pictures depicting biblical events with the verses. The teacher is asked to explain the details of the verses.]

– Pages 735-738, History Alive! Ancient World Lesson Guide 2, Teachers’ Curriculum Institute

Children asked to read the Bible

1) If you liked this parable, you might like to read others. Some parables to start with include “The Sower,” “The Prodigal Son,” “The Lost Sheep,” and “The Unforgiving Servant.” They can all be found in the Gospels of the New Testament or in *The Parables of Jesus* by Ellyn Sanna.

– Page 551, sixth grade book by Prentice Hall

2) Search your local library for a book on Christian parables. What are the stories trying to teach? What information from the Parables is useful to learning what they teach?

– Page 525, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

Miscellaneous Christian Propaganda

1) The Appeal of Christianity

Christianity appealed to people from many walks of life. One reason was that it reached out to everyone, including women, the poor, and enslaved people.

– Page 551, sixth grade book by Harcourt

2) The Ten Commandments helped shape the **moral** laws of many nations.

– Page 203, sixth grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

Examples of Islamic indoctrination in textbooks

Divinity treated as real

1) The Messenger of Allah

– **Chapter title, Page 24, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press**

2) Divine Message Received

Muhammad Bin Ishaq, Biography of the Messenger of God, 8th Century

– **Section heading, Page 27, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press**

3) About the time he was 40 years old, while meditating in a cave near Mecca, he had a startling experience. Muhammad bin Ishaq, his earliest biographer, records it like this (by “apostle of God,” he means Muhammad):

[Muhammad] set forth to [Mount] Hira as was his [habit], and his family with him. When it was the night on which God honored him with his mission . . . Gabriel brought him the command of God. “He came to me” said the apostle of God, “while I was asleep, with a coverlet of brocade whereon was some writing, and said ‘Recite!’”

– **Page 26, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press**

4) God’s messages to Muhammad dealt with many topics, but they always repeated certain themes that Muhammad was told to preach to the Arabs. First God told him there was only one God and people were to cease worshipping other gods and idols. Second, Muhammad was warned of a Day of Judgment that would come when God would judge all people according to their obedience to God.

– **Page 26, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press**

5) As nice as all this sounded, at first Muhammad was badly frightened by the mysterious moments of revelation. When the angel told him to preach, he started in the circle of his family and friends.

– **Page 28, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press**

6) The Call to Prophethood

In about 610 C.E., Muhammad went to pray in a cave in the mountains. It was there, according to Islamic teachings, that he received the call to be a prophet, or messenger of God, whom the Arabs called Allah.

Muhammad later described the remarkable events of that night. He told that he received a visit from the angel Gabriel. Muhammad described how Gabriel told him several times to

"recite." Muhammad asked what he was to recite, and Gabriel answered:

*Recite--in the name of thy Lord!
Who created man from blood coagulated
Recite! Thy Lord is wondrous kind
Who by the pen has taught mankind
Things they knew not.*

Muhammad left the cave, quaking with fear. But Gabriel spoke to him again, declaring, "You are the messenger of God."

At first, Muhammad feared that he might be going mad. But, according to Muslim tradition, Khadijah consoled Muhammad and expressed her faith that God had chosen him as a prophet to communicate his words to the people.

–Page 83, seventh grade book by Teachers’ Curriculum Institute

7) Then, according to Islamic teachings, something happened that changed his life forever. An angel appeared and spoke to Muhammad, telling him to “Recite! Recite!” Confused at first, Muhammad asked what he should recite. The angel answered:

*“Recite in the name of your Lord who created,
created man from clots of blood!
Recite! Your Lord is the Most Bountiful One,
Who by the pen taught man what he did
Not know.”*

-From the Koran, translated by N.J.Dawood

Muslims believe that God had spoken to Muhammad through the angel and had made him a prophet, a person who tells of messages from God. At first Muhammad was afraid and didn’t tell anyone except his wife about the voice in the cave. A few years later, in 613, Muhammad began to tell other people about the messages.

The messages Muhammad received form the basis of the religion called Islam.

**–Page 60, seventh grade book by HOLT
[the highlighting of the last line is in original]**

8) One day when praying, he later taught, a voice called out to him, “You are the Messenger of God.” Muhammad believed that God spoke to him through the angel Gabriel.

– Page 93, seventh grade book by McDougal Littel

9) At first Muhammad doubted his vision. He feared that he might be going mad. But his wife told him to have faith. “You will be the Prophet of this people,” she said. According

to Muslim teachings, when the visions continued, Muhammad became convinced that the revelations to him were genuine.

– Page 69, seventh grade book by Prentice Hall

10) In about A.D. 610, he said he was visited by an angel and told to preach Islam.

– Page 176, seventh grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

11) Slowly, Muhammad convinced people that his message was true.

– Page 176, seventh grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

Miracles treated as historical facts

1) According to Arab and Muslim tradition, many centuries before Muhammad was born, it was here that God tested the faith of the prophet Abraham by commanding that he leave his wife Hagar and baby son Ishmael in a desolate valley. As Abraham's son desperately searched for water, a miracle happened. A spring bubbled up at her son's feet. The spring became known as Zamzam. Over time, people settled near it, and, according to the Qur'an, Abraham built a house of worship called the Ka'ba.

– Page 83, seventh grade book by Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Quran defined as record of God's conversation with Muhammad

1) The Quran (the written record of what God said to Muhammad) says that when Judgment comes, for all those who believe in God and do good works, "God has prepared a great reward and they have nothing to fear. They shall be served with silver dishes, and . . . cups brim-full with ginger-flavored water" and rewarded "with robes of silk and the delights of Paradise. Reclining there upon soft couches, they shall feel there neither the scorching heat nor the biting cold. Trees will spread their shade around them, and fruits will hang in clusters over them."

– Page 26-28, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press

Quotes verbatim from Quran

1) It is not a matter of piety that you turn your faces to the East or West [in prayer]. Righteous is the one who believes in God and the last day, the angels and Scripture and the prophets; gives wealth, however cherished, to relatives and orphans, the needy and travelers and beggars, and for freeing slaves; and prays and gives *zakat* (donations and alms). And [the righteous] fulfill promises when they make them, and are patient in misfortune, hardship and trouble. These are the ones who are proven truthful and are pious.

–The Quran

– Page 28, seventh grade book by Oxford Univ. Press

2) “When God sent his Prophet, who came preaching the Unity of God and calling for his worship alone without any associate, [the Arabs] said. ‘Maketh he the god to be, but one god? A strange thing forsooth is this.’ They had in mind the idols [they had previously worshipped].”

– Iraqi historian Hisham ibn Muhammad al-Kalbi
The Book of Idols, 9th century

3) “God is He who has raised the skies without support, . . . and subjected the sun and moon to His will. . . . He regulates all matters.”

–Qur’an 13:2

– Page 73, seventh grade book by Prentice Hall

Religious terminology used in textbooks

1) The **Prophet** Muhammad

– Chapter title on page 83, seventh grade book by Teachers’ Curriculum Institute

2) Muhammad becomes a Prophet

– Section heading on page 59, seventh grade book by HOLT

3) Muhammad the Prophet

– Section heading on page 93, seventh grade book by McDougal Littell

4) Muhammad: Islam’s Prophet

– Section heading on page 176, seventh grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

5) When the **Day of Judgment** arrived, he said God would reward the good people and punish the evildoers.

– Page 176, seventh grade book by Glencoe McGraw Hill

Justifies the negatives of Islam

Muslims who believe that women should veil themselves base their view on this verse, considering the prophet’s wives (he married several after his first wife, Khadija, died) to be role models for pious women.

– Caption for photograph of women in *burqas*,

