

*My First
Ancient History
Copybook*

*GDI Manuscript Edition
Recommended for Grades 1-3*

Preface to the Teacher

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
*Philippians 4:8 (ESV)*¹

The selections in this volume have been chosen in order to supplement your study of ancient history. This version of the Ancient History Copybook is for younger children who have not begun to write in cursive. The copywork selections are therefore shorter, and there are fewer choices than are given in the cursive book.

While I have tried to include passages from as many cultures as possible, I have kept as my guiding principle the command in Philippians 4:8 to think about things that are true, honorable, and lovely. Also, I have refrained from using any writings that would be controversial or troubling to a Christian boy or girl.

It has been enlightening to me, while researching this topic, to find that mankind everywhere has an innate sense of morality, of good and evil, and of the need for laws and self-restraint. As C. S. Lewis states in *Mere Christianity*:

"First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in."²

So, in addition to the Old and New Testament Scriptures, I have included proverbs and laws from ancient near-eastern cultures, as well as literature from ancient Greece and Rome.

I have tried to give you plenty of material to choose from, so that even if you choose not to use it all, you will still have to enough for the school year. Along with the selections in this book, I would encourage you to choose passages from your read-aloud literature, as wells as hymns and poems, to round out your child's copywork curriculum. A simple schedule could be:

Monday: copy a hymn or new Scripture memory verse for the week

Tuesday – Thursday: use the *Ancient Copybook*

Friday: Choose a passage from your read-aloud literature OR take a previously copied selection and give it as a dictation exercise to your child.

I hope you will enjoy using this book. May your children grow as did our Lord Jesus: "in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

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² C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 21. Copyright 1952 by Macmillan Publishing Company.

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The Pentateuch

The "Pentateuch" refers to the first five books of the Old Testament. It means "five scroll cases," or "five vessels" in Greek. Here is a selection from each of these five books.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in

His own image, in the

image of God he created

him; male and female he

created them.

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and
your mother, that your
days may be long in the
land that the Lord your
God is giving you.