

The Advocate
of Truth



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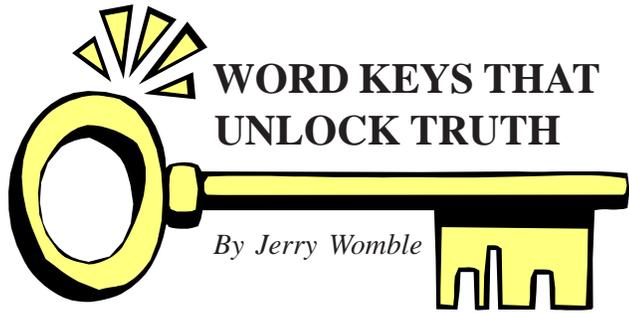
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BUSYBODIES

Busybodies are those who meddle in the affairs of others. They meddle in affairs in which they have no business. Various passages in the Bible censure busybodies. Several of these passages are found in Proverbs. Let us quote two of them. "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling" (Proverbs 20:3). "He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears" (Proverbs 26:17).

The Apostle Paul condemns busybodies in the New Testament. "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread" (II Thessalonians 3:11-12). "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not" (I Timothy 5:13).

The Apostle Peter also had something to say about busybodies! "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (I Peter 4:15).

Just think of it! Being a busybody is in the same class as being a murderer, thief, or a evildoer. Let us not be busybodies.

The Lord's Supper, this year, will be celebrated Saturday evening, after sundown, on April 3, 2004 (Roman time) which is the beginning of April 4, 2004 (Bible time). The foot washing is to be done before receiving the emblems.

7

Things You May Or May Not Know About

SOME OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

By Warren H. Randall, Jr.

1. Hosea wrote that his people were destroyed for lack of knowledge.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6).

2. Joel indicates the promise of the Holy Spirit.

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit" (Joel 2:28-29).

3. Amos predicts a future famine.

"For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land" (Amos 7:11).

4. Micah tells of Christ's birth and where it will be.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

5. Zephaniah talks of a pure language in the future.

"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent" (Zephaniah 3:9).

6. Zechariah reports that the children of Israel will recog-

nize their Messiah, Jesus.

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).

7. Malachi states that we weary the Lord when we say those that do evil are good.

"Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Everyone that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?" (Malachi 2:17).

Happy New Year 2004

By **Bond Tennant**

Another secular year has begun. As we observe the conditions around the world, we see two outstanding prophecies found in II Timothy of these days, just before our Lord Jesus Christ returns for His saints, being fulfilled. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (II Timothy 3:1-5). "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having

itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

It behooves every child of God to be on guard against partaking of the things of the world! As the many deception of the world become stronger, the child of God must make sure that he has on the whole armour of God. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). Read the next six verses to see what makes up the armour of God.

As I was looking over some old ADVOCATE files, I ran across an article in the February 22, 1987 edition by Albert Stiede. It is good admonition for the child of God to heed in 2004.

Let us reprint his article with the prayer that every sincere child of God will stand and endure in 2004.



STAND ---- ENDURE



"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (I Corinthians 16:13).

In his letter to Timothy, giving advice to a younger man left in charge, Paul admonishes him, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 2:3). He goes on to say, "...that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (verse 4).

Paul told the Corinthians to "...quit you like men." He was referring to a deeper meaning of the word "quit". The message here is that men and women are to conduct themselves in a mature, manly fashion before God, so that when Christ comes, He will find nothing to charge against them. In other words, "Give a good account of your daily life."

TO QUALITY

Galatians 5:22-23 lists nine qualities which make up the fruit (proof) of the Spirit working in us. Love is the first of these nine, and it embodies all the rest in this "fruit basket" we present to Christ.

In Hebrews 12:14 we are told to "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" Verse 15 warns us that it is possible to "fail (fall from) the grace of God." Here bitterness is mentioned, but the three "deadly" influences spoken of in I John 2:15-16 are certain to cut us off. We need to follow peace and holiness, but refuse to give in to lust, pride, bitterness, and strife.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation..." (James 1:12). Satan is the tempter. And he enjoys luring us to follow worldly pleasures. When he tempts us, we may be inclined to consider it. If we take second thoughts, another look, we begin to lust. He takes us a step at a time from temptation, to lust, to desire, then fulfillment. The result is sin against our Maker. We need to endure against temptation to persevere in the face of it. We can do this only in the power of God.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16). Jesus spoke these words against the Laodicean church, but they pertain to anyone with an apathetic attitude. One who is cold, or hostile, against Christ, is quite likely honestly so. The lazy, or hypocritical lukewarm person who calls himself a Christian is sickening to the One who gave all of Himself. To qualify as one worthy of notice, a man must be active, on fire for God, ready to serve.

SOCIAL ATTITUDES

Many more or less sincere Christians are deluded by their leaders who teach the principle, "once saved, always saved". An old minister once remarked to a youth. "I was saved fifty years ago. And I have not sinned since" The out spoken young fellow answered. "I beg your pardon, but I believe you sinned just now by that statement." I Corinthians 10:12 gives us the warning, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Satan is delighted when we think ourselves to be infallible. We must constantly realize our need to call on God's saving power.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE THAT SHALL COME WILL COME, AND WILL NOT TARRY. NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH: BUT IF ANY MAN DRAW BACK, MY SOUL SHALL HAVE NO PLEASURE IN HIM" (Hebrews 10:35-38). It is possible for us to have doubts, but we must overcome them through faith. Satan constantly tries to prove to us that God is unjust, unable, and unfeeling. Loss of confidence could cost us our souls if we heed to the adversary.

Someone told of a minister who showed his congregation a large white paper on which he had made a small but noticeable black mark. When he asked different ones "What do you see?" Each one answered, "I see a black mark." He then called their attention to the cleanness of the rest of the paper, comparing the illustration to our noticing the mote in the other person's eye, while the beam in our own eyes makes us incapable of clear judgement. This and the other comments he made in a sermon.

One basic thought in this regard applies to our noticing others little faults while not recognizing all the decent goodness of his real self. This blindness to the better side of person can cause dissention and bitter feelings in the church as well as on the outside. What we need, as followers of Christ, is to recognize the good works this one has been doing in the body of the church, and pray that his black mark will be erased. At the same time, each of us should pray for help from God to erase his own little black mark of sins so he can present a clean record.

SINCERE APPLICATION

The world is watching us. We are mirrors as the world checks our efforts critically to see whether we really have a faith worth while, or whether we are only make-believe Christians. Hebrews 12:1-3 speaks of us as having begun a race which is lined out for us. Are we going to run on and on, steadily and earnestly, or are we ready to drop out when the going gets tough? Do we run the prescribed course, or do we try "shortcuts" to the kingdom? Remember this, in a track event we all run, but only one can win the prize. In our spiritual race in service to Christ all finishers are winners!

"And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully" (II Timothy 2:5). Jesus voiced a similar thought in Matthew 7:22-23. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

He is the way, the Truth, the Life, the only Way, according to John 14:6. Many good works are done that are not according to His teaching and leading. While Christ

knows that these things are done, He cannot accept the hearts of those who take a different way, who do their works under a different authority. When He denies them at the judgment, it is not because He is ignorant of these persons having existed. The meaning of His denial is, "You were not working on My team. We were not on intimate terms. Your love was directed toward some other leader, and/or you did these things your own way." Since Christ is the only legitimate Way, He cannot accept even the good works that were done under another standard.

And now let us consider this WORD OF WARNING that is a condition in company with His promise of acceptance. In speaking of his return to earth, Jesus said, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give to every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12). The reward will be won by those who have endured, who stood fast in the faith, to the end of mortal life. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT ENOUGH! The condition does not mention "as his work WAS". But rather, "AS HIS WORK SHALL BE!" at the time his mortal life shall cease to exist!



Live Expectantly



A Study Lesson

Read Acts 1:1-4. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The context of our opening verse provides the setting for Jesus's last and parting instructions to His apostles. Although they were to carry on the great work which our Lord had begun in them, they would be quite unprepared for that task without having received special power to understand the deep things in relation to the plan of God. That special power was the Holy Spirit.

The expression "Holy Ghost" represents the power

of God and His Son, Jesus. The thought is not that of a personality, as suggested by the improper use of the word "ghost", but the power of God which gives a special ability and understanding as it relates to the revelation of God's purposes for His people.

Jesus had given instruction to His disciples in connection with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. On one occasion He said, "But the Comforter (parakletos-intercessor), which is the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit), whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). Jesus later said, "But when the Comforter (parakletos-intercessor) is come,

whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15:26). Then to show why the Holy Spirit was necessary and that it would not be given as long as our Lord abode with them, Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter (parakletos-intercessor) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7).

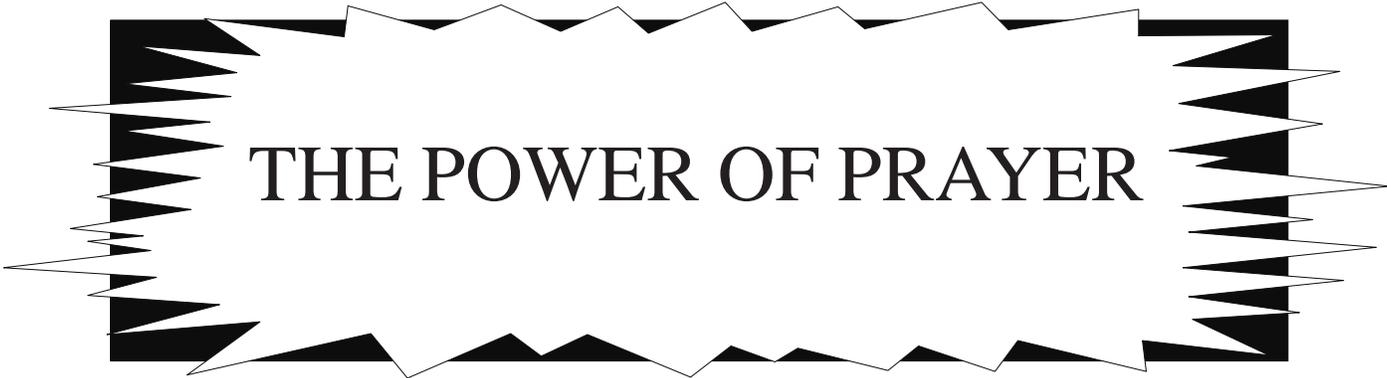
The Holy Spirit was to be the means by which the apostles would be guided into an understanding of the truth as it pertained to the purposes of God and their spiritual application in connection with the followers of Christ. A new age was dawning, in which our Lord Jesus began His church. It would be at a time when there would be trials and tribulations, but it would also be a time of great blessing. The apostles of Jesus would play a leading role in that church!

Having received the abundant power of the Holy Spirit, which enabled the apostles to grasp the deeper

significance in the prophesies and the teachings of the Master, they were instructed to use that special blessing as representative of Christ's kingdom "in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Throughout the Gospel Age, the teachings of the apostles have been a guide for the footsteps followers of Jesus. Their enlightenment had given us greater understandings and enabled us to grasp the deep meaning of the redemptive work of our Lord and Saviour. We see Jesus as the Redeemer of the world. And in this connection we see more clearly the overwhelming privilege of Joint-heirship with our Lord in that millennia kingdom of truth and righteousness.

The apostles were in expectation of that promised millennial kingdom. However, we, who have now come to the very end of the Gospel Age, see new evidences that encourage our faithfulness and endurance to press along, ever mindful that the new age of restitution is near at hand.



THE POWER OF PRAYER

Have you ever felt the urge to pray for someone and then just put it on a list and said, "I'll pray for them later?" Or has anyone ever called you and said, "I need you to pray for me, I have this need?"

Read the following story that was sent to me, and it may change the way that you may think about prayer and also the way you pray. You will be blessed by this.

A missionary on furlough told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan.... "While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I traveled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required

camping overnight at the halfway point. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital. Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries, and at the same time, talked to him about the Lord. I then traveled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident.

Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money

and medicines. He said, "Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by twenty-six armed guards."

At this I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, "No sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone."

At this point in the sermon (that I was delivering in Michigan), one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he

could tell him the exact day this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story: "On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here, and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact the urging of the Lord was so strong, I called men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all of those men who met on that day stand up? The missionary wasn't concerned with who they were. He was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were twenty-six.

This story is an incredible example of how the Spirit of the Lord moves in mysterious ways. If you ever hear such prodding, go along with it. -From the Internet

LIVING IN UNION WITH CHRIST

BY PASTOR HENRY MIRORO



God created man in His own image, which means that man was pure before God before Satan deceived Eve. Therefore, through Satans's deception, man became impure because he disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. So sin came into the world through one man, and this sin brought death. However, through His great mercy, God gave his only begotten Son to save man from his sins.

Due to that factor, we must not live in sin. When we were baptized into union with Christ, we were baptized into His death. This means that we are buried with Him and share in His death. Just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, we live a new life in Jesus Christ and know that our old being (nature) has been put to death. We are no longer slaves to sin, but we sit together in union with Christ. Read Romans 6:3-6.

Jesus said, "I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he

purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me., I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (John 15:1-10).

Since we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord, we have to live in union with Him. We must keep our

roots deep in Him, build our lives on Him and become stronger in our faith. We must clothe ourselves with compassion, gentleness, patience, kindness, humility, We must be tolerant with one another and forgive one another just as Christ did.

Brethren, I urge you to live as wise people in this

corrupt world. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17). There are many temptations which may hinder the faith of the children of God.

SATAN AND HIS WORSHIP

The Devil like a roaring lion
Seeketh whom he may devour!

By E.E. Franke
Reprinted



The devil is known by different names in the Bible. In the book of Revelation we find the following: "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil and Satan" (Revelation 12:9).

He is called Lucifer in Isaiah 14:2.

Here we have at least five names for the Devil in our authorized English translation.

He is called "the dragon", the "old serpent," "the devil," "Satan" and "Lucifer", meaning day star. Satan is also referred to under the name of "King of Tyrus" in Ezekiel, 28th chapter. These various names and characterizations are used under various conditions to portray his life and work.

The name devil is derived from different Hebrew and Greek words, as follows - "hairy one" from the Hebrew sa-ir, "spoiler or destroyer" from the Hebrew asked, "Demon or shade" from the Greek doamision, "defied spirit" from the Greek daimon, "Accuser or calumniator" from the Greek diabolos. The name "Satan" is an Anglicized Greek word and of the Hebrew equivalent, meaning the "hater", "accuser" or "adversary." It is thus used in both Old and New Testaments. This same word is sometimes

translated adversary. These words, devil, Satan, adversary and dragon are used interchangeable, as in I Peter 5:8: "Your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." In Revelation 12:9, we read: "That great dragon, the old serpent called the devil and Satan, which deceived the whole world."

Satan is not merely an airy abstraction, but a personal, living, entity.

The personal pronouns he and him are used when he is referred to.

This being is known as the devil, or more literally, the "spoiler," "destroyer," "accuser," "hater" and "calumniator," the "demon" or "deified spirit," and is the "adversary" of God and man. These different terms are used to show his character and work.

HIS ORIGINAL HOME AND WORK

Satan was originally an angel of light, as indicated by the word "Lucifer," which means literally "light bearer" or "day star." He occupied a most exalted place in heaven

before his fall. Jesus said- "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" Luke 10:18.

To fully understand his position in heaven, it will be necessary to call attention to the Jewish Sanctuary service. The Apostle Paul throws light on this, in these words- "Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

"For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the show bread; which is called the sanctuary.

"And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

"Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

"And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly" (Hebrews 9:1-5).

This service among the Jews was only a typical service of the work of Christ; and the Ark of the Covenant, kept in the most holy place or sanctum sanatorium, was an earthly figure or representation of God's throne in heaven. Indeed, the entire sanctuary and its service typified the work of Christ in heaven, hence Paul, speaking of that sanctuary and its service, says: "Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining of the conscience; (Hebrews 9:9).

In verse 23, it is called "the pattern of things in heaven." In contradistinction to the heavenly, Paul, in Hebrews 9:1, calls it the "worldly sanctuary." To prove that we, have a heavenly sanctuary, I will quote again- "now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty into the heavens; "A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:1-2).

The worldly sanctuary was, then, a counterpart of the sanctuary in heaven, itself. Before Moses made the sanctuary he was given a glimpse of the heavenly. The Lord said: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8).

In the 40th verse, He admonishes Moses in these words- "and look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount."

Who cannot see from these texts that there is a heavenly sanctuary? When we turn to the book of Revelation, where John in vision of the Lord was permitted to view the heavenly, he sees the same furniture and service as was found in the tabernacle or sanctuary built by Moses. The word "sanctuary" means "dwelling place." The earthly sanctuary was God's dwelling place to Israel. His glory is always there, as Paul says, in Hebrews 9:5, "shadowing the mercy seat," which was the top of the ark between the cherubims. I have already quoted the verse. In the heavens, the Revelator sees seven lamps of fire represented in the earthly sanctuary by seven golden candlesticks. (Compare Revelation 4:5 with Exodus 25:31-32). John sees the altar and golden censer in heaven, the same was in the earthly sanctuary (Compare Revelation 8:3 with Exodus 30:27),. So, too, John in vision, sees the Ark of God in heaven- "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in this temple the ark of his testament; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thundering, an earthquake, and great hail." (Revelation 11:19).

As above stated, the ark of the covenant in the earthly sanctuary as, we understand it, a representation of the ark in the heavenly sanctuary. The psalmist, speaking of God, says: "The Lord reigneth: let the people tremble: he sitteth between the Cherubims; let the earth be moved" (Palm 99:1).

Now it may be asked-what has all this to do with Satan? We answer: Satan, before his fall, was one of these covering cherubims in heaven, probably next in power to Christ, Himself. Hence, Satan being a cherub, was originally one of the covering angels represented in the earthly services, among the Israelites, by one of the cherubims of gold above the ark of God. Speaking of Satan, under the symbol of king of Tyrus, the prophet says:

"Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" (-Ezekiel 28:14).

Lest some soul question this application on account of its being addressed to the king of Tyrus, I will add that

in the first verse of this chapter we have the term "prince of Tyrus," and the word "prince" is translated from the Hebrew word nagid, meaning "leader."

In the 12th verse, the one to whom the language which follows in the chapter is addressed, is called "kingdom Tyrus," the word "king" is the Hebrew word melek, literally king or counsellor. To illustrate the meaning of the word melek, the reader's attention is called to Hebrew 7:2. The name "Melchisedec" is derived from two Hebrew words, melek or king and tsadaq, meaning right or just, and the name in Greek is malki-tsedhek, literally king -of righteousness, hence the language of Paul:

"Being by interpretation King of righteousness" Hebrews 7:2.

The god or special divinity of Tyrus was molech or Moloch, the same as Milcom, malcom or Melkarth from the words melek-king and qereth-the city; hence; Melkarth means simply king of the city (Tyrus).

It is here that the much talked about "divine right of kings" is first introduced into the Bible. All nations of antiquity had kings who were such only in name. They served by the supposed "divine right," derived from their gods and divinities which were called tutelar gods, exercising a sort of guardianship which was invested in their leader, prince, or king. In Babylon, Egypt, and among all the nations, we have examples of this.

"Ethbaal" which means "man of Baal," their God was king of the Sidonias.

"Jezebel" meaning "woman of Baal," was the queen wife of king Ahab.

"Nebuchadnezzar," means "Nebo's conqueror."

"Nebo." Was the tutelar divinity of Babylon during the kings' reign.

"Belshazzar," means literally "Bel's leader." For as the reader knows, "Bel" was the greatest Babylonian god recognized by this king.

In Egypt, where "Ra" was worshipped as the sun god, Pharaoh was simply the sun's representative, hence Pharaoh from "Ph-ra" meaning simply the sun.

All of the kings of the nations of antiquity were such only in name. The lead king was their god, therefore they claimed to rule "by divine right," and were the representatives of their gods the real kings. These kings also were the religious heads under their gods and were called

pontifex maximus, or supreme pontif.

Now, remembering the above, we will make another proposition-that all idolatry, sun worship, or nature worship, was simply devil worship. Satan imposed all these idols, gods, and forms of worship, as symbols of himself. "Satan, under the name of Hercules, is celebrated as the good and gracious deliverer of the human race." The yezidis of modern Chaldea, call themselves "Devil-worshippers." Teitan, the invisible head for Saturn, is the Chaldean from Sheitan. The Hebrew "Sh" is the same as the Chaldean "T". For example, the Hebrew word "shekel" is "teckel" in Chaldee.

Teitan, the Chaldean god, then, as Sheitan has always been called Satan.

Paul taking all the gods of antiquity, groups them and says:

"What say I then? That the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything?"

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye would have fellowship with devils" (I Corinthians 10:19-20).

Now, therefore, Paul calls all idolatry devil worship, and their gods, devils. Jesus makes this very clear. He had just performed a mighty miracle, which aroused the Pharisees, and the following is the record:

"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

"And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

"And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself: how shall then his kingdom stand? Matthew 12:24-26.

The Jews called Beelzebub the prince of Devils. Christ assents to this application of the term and calls him not only "devil" but "Satan."

Now who was this Beelzebub? He was the chief god of the Philistines and was worshipped at the city of Ekron, as the following text will show:

"Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

And Ahaziah fell down through the lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, God, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease"

When Ahaziah sought his false divinity, who was only a figure of Satan, or the devil personified,. God permitted him to die for his sin.

"And they said unto him. There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us. Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord, it is not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die" (II Kings 1:1-2,6).

The name Baal-zebub means God of the fly. He was the god of everything flying in the air, hence, he was called the "prince of the power of the air" and this name, too, like the name of every idol, is applied to Satan. Paul says:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" Ephesians 2:2.

We have now proven that idolatry was devil worship, that Satan was simply personified in these idols. He was the real king of the idolatrous nations, hence in Ezekiel the 28th chapter, he is introduced as king of Tyrus.

The early Christians, even after New Testament times understood this. Gibbon, the historian, who cannot be accused of having any particular regard for Christianity says:

"In the style of fathers, Apollo and the Moses were the organs of the infernal spirits...and the beautiful mythology...is destined to celebrate the glory of the demons."...Decline and Fall, Volume 1 page 526.

The picture of the Devil, so often in evidence, representing him as a being with hoofs, horns and a tail, is of pagan origin. It is only a caricature of the devil, and is borrowed from Greek mythology, from the Greek conception of the God "Pan," probably the same as told Italian god Inuus.

Pan was the gods of forest, flocks and herds. In Scripture, he is called into the Hebrew, sa-ir , demanding "hairy one, kid, or goat." This word is translated devil in II

Chronicles 11:15 as also Leviticus 17:7. He was worshipped by many nations. He was represented with the upper part of the city and head of a man with goat's ears and horns while the lower extremities, thighs, legs, feet and tail were those of a goat.

Here we have a picture of that typical up-to-date conception of some as to the devil's appearance. He is represented as fond of music, playing on pipes made of reeds of various lengths. Pan's terrific appearance once so frightened the Gauls during their invasion of Greece that they fled in wild disorder, as though pursued by Pan, hence the word "panic" -frightened by pan or the Devil.

With the foregoing thoughts in mind, the reader can plainly see that Ezekiel 28th chapter, refers to none other than Satan. The same will apply to Isaiah 14:12, when Lucifer is spoken of.

As before, remarked, Satan was once an angel of light, a glorious being, of dazzling brightness. The prophet says of him:

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God, every precious stone was the covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created" (Ezekiel 18:13).

Not only was Satan in Eden, but at the creation of his world, when all was harmony and peace. The Lord said to Job:

"Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

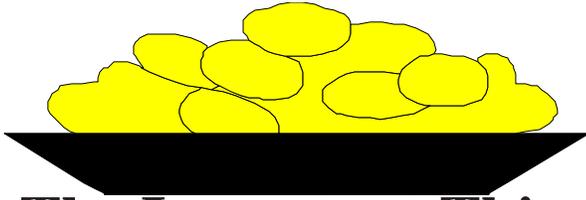
"Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

"Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

"Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:2-7).



The Important Things

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks right to the top, rocks about two inches in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was, so the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. The students laughed. He asked his students again if the jar was full. They agreed that yes, it was. The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life". The rocks are the important things - the Lord, your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the things in life that matter, but on a smaller scale. The pebbles represent things like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff. If you put the sand or the pebbles into the jar first, there is no room for the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, material things, you will never have room for the things that are truly most important.

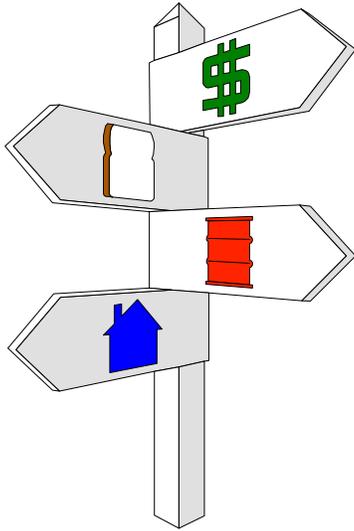
Pay attention to the things that are critical in your life. The Lord comes first, then your family. Take time to take care of yourself. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, and fix the faucet. Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest are just pebbles and sand. May there always be work for your hands to do; May your purse always hold a coin or two; May the sun always shine on your windowpane; May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain; May the hand of a friend always be near; May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

-From the internet

Be Thankful

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain,
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame.
Even when the times are hard,
Fierce winds are bound to blow.
God is forever able,
Hold on to what you know.
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee.
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command.
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Exalting God most high.
Yes, there'll be good times and yes, some will be bad,
but...
Zion wins in glory...where none are ever sad!

"I am too blessed to be stressed!"
The shortest distance between a problem and a solution
is the distance between your knees and the floor.
The one who kneels to the Lord
can stand up to anything.
Love and peace be with you forever, Amen.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

The following article appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*

Few among faithful heed call to tithe

Contributions dwindle as economy goes south, congregations get older

by K. Connie Kang

Los Angeles Times

Jean and Jim Darrell are a Los Angeles couple of modest means who live frugally by necessity.

He works part time for an internist, doing office work and she augments the family income by house-sitting and taking care of a friend's pets. They drive a 1989 Mazda and seldom go out to eat.

Yet they've been giving one-tenth of their gross income to their church for the past 20 years- even when Jim Darrell was laid off.

"Leaping out in faith" to commit 10 percent of their earnings ahead of time has been "an adventure," they concede. But, they say, they have always managed.

"God always provides," says Jim Darrell, who, with his wife, is a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. "Nothing extra - just the essentials, which is all we need."

People such as the Darrells - those who hew to the biblical mandate of tithing - are increasingly rare, according to surveys and church records of contributions.

Churches and nonprofit Christian ministries across the United States have been reporting a significant decline in

financial support in the past year and a half. Some attribute the change to competition for charitable dollars since the September 11 terrorist attacks; others blame the poor economy.

Consistent tithers are a small group - about 3 percent of American adults last year, according to a recent study.

And the proportion of tithers appears to be dropping, the survey indicates. In 2001, 8 percent of adults surveyed reported that they tithed, according to the poll of 1,1010 adults by the Oxnard, California based Barna Research Group.

Even among born again Christians, just 6 percent tithed last year, compared with 14 percent in 2001, the survey shows.

Among evangelicals - defined for the survey as people who believe they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Jesus with non-Christians - 9 percent tithe, according to the survey.

Pollster George Barna attributes the decline in the number of people tithing to the soft economy, the threat of terrorism, the scandals involving Catholic priests and long-term demographic shifts.

"We are losing many of the people who have a habit of tithing," he says, "while the proportion of homes headed by younger adults, who have never tithed and don't plan to, is growing."

According to Barna's survey, people older than 55 are far more likely to tithe than younger people. Tithing has more typically been a significant trend of Protestant than of Catholic traditions.

For Jeff Traintime, a Universal music sales division executive, working up to tithing was a 10-year process.

Comment

"I was the kind of a person who thought that it was a big deal if I dropped \$5 on the plate at church," Traintime says. But in the 1980s, when he returned to the church after a 20-year hiatus, he began to think differently.

After he and his wife, Jana Ioner, talked it over, they pledged 2 percent. When that worked out, they upped it to 3 percent the following year, until they finally reached 10 percent a decade later.

"It was a step-by-step process of learning that we could do it, and we would be taken care of even though we didn't have that money in our pockets anymore," Traintime says.

He still has no earthly explanation for what happened to him within three months after making the pledge.

"This may seem a little too spooky for a newspaper, but I suddenly got the biggest raise I'd ever had," he recalls.

The bonus exceeded the sum he had committed. "I've never quite gotten over the astonishment of that."

The Rev. Ken Fong, senior pastor of the predominantly Asian-American Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, says the traditional way of urging congregates to tithe - "because it's the right thing to do" - won't persuade the younger generation.

"When you look at the generations shift, they don't have to support a budget or an institution," she says. "But at the same time they say, 'I want my life to count for something.'"

So, churches need to take a different tack by making congregates "investors" in their ministries, he says.

Even though his church has no wealthy members, he says, there has been more than a 10 percent increase every year in congregational giving. And although he seldom talks about tithing, 10 percent of his congregation tithes - up from 3 percent a few years ago.

At the 7,000-member Young NAK Presbyterian Church, a predominantly Korean congregation near downtown Los Angeles' Chinatown, nearly 70 percent of the members tithes, said Young-Nam Chun, an elder who oversees tithes and offering.

Elderly women on welfare, who receive about \$700 a month in government checks, are among the most faithful, he says.

"You see a whole bunch of \$70 contributions about the time they get their checks," he says. "That stirs your heart."

In I Corinthians 9:13, Paul states, "Do you not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?" This suggests that the ministers be paid.

You may want to know what you will receive from tithing. God wants you to prove Him. In Malachi 3:10-11, God says, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out to a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

The blessings mentioned above may be either material or spiritual or both. God will give you peace of mind and also understanding. "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8). By giving, you receive and plan for profits. God will prosper you!

On the other hand, there is a warning from God to you. "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" (Proverbs 11:24).

Dear reader, many have proved God and received blessings from tithing. Have you? If not, why don't you begin NOW?

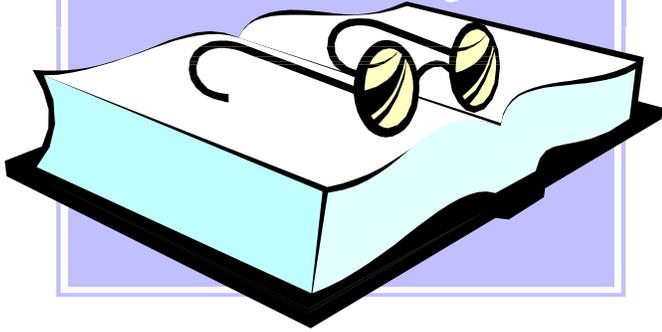
Note: the above comment is taken from our tract, PROSPER GOD'S WAY. Request your free copy today!

**O give thanks unto the Lord;
for He is Good:
for His mercy endureth forever.**

K.J.V. Psalm 136:1

BIBLE

Study



Question: Please explain John 10:27-28. Does this text support the philosophy, "Once saved, always saved"?

Answer: Let us quote the text, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

The expression "Once saved, always saved," is not scriptural. It is true, however, just as Jesus said, that no man is able to "pluck" a follower of the Master out of His care. These are protected from all spiritual harm emanating from sources outside themselves. If they keep their hearts pure before the Lord, all the resources of divine power will be enlisted on their behalf to protect them against any and all enemies seeking to destroy them as "new creatures" in Christ Jesus. One of the promises is that "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." (II Chronicles 16:9).

However, this does not mean that a child of God cannot take himself away from divine care by permitting bitterness to enter and rule his heart or otherwise becoming lax in his spiritual responsibilities. The Apostle Paul wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). Paul realized that through unfaithfulness he could become a "castaway"; yet he was also assured that all his enemies

Questions and Answers

combined, of whatever sort they might be, could not separate him from the love of God. "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, FOR THY SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Roman 8:31-39).

Question: What does the Bible tell us about singing in the Millennium?

Answer: The Bible does not tell us much about the singing in the Millennium. However, we are told enough to know that there will be an abundance of it. Throughout history, a great victory, an outstanding honor or any happy experience was always accompanied by music and song. When the greatest victory in the history of the world is won, when the highest honors and greatest blessings ever known to humankind are bestowed on all the people upon the face of the earth, men and women will sing and shout

for joy.

Can we imagine the praise and thanksgiving that will pour from a whole world full of people so abundantly blessed as the people of the Millennium will be? With the justice will be singing such as mortal ears have never heard. We find a few echoes of these heavenly strains in the books of the prophets. Most are associated with the victory of the glorified saints as they sing in victory triumph. But who can think that the ears of mere mortals in the Millennium will be excluded? Who can think that the voices of the mortals will keep silent?

What do the prophets of God record about singing in the Millennium? Space allows us to consider only one prophet, Isaiah.

Isaiah had a vision of the Lord sitting up in His throne of glory, and heard the Seraphim singing. "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon the throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings with twain he covered his face, and the twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:1-3).

Isaiah, with the voice of prophecy ringing in his ears, could hear voices rising in grand accord as they come " ...with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away" (Isaiah 51:11).

Those who had no power of voice are now exultant with joy. "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in to wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert" (Isaiah 35:6). It is a joy which shall be shared by all the people on earth. "Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart" (Isaiah 65:14, first part). "And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying" (Isaiah 65:19).

The prophecies ring with music;. "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12). The language is figurative, but the music is joyous.

In Isaiah 52, the prophet calls for everything to come alive with song. He is speaking of the time when the Lord will be reigning in Zion. "Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath

comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Isaiah 52:9-10).

Question: How is prophecy related to the Gospel?

Answer: There are places in the Scriptures when Gospel and prophecy may mean the same. The Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ continues on to include the events surrounding the second coming, which is future. The details of this part of the Gospel are mostly found in the book of Revelation. The good news Gospel will be ended for this dispensation at the seventh and final plague to be poured out upon the earth. Read Revelation 10:7 and 16:17. When the plagues are finished, the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth will begin.

The word "prophecy" also means the foretelling of the future. We read how the old Testament prophets foretold of coming plagues and catastrophes upon Israel because of their disobedience to God's Word. Some of the prophecies were quite detailed to show the completeness of the Lord in fulfilling His promises.

In I Corinthians 14, we have the word "prophecy" used. The "s" in this word changes the meaning of the word from the one above with "c". The Apostle Paul uses the word here to mean people speaking that a person should seek to have the gift, or ability to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a way that the hearers may understand the words and be edified. Read I Corinthians 14:19, 26-31.

Question: Do the Scriptures record anything about the receiving of money or other things from the parents of children who were dedicated?

Answer: The Scriptures give no instructions for such things. However, let it be understood that if the parents decide of themselves (within their hearts), to present a gift to the pastor or elder for such occasions that it is acceptable. Nevertheless, let not the minister in such occasions expect to receive a gift. It is easy for a minister to fall into such error. A gift from the goodness of the heart is a wonderful thing in the sight of God. II Corinthians 9:7 reads, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." Especially let us remember the first part of this verse, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,..." Let each do as his heart would be guided in Christ.



Kenya

Pastor Henry Miroro, our Kenya overseer, sent these photographs of a church wedding that he conducted. It took place in the Nyaibate area. The service included prize giving to the bridegroom, the ladies singing (lined up in procession, photos #3 and #4), and escorts of the bride (the gentlemen with the bride in photo #2).





Lessons

LESSON I

ISRAELITES MURMUR AGAINST MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:22-27.

Golden Text: Exodus 15:24.

"And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?"

1. After Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea, where did they travel? Exodus 15:22.
2. Why could they not drink of the water at Marah? Exodus 15:23.
3. What did they do against Moses? Exodus 15:24.
4. Moses could only seek the Lord for help. What did the Lord show Moses? Exodus 15:25.
5. What further did the Lord tell them in Exodus 15:26?
6. What place did they come to next? What did they find there? Exodus 15:27.

LESSON II

ISRAELITES MURMUR FOR WANT OF BREAD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:1-19.

Golden Text: Exodus 16:4 (first part).

"Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;..."

1. After the children of Israel left Elim, where did they go? Exodus 16:1.
2. Who murmured against Moses and Aaron, and what did they say? Exodus 16:2-3.

3. What did the Lord tell Moses He would do for them? Exodus 16:4-5.

4. What did the Lord promise Moses He would give them to eat? Exodus 16:8.

5. As Aaron was speaking to the congregation, what appeared in a cloud, and what was spoken unto Moses? Exodus 16:9-12.

6. What came upon the camp that evening? Exodus 16:13.

7. When the dew was gone up, what lay on the ground? Exodus 16:14-15.

8. How much were they to gather? Exodus 16:16-18.

9. What were they to not do with it? Exodus 16:19.

LESSON III

THE MANNA NOT FOUND ON THE SABBATH

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:20-36.

Golden Text: Exodus 16:25.

"And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field."

1. Did some not obey Moses in the gathering of the manna? What happened to that which was left until the morning? Exodus 16:20-21.

2. How much were they to gather on the sixth day and why? Exodus 16:22-23.

3. Was there to be any manna to gather on the Sabbath? Exodus 16:24-26.

4. Did some go out on the Sabbath to gather, and what happened? Exodus 16:27.

Lessons

5. What did Moses tell the people they must do on the Sabbath day? Exodus 16:29.

6. What had the Lord commanded Moses to do in Exodus 16:32? What did Moses then command Aaron to do? Exodus 16:33-34.

7. How long did the children of Israel eat manna? Exodus 16:35.

LESSON IV

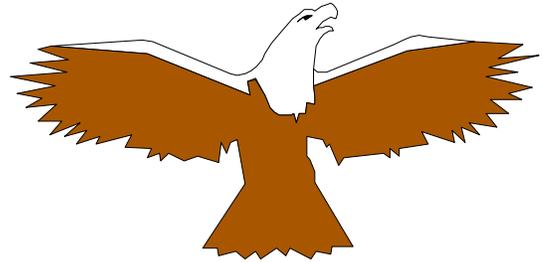
AMALEK IS OVERCOME

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 17:11.

"And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed."

1. Into what country had the children of Israel journeyed? Did they find water to drink here? Exodus 17:1.
2. Did the people again murmur against Moses for want of water? Exodus 17:2-3.
3. Moses cried unto the Lord, and what did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Exodus 17:5-6.
4. What did they name this place and why? Exodus 17:7.
5. Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. What did Moses tell Joshua to do? Exodus 17:8-10.
6. Joshua fought with Amalek. What did Moses do on top of the hill? Exodus 17:11-12.
7. Did Joshua discomfit Amalek? Exodus 17:13-14.
8. Moses built an altar. What did he call it and why? Exodus 17:15-16.



NATURE'S MELODY

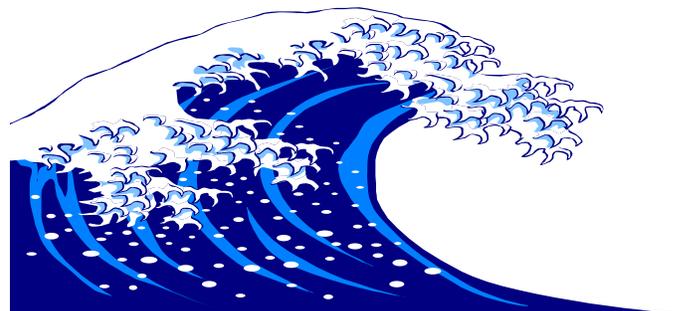
How happy we should be that we can see
and hear and feel and taste and smell.
Today we have a poem here that was written by a
blind man, Dr. Kallenbach, who was killed in an acci-
dent, November 16, 1946 before his poem was
published.

I cannot view the bloom upon the rose,
But oh, the scent is very dear to me,
And I can feel the cooling breeze that blows
Through pearl-tipped peaks of hills I cannot see.

I cannot see the wild birds on the wing,
But I can hear the swallows in the eaves;
I hear the song that nature has to sing;
The gentle music of the rustling leaves.

I cannot see the children going by,
But I can hear their laughter as they pass;
I cannot see the sunrise in the sky,
But I can feel the swaying of the grass.

I cannot see the moonlight on the sea,
But I can hear the waves beat on the shore;
I feast upon all nature's melody,
And thank my God and do not ask for more.



DON'T COMPLAIN

"Mother, I wish I had a new bicycle," said Tommy. "I never have anything or do anything I want to do." He accented his speech by going out the door and slamming it hard. As if that would have made any difference to help the situation, his Mother followed close behind him and marched him right back into the room and made him close the door ten times softly. Guess Tommy would remember to close it easier next time or he could count on shutting it easily ten times again.

About the seventh time Tommy was shutting the door, his ugly frown began to loosen into a half frown, then on the ninth shutting, a sheepish grin came over his face. You could see he was sorry he had slammed it.

"No, Tommy, you think you are mistreated. You think you get the worst of everything. But just you sit down over there and let me tell you a story that will change your mind. You have good health. You see all right, don't you?"

Tommy nodded rather ashamedly.

"You are able to speak-sometimes you mistreat yourself and everybody else by saying ugly things. You are all right, too-but sometimes you hear as if you didn't have any ear."

"There was a girl born down in Alabama who was healthy just like you are. When she was nineteen months old, she became terribly sick. For a while she was not expected to live. She did live, though, but the long fever which she had left her a different child. She would be no longer able to hear her parent's voices. She wasn't able to speak. On top of this, she couldn't hear. Now close your eyes and see how you would feel if you couldn't speak, see, nor hear."

"How sad her parents were. When the baby began to walk, she learned after much hardship how to find her way carefully from one room to another. Children like to ask questions, but she couldn't ask questions. They did have a faithful watch dog by the name of Belle who followed her around some. At other times one of the servant's

daughter was a playmate for her."

"When the little girl was six years old, a kind doctor advised her parents to see the inventor, Alexander Graham Bell. When they met Dr. Bell, he advised them to write to the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston."

"Helen Keller's, for that was her name, first teacher, Miss Sullivan, came to the home."

"First, Miss Sullivan began her teaching by placing a new doll in Helen's arms then slowly spelling the word, 'D-o-l-l' into her pupil's hand. Of course, she had to do this over and over again until Helen could grasp what she meant. She taught her how to spell water by taking her to the pump and letting the water run over her hand and spelling, 'W-a-t-e-r.'"

"After a few lessons like this, she soon learned to spell by running her fingers over slips of paper with raised letters."

"Later on she learned how to write in raised letters made for the blind."

"When Helen was eight, she was taken to the Perkins Institution for the Blind. Wasn't Helen delighted to find there were others deaf, dumb, and blind like herself. Now she wasn't the only one. Helen was determined to learn the best there was for those who are deaf, dumb, and blind."

"When Helen was twelve, she wrote a short story of her life. The next year she visit Niagara Falls and the World's Fair. She later graduated from Radcliffe College. She didn't complain because she didn't have this or that. She knew she had very little, but she made the best of what she had. She wasn't selfish in desiring to get an education for herself-no, she had a big desire to help others who had suffered as she had. She would help those who were blind, deaf, or dumb. She want about lecturing for the blind. In Isaiah, God tells us to strengthen the weak hands-that was her desire."

Tommy never did forget the story his Mother told him. He is now a grown man and already has told this same story to his little son.

We also need to remember to be thankful for the things we have and never complain about what we do not have. God does not like complainers.

"And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord" (Numbers 11:1, first part).

FIND THE NAME

Cross out the letters that are not used to spell the name of the person.

GOBLIASATH
ADSAVMIND
REHSVTABE
JOMHSAEPH
AMEOLOSES
SABMSDONNS
GESNTVHER
FRAJMOHEB

- Name of the giant David slew.
Name of Jonathan's friend.
Name of the first woman.
Name of the boy who had a coat of many colors.
Name of a baby put in the bulrushes.
Name of the strongest man ever to live.
Name of a brave queen.
Name of a very patient man.

FILL IN THE WORDS

B _ _ _ _
_ E _ _ _ _
L _ _ _ _
_ I _ _ _ _
_ E _ _ _ _
_ V _ _ _ _
_ E _ _ _ _ _

One thing we must do if we are a child of God is expressed in the word above. What is it? Put the letters of the words on the blank lines. The clues are at the top of the next column.

- 1. What Christ gave for us. (Luke 22:19).
2. What did Peter do after he denied Christ?
3. Why God gave his Son. (John 3:16).
4. Word meaning God's power.
5. What death is like.
6. NO one wants to die, but.....
7. "This is mySon."

Find and circle every word from the Scripture hidden in the letter maze below. The words may be written down, across diagonally.

"They did all eat, and were filled. And they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full." Matthew 14:20.

FTHEYTHAYTUEO
IRNTOOKOFT E PF
LBASKETSOUHBT
LALGBAANDKLEH
ESLEMSKTDFULA
DANDREMAINEDT
ATTOTFNTDWERE
NRAKBHUTWELVE
FILLEBEB SASKE
TWAELVEYLLBAT





Recipe (to grow the Church of God)



By Ben DeLong

Ingredients

- Seeds - The Word of God
- Fertilizer - Fruits of the Spirit
- Sunlight - The shining example of Jesus Christ
- Water - The Holy Spirit

Directions

1. Take the seeds (Word of God) and scatter over a broad area of soil (people in the world).
2. Follow with a generous portion of fertilizer (Fruits of the Spirit).
3. When the seeds sprout, make sure they are exposed to plenty of direct sunlight (the example of Jesus).
4. Ensure the roots remain moist and soaked with water (the Holy Spirit).
5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 until fully grown.

