Much of the known world, including many of the people of the land of Israel, adopted Greek ways, although they modified them with local beliefs. Greek cultural institutions were established in many cities, including Jerusalem. Theaters became common and popular. The rabbis of Israel forbade attendance at these theaters because their dramas portrayed the myths of Greek and Roman gods, contained erotic themes common to Hellenism, and were performed in connection with pagan religious festivals, which included sacrifices to the gods. Gymnasiums, or Greek educational institutions, appeared in many cities, including Jerusalem, not far from the Temple. In the gymnasium, the Greek ideal of training people's bodies and minds was put into practice. Students studied the philosophy of classical Greece, received athletic training, and competed naked in athletic events.

2 Samuel 7 (AMP)
1 WHEN KING David dwelt in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,

*Carter himself has witnessed firsthand the need to fight Guinea worm, river blindness and elephantiasis*. While traveling to remote villages in Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Sudan and elsewhere, *Carter has seen the suffering these tropical diseases cause men, women and children of all ages.*

*Since the campaign against the parasite began in 1986, cases worldwide have plummeted from about 3.5 million in 20 countries to 126 in four countries last year.*
3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.
4 That night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying,
5 Go and tell My servant David, Thus says the Lord: Shall you build Me a house in which to dwell?
6 For I have not dwelt in a house since I brought the Israelites out of Egypt to this day, but have moved about with a tent for My dwelling.
7 In all the places where I have moved with all the Israelites, did I speak a word to any from the tribes of Israel whom I commanded to be shepherd of My people Israel, asking, Why do you not build Me a house of cedar?

8 So now say this to My servant David, thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over My people Israel.

1 Corinthians 12:12–30 (NASB95)
14 For the body is not one member, but many.
15 If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.
16 And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.
17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?
18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.
19 If they were all one member, where would the body be?
20 But now there are many members, but one body.
21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
27 Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.
2 Samuel 7:9 And I was with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like [that] of the great men of the earth.

11 And as from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will cause you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord declares to you that He will make for you a house:

12 And when your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up after you your offspring who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My Name [and My Presence], and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before you; your throne shall be established forever.

Matthew 1:1 (AMP)

1 THE BOOK of the ancestry (genealogy) of Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the son (descendant) of David, the son (descendant) of Abraham.

Philippians 1:14–18 (NIV84)
14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.
15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.
16 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.
17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.
2 Samuel 7:18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?

Ephesians 1 (NASB95)
3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

In love
5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
8 which He lavished on us...

2 Samuel 7:19 Then as if this were a little thing in Your eyes, O Lord God, You have spoken also of Your servant’s house in the far distant future. And this is the law for man, O Lord God!
20 What more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord God.
21 Because of Your promise and as Your own heart dictates, You have done all these astounding things to make Your servant know and understand.
22 Therefore You are great, O Lord God; for none is like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all [You have made] our ears to hear.
23 What [other] one nation on earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be a people for Himself and to make for Himself a name? You have done great and terrible things for Yourself and for Your land, before Your people, whom You redeemed and delivered for Yourself from Egypt, from the nations and their gods.

24 And You have established for Yourself Your people Israel to be Your people forever, and You, Lord, became their God.

25 Now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word You have given as to Your servant and his house; and do as You have said,

26 And Your name [and presence] shall be magnified forever, saying, The Lord of hosts is God over Israel; and the house of Your servant David will be made firm before You.

I asked God to take away my pain. God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No. Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.