



The Advocate of Truth



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"God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. He sealet up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work" (Job 37:5-7).



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Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

**Gary Mills Managing Editor
Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor
David DeLong Editorial Staff**

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Acknowledging the Greatness of Almighty God

by **Bibi Shimon Allicock**
Guyana South America

There are the Ten Commandments which we do have to obey and to live by, which were written by the finger of Almighty God Himself; there are also statutes, judgments, and ordinances such as being kind, loving, caring, hospitable, etc. In the Ten Commandments, there is one commandment with a promise, whereby it reads thus: "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). Honour here is to show respect. Yes! We must respect our parents. "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matthew 15:4-6).

Nevertheless, we must be obedient unto our parents in the LORD, meaning parents who are trying their utmost best to do the things commanded by Almighty God. The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesian brethren: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4). As children of God, we must know where to draw the line when our parents are encouraging us to do wrong things like stealing, defrauding, embezzling, etc. At times, we as children of God need to admonish our parents if they are encouraging us to do the wrong things. Even the children

in the world feel devastated and complain when their parents are encouraging and forcing them to do the things that are wrong, but some have to comply for various reasons. In the book of First Samuel, Eli's sons did not obey him, and he did not take precautionary measures and warn them sternly because of their pernicious ways. Thus Almighty God destroyed him and them; even his daughter-in-law died when she gave birth; and also the Israelites lost their battle against the Philistines. But before destruction, there is always a warning from God, and we must understand and take the warning when it is being given, despite whom or where or when it is given. We see in this particular instance Almighty God sent His warning through a little child, who was Samuel. First, let us look at what Eli's sons did: "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD" (1 Samuel 2:12-17).



We see here that although Almighty God gave them as much flesh as their soul desired, yet they could not wait for the priest to perform his duties, but they wanted to take the flesh by force before the fat was burnt, which was not supposed to be. Thus Almighty God told Samuel what He would do. "And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever" (1 Samuel 3:11-14).

We saw the warning, and although Eli knew what his sons were doing, he restrained them not: thus Almighty God concluded that sacrifice nor offering could be able to purge them because their sins were great. And so before Eli searched his heart and tried his best to even secure himself, he concluded that "It is the LORD: let Him do what seemeth him good." So the LORD did what was best. And the word of the LORD was revealed unto Samuel in Shiloh. "And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men. And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies. So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp. And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore. Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight. And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain. And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli. Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see. And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son? And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken. And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years. And his daughter in law,

Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her. And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast borne a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard it. And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband. And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken" (1 Samuel 4:1-22).

"And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day. But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof. And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. They sent therefore and

gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither. And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts. Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven" (1 Samuel 5:1-12).

We would have seen here the Philistines were troubled because of the Ark of God, because as the Ark of God was placed by Dagon their god, Dagon was crushed, also many people of the Philistines died, while others were smitten with emerods, but when the Ark of God was with the Israelites, they would be blessed, depending on how they kept it, because we would have seen many people of Beth-shemesh died because they had looked into the Ark of God. "And he smote the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD





had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter. And the men of Beth-shemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us? And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you" (1 Samuel 6:19-21).

We would have seen that the Philistines had acknowledged the goodness of Almighty God towards His people and what He is able and capable of doing for them, when and where. And since the Philistines were afraid of keeping the Ark of God because He had plagued them with emerods, they decided to make images of emerods and images of mice with gold and send back the Ark of God unto the Israelites because most people that worship idols would place things before their idols hoping they had need of something or that their god would probably have need of something, but our God has need of nothing because all things are His. "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein... Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God...For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalm 24:1; 50:7, 10-15). The Philistines set back the Ark of God with the images hoping that Almighty God would pardon them for their folly, but He takes no delight in fools. "...but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31 last part).

We must understand what Almighty God said: "And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will

be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy (Exodus 33:17-19). Only those who believe, are baptized, and call upon the name of Almighty God will be saved. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be re-proved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:17-21).

Almighty God did not really pardon the Philistines, but he had given them victory over the Israelites because the Israelites were disobedient at the moment. "And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever...And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain" (1 Samuel 3:11-14; 4:10-11).

We must understand once we are obedient unto Him, He will definitely pardon us from our sins and our iniquities. "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and par-

don our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee. Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:8-14).

As the greatness of Almighty God keeps unfolding in His wonderful words, we would have seen how He made an ass to speak unto a man because of disobedience. "And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak. And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me:

and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee? And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out. And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed" (Numbers 22:1-12).

We see here that Almighty God told Balaam that he should not curse the people because they were already blessed by Him. Nevertheless, because of material things, he forced himself to consult God again and again; thus Almighty God was angry with him and told him that he should go, but only the words that God told him, that he should speak. "And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a



sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast. And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour? And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak" (Numbers 22:20-38).

We see here that Almighty God already blessed the children of Israel and no one, whether they were priest or prophet, could curse them. Thus we would have seen the end of Balaam as he was spoken of by the apostle Peter. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher

of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that



So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it...For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 2:12-17; 22:15). Amen.

WE WILL GET THROUGH

**Troubles unending, burdens heavy to bear,
World soundlessly crumbles, no one seems to care
Pain and confusion, with strong grip hold,
Darkness, cold hands, wraps around sevenfold.**

**Right seems wrong and wrong seems right,
Evil chose you, to keep in its sights,
How to overcome and to let go,
A miracle maybe, I really don't know.**

**But in the darkest moment, a voice came at last,
Look to God my dear, for this too shall pass,
Then God's words I seek and now understand,
No trial is more than the strength he gave to man.**

**They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy,
And the darkness of sin God will soon destroy,
Always look to God and put your trust in Him,
Keep in His words and you'll be free of sin.**

**By Sister Alcyon De Coteau
Grenada, West Indies**

was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:1-22).

In Revelation John wrote what was spoken by an angel, the things that Jesus said unto him on the island of Patmos unto the seven churches. He mentioned the works of Balaam who was supposed to be a prophet of God but perverted the way of God. "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.





Sleep

by David DeLong

The Bible has much to say about the subject of sleep. There are actually three kinds of sleep mentioned in the Scriptures: physical sleep, which is good; spiritual sleep, which is bad; and sleep in death, which is either good or bad, depending upon the state of the person at the time of death. We begin with physical sleep.

In Genesis 2:21-24 we learn about the Lord causing a deep sleep upon Adam. "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Next, we come to a time when Jacob slept. We find this reference in Genesis 28:10-16,20-22. "And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the

earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not...And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

The friend of Job, Eliphaz, had a strange experience in his sleep one night. We find this in Job 4:12-21: "Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men, Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up: It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying, Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker? Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly: How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed from morning to

evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it. Doth not their excellency which is in them go away? they die, even without wisdom."

It is the Lord who gives the precious gift of sleep to His people. We learn in Psalm 127:1-2: "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." And when the naysayers come to us, we have a sure antidote. "There be many that say, Who will show us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:6-8).

The Lord Jesus will basically say to us what He said to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest..." (Matthew 26:45).

The second type of sleep is spiritual sleep, of which we always must beware. Let us heed the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 13:11-12: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." And in I Thessalonians 5:6-8 we read: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." Furthermore, his admonition is also given to us in Ephesians 5:14: "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

Even the Lord Jesus gave His disciples a similar warning: "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping" (Mark 13:35-36).

The third type of sleep is that of the sleep of death. However, we are given the comforting words of Scripture, that if we are baptized into Christ, with Him living inside of us, then we will also be in His resurrection when He comes again. Jesus showed the power He has of res-

urrection when He caused a little girl to come back to this mortal life in Matthew 9:23-25: "And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose."

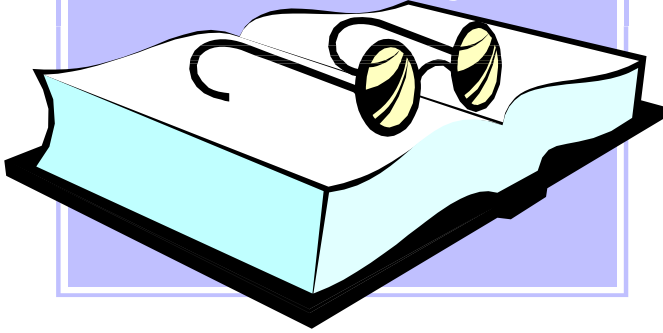
He also showed His power of life over death when He raised Lazarus back to life. John 11:11, 38-44 tells us the story. "These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep...Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

However, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 gives us the method that Jesus will use in the eternal life resurrection when He comes again. The Apostle Paul explains: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Instructor of Truth Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 22 - SATAN AND HIS END

QUESTION: What was Satan's name in heaven before his fall?

ANSWER: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12).

QUESTION: What caused his fall?

ANSWER: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of

the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13-14).

QUESTION: What will finally happen to him?

ANSWER: "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Isaiah 14:15).

NOTE: Take notice that he will be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. The text does not say he will be placed into the pit or grave. We will find out why later on.

QUESTION: What will those who see him say?

ANSWER: "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?" (Isaiah 14:16-17).

QUESTION: What will be the difference between him and dead kings?

ANSWER: "All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet" (Isaiah 14:18-19).

QUESTION: Why will he not be buried? What is prepared for his children (Followers)?

ANSWER: "Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities" (Isaiah 14:20-21).

QUESTION: What is Satan called by Ezekiel and what does he seal up?

ANSWER: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the

king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” (Ezekiel 28:12).

QUESTION: Where had he been, and with what was he covered?

ANSWER: “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created” (Ezekiel 28:13).

QUESTION: Who was he in heaven, and who made him so?

ANSWER: “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I (God) 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).

QUESTION: In what condition did God make him?

ANSWER: “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” (Ezekiel 28:15).

QUESTION: What pronouncement did God make upon him because he had sinned?

ANSWER: “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire” (Ezekiel 28:16).

QUESTION: When he is cast down to the sides of the pit, who shall behold him?

ANSWER: “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee” (Ezekiel 28:17).

QUESTION: Because he had filled his sanctuaries (churches) with iniquity (sinful practices) what did God promise?

ANSWER: “Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick (commercialism in the churches); therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee” (Ezekiel 28:18).

QUESTION: After the thousand years from what shall Satan be loosed?

ANSWER: “And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Revelation 20:3).

“In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea” (Isaiah 27:1).

"And when the thousand years are expired (ended), Satan shall be loosed out of his prison (bottomless pit or sea)" (Revelation 20:7).

QUESTION: What will he do when he is loosed?

ANSWER: "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog (from one end of the earth to the other), to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea" (Revelation 20:8).

QUESTION: Where will he and his armies go?

ANSWER: "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city" (Revelation 20:9 first part).

QUESTION: What will happen to his armies?

ANSWER: "and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Revelation 20:9 last part).

CONTINUED on page 15

Roe vs. Wade

By David Royer

The U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) recently overturned the 1973 landmark decision of *Roe vs. Wade*, in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States generally protected a pregnant woman's liberty to choose an abortion. Note that the 1973 ruling was a "decision", not a "right" to an abortion. I want to share some statistical information:

"In 2019, there were 629,898 legally induced abortions nationally that year."

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Article: Kortsmitt K, Mandel MG, Reeves JA, et al. *Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2019*.

"While most Americans do not have absolutist views about abortion – desiring neither to see it completely outlawed or permitted without exception – there are certain situations in which there is clear consensus abortion should be legal.

Nearly three-quarters of adults (73%) say abortion should be legal if the woman's life or health is endangered by the pregnancy, while just 11% say it should be illegal. And about seven-in-ten say abortion should be legal if the pregnancy is a result of rape, with just 15% saying it should be illegal in this case.

A smaller majority of U.S. adults (53%) say abortion should be legal if the baby is likely to be born with severe

disabilities or health problems – though in this situation, too, a far larger share say abortion should be legal than say it should be against the law (19% say it should be illegal in such cases, while a quarter says "it depends").

At the same time, the survey shows that large numbers of Americans favor certain restrictions on access to abortions. For example, seven-in-ten say doctors should be required to notify a parent or legal guardian of minors seeking abortions. And most of those who say abortion should be legal in some cases and illegal in others say that how long a woman has been pregnant should be a factor in determining whether abortion is legal or illegal (56% among all U.S. adults).

Combined with the 8% of U.S. adults who say abortion should be against the law in all cases with no exceptions, this means that nearly two-thirds of the public thinks abortion either should be entirely illegal at every stage of pregnancy or should become illegal, at least in some cases, at some point during the course of a pregnancy." Source: "America's Abortion Quandary" Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. (May 6, 2022) <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/05/06/americas-abortion-quandary/>

This last paragraph caught my attention: approximately 67% of the public believe abortions should be illegal or become illegal at some point during pregnancy.

"Multiple studies of why women choose abortion both in the U.S. and around the world report the greatest percentage of women to make the choice because the pregnancy would interfere with life plans, affordability of the child, their lack of readiness for this child, or birth control failure. Reports show only a small percentage of abortions occur due to sexual assault or the mother's health.

Poverty, cultures that emphasize personal achievement and freedom over nurturing life, and sinful choices leading to conception present many opportunities for ministry, social action, intervention, and wise counsel. They also demonstrate that there are many choices people can exercise before ending a child's life that could either

prevent conception or preserve life after birth. Men and women experience multiple moments before a final decision to abort.” Source: Christianity.com, Article by Lori Stanley Roeleveld May 4, 2022

There are many complicated issues on this subject. As usual, man becomes confused when he relies on his own judgment. We should listen to what God says about this issue. The following are a few Bible verses concerning life in the womb before birth.

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”

Proverbs 6:16-17

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,”

Job 31:15

“Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?”

Exodus 20:13

"Thou shalt not kill."

If one baby's life is saved from some of the frivolous and non-thought-out abortions that are occurring, we thank God that SCOTUS sent the abortion issue back to the individual states for local rule and regulation.

In closing, consider this: A professor in a world-acclaimed medical school once posed this medical situation — an ethical problem — to his students: “Here’s the family history: The father has syphilis. The mother has TB. They already have had four children. The first is blind. The second had died. The third is deaf. The fourth has TB. Now, the mother is pregnant again. The parents come to you for advice. They are willing to have an abortion if you decide they should. What do you say?”

After the students gave various opinions, the professor asked them to break into small groups for “consultation.” All of the groups came back to report that they would recommend abortion.

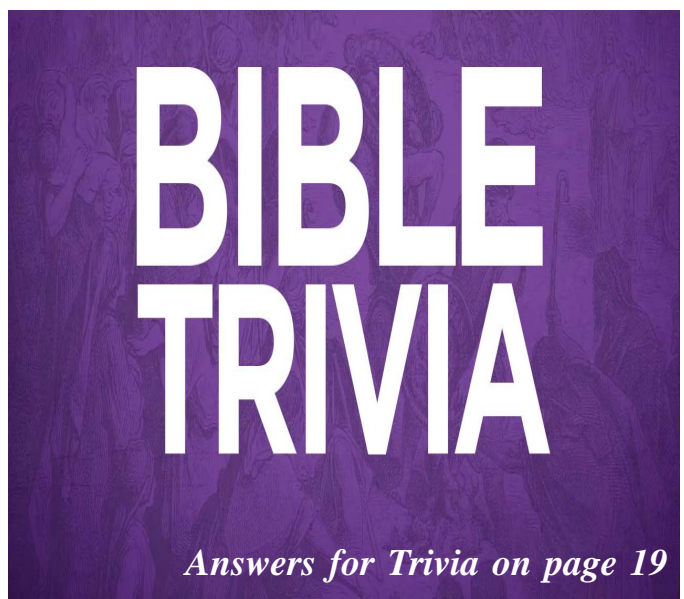
“Congratulations,” the professor said, “You just took the life of Beethoven!”

Questions and Answers Continued from page 13

QUESTION: Where will the Devil be cast, and what will happen to him?

ANSWER: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are (were cast), and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

NOTE: Satan's armies are not the resurrected wicked. They are the armies gathered by Satan out of the nations that still occupy the earth at the end of the millennial reign of Christ. The nations were not destroyed at the beginning of the millennium but Satan was cast into the bottomless pit and shut away from the nations during the thousand years. In this way he cannot tempt the nations.



- 1. Paul 2. Eve 3. rested
- 4. altars 5. Noah 6. Egypt
- 7. Ezra 8. Timothy 9. Moses 10. Aaron
- 11. Lemuel 12. exorcists 13. Paul
- 14. a merry heart



TRUSTING GOD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS
BY MICHAEL GEORGE

What is faith? And how does the Bible define faith? "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Now Websters Dictionary defines it as unquestioning belief in God. And so our Lord produces a special blessing on the Gentiles who believe in Christ saying, "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29 last part).

Ever since Adam fell by disobeying God, and although he was thrown out of Eden, God through his great love and mercy, did not altogether abandon them but gave them hope through his Word, that cannot fail. Let us bring to mind some of the promises that God made to fallen man. First he promised to give us a seed that shall bruise the serpent's head (which is the devil). "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

And men multiplied on the earth and began to be very wicked, and so God said that he regretted making man, yet his mercy exhausted not. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8). And he made a promise that he would save him and his house which was eight souls, and that the covenant of promise would be established in him. "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee" (Genesis 6:18).

Now after the deluge and all the wicked were destroyed, Noah's sons began to multiply, and evil

began to take root, and so they built the tower of Babel, which was highly displeasing to God, and so He came down and saw and confounded the pure language, and stopped them in their mad endeavor. "And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city" (Genesis 11:5-8).

After all this confusion does God abandon His promise to fallen man? Out of all this God continued to be faithful, and called out Abram, so that His promise of that seed may continue. And as we can see and continue to show that all the men to whom the covenant passed through were men of faith who trusted and believed God's Word. And so their faith was manifest by their love to God. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6).

So after Abraham walked with God the promise continued through his seed, as Isaac was a type of that special promised seed, in that he was offered up as a sacrifice to God. Yet he was not that promised seed that God said would bruise the serpent's head. But God had promised Abraham that in him

shall all the families of the earth be blessed, or through that promised seed which will come through the lineage of Abraham. And as fallen man continued to hope for that promised seed, God having found Abraham to be faithful called him His friend, and blessed him, and made known to him what suffering that would befall his seed in a foreign land, but with hope at the end he would bring them out of it. "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance" (Genesis 15:13-14).

All these things happened to Abraham's seed as God had said, and he sent them a Saviour in the person of Moses, to deliver them from the bondage in Egypt, and to bring them to the land He promised to Abraham and to his seed. "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever" (Genesis 13:14-15).

This very Moses whom God used to redeem the children of Israel out of slavery, that they should be His servants, this same Moses spoke of the promised seed to mankind. "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hear" (Deuteronomy 18:15).

Our brother Stephen also repeats this to the Jewish Sanhedrin just before his martyrdom: "This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A PROPHET SHALL THE LORD YOUR GOD RAISE UP UNTO YOU OF YOUR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; HIM SHALL YE HEAR" (Acts 7:37).

Here Moses spoke of Him (Jesus) only as a prophet, but we know according to the Word of God He has to fulfil the three high offices of "Prophet", which he did fulfil at his first advent; "Priest", which He is now fulfilling in heaven, sitting at the right hand of His Father's throne. (So then after

the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. "And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers" Acts 16:19.) And at His second appearing He will fulfil the office of King, and King of kings, yes, King of saints when He reaps His saints to the sea of glass: wearing one crown, a golden crown. And King of Kings, after He rewards His saints by making some Kings and priests; coming in the second phase with His saints to rule the nations. He will at this time be wearing many crowns, the saints whom he ordained Kings will be wearing single crowns, the Apostle Paul had such hope of wearing a crown when the righteous judge appears (II Timothy 4:8;

"Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" Daniel 2:35.

Now at last that seed has arrived, as promised by God; He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, in a virgin called Mary from Beth-lehem-Juda, as foretold by another prophet. "But thou, Beth-lehem 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).

And Isaiah also spake by the word of the Lord saying: "And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there" (Isaiah 65:9).

And Satan tried to frustrate God's plan when the decree was put forth by Pharaoh to destroy all the male children at the time Moses was born (Exodus 1:22.) Even so again the enemy of God and man tried to destroy the infant by the decree of Herod to slay all the male children in Beth-lehem, but was again defeated by our heavenly Father who sees and knows all things.

"And when they were departed, behold, the an-

gel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him" (Matthew 2:13). "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men" (Matthew 2:16).

Great is God's faithfulness toward mankind; He has promised and He is able to fulfil. Thank God for our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. He defeated the enemy, but yet was put to death by (John 19:11).

But our Saviour rose triumphant from the dead after three days and nights in the heart of the earth. Thus the redemption of mankind was sealed, and Heaven rejoiced with all the holy angels.

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night" (Revelation 12:10).

And as certain as all the promises of His first advent came to pass He will surely come the second time as promised, in glory. Let us prepare for His return, that we may be glorified in Him.

Trusting Him always for His faithfulness.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD Philippines



BIBLE TRIVIA

*"Multiple choice, choose the best answer for each question"
Answers on page 15*

- 1. (Peter; David; Paul) said he was chief among sinners. I Timothy 1:15*
- 2. Adam blamed (Eve; the serpent; himself) for eating of the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:12*
- 3. On the seventh day God (made fish and fowl; rested; made the firmament). Genesis 2:1-2*
- 4. Abraham built (a tabernacle; altars; a temple) in order to worship God). Genesis 12:7; 22:9*
- 5. (Noah; Abraham; Moses) built the first altar to the Lord. Genesis 8:20*
- 6. Jacob and his family moved from Canaan to (the land of Nod; Ur of the Chaldees; Egypt). Genesis 46:6*
- 7. (Nehemiah; Joshua; Ezra) was an Old Testament Jewish scribe. Nehemiah 8:4*
- 8. (Timothy; Philemon; Peter) knew the Scriptures from childhood. II Timothy 3:15*
- 9. (Moses; Abraham; Daniel) was chosen to be God's first spokesman. Exodus 4:10-16*
- 10. (Eli; Aaron; Noah) lost two sons because they offered strange fire before the Lord. Leviticus 10:1-2*
- 11. The mother of King (Solomon; Lemuel; Saul) told him not to drink wine. Proverbs 31:4*
- 12. The seven sons of Sceva were (full of the Holy Spirit; murderers; exorcists). Acts 19:13-14*
- 13. (Jonah; Jesus; Paul) saved 276 people in a shipwreck by his wise counsel. Acts 27:20-44*
- 14. (Widsom; a merry heart; a humble spirit) is the medicine prescribed by Solomon in Proverbs. Proverbs 17:22*

LESSON I

THE FIRST TRIP CONTINUES

Scripture Reading: Acts 14:19-28.

Golden Text: Acts 14:22.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

NOTE: We have been studying about Paul and Barnabas and their missionary journey. We will now continue to study about the places they travel and the people they meet. Do not forget to use your Bible maps to find these different cities.

1. Who came from Antioch and Iconium, and what happened to Paul? Acts 14:19.
2. Where did Barnabas and Paul travel to after leaving Lystra? Acts 14:20.
3. After they had preached the gospel to that city, where did these two men return? Acts 14:21.
4. What did Paul tell them to continue in to enter into the kingdom of God? Acts 14:22.
5. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Acts 14:23? Explain in your own words why you think it was necessary for them to do these acts.
6. Tell where the brethren then sailed. Acts 14:24-26.
7. When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch (Syria), what did they tell to the disciples gathered there? Acts 14:27-28.

NOTE: You learned from one of your questions that Paul and Barnabas went back to the very cities where they had been persecuted. What love they must have had for their brethren. They knew they might meet the same fate as when they first arrived, but the re-

ward would be far greater and worth any persecution they must suffer.

LESSON II

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Scripture Reading: Acts 15:36-41; 16:1-15.

Golden Text: Acts 16:5.

"And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."

1. Paul asked Barnabas to return to the cities that they first visited. Who did Barnabas wish to take along to their second journey? Acts 15:36-37.
2. Did Paul want Mark to go with them? Acts 15:38.
3. Who did Barnabas and Paul choose to make their separate trips with, and to where did they sail? Acts 15:39-41.
4. Who did Paul meet on his journey, and who were his parents? Acts 16:1-2.
5. Were churches being established at this time? Acts 16:5.
6. To what lands were Paul and Silas not able to go? Acts 16:6-8.
7. What vision did Paul see, and did he take heed of this vision? Acts 16:9-12.
8. Where did Paul and Silas go on the Sabbath, and to whom did they speak? Acts 16:13.
9. Tell about the woman they met. Was she baptized? Acts 16:14-15.

LESSON III

A DEMON CAST OUT

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:16-40.

Golden Text: Acts 16:25.

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."

1. Who met Paul and Silas, and what was her occupation? Acts 16:16.

NOTE: Divination and soothsaying are when someone predicts the future or tells secrets by using magic.

2. What did Paul say to the spirit? Acts 16:18.

3. Tell what happened to Paul and Silas because of this deed. Acts 16:19-24.

4. What did Paul and Silas do while in prison? Acts 16:25.

5. What happened while Paul and Silas were in prison? Acts 16:26-27.

6. What did Paul say to the jailer, and what did the jailer do and say? Acts 16:28-30.

7. Paul and Silas told the jailer to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ". What did the jailer then do that same night? Acts 16:31-34.

8. Explain in your own words what happened in Acts 16:35-40.

LESSON IV

PAUL AT THESSALONICA

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:1-14.

Golden Text: Acts 17:11.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

1. Paul and Silas now enter a synagogue in Thessalonica. What three points did Paul talk about in the synagogue? Acts 17:1-3.

2. Who believed and listened to Paul? Acts 17:4.

3. What happened in verses 5-9 of Acts 17?

4. What did the brethren then do to Paul and Silas? Acts 17:10.

5. Paul and Silas are now in Berea. How did the people here compare to those in Thessalonica? Acts 17:11.

6. What was the result of Paul and Silas's presence in Berea? Acts 17:12.

7. What did the Jews of Thessalonica do in Berea? Acts 17:13.

8. Who remained in Berea? Acts 17:14.

PERGA - Perga was a town in Pamphylia, and under the Romans was the capital of the province. The word Perga means "doubtless citadel or burg." Paul and Barnabas visited the town on the first missionary journey, both as they went and returned. It was on the right bank of the river Kestros. Nearby was a well-known temple of the goddess Artemis, who was known as the queen of Perga.

Unscramble the letters to find out what objects Gideon used to fight the Midianites in Judges 6 & 7.

IHTPERC _____

RCTOH _____

MRETTUP _____

Answers to "Know Your Cities" on page 23

- 1.Cain 2.Ur 3.Sodom and Gomorrah 4.Bethsaida
- 5.Cana 6.Jerusalem 7.Damascus 8.Caesarea 9.Jericho
- 10.Pithom and Raamses

Answers to "Change A Letter" on page 23

- 1.Milcah 2.ark 3.Horeb 4.Janna 5.Nob 6.Japhia 7.Neri
- 8.Hara 9.Hero

RUTH'S CHOICE

Many, many years ago, a man named Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, lived in the land of Bethlehem-Judah. They had two sons named Chilion and Mahlon. There was no way for the father to make a good living for his family in this land for there was a great famine. He decided to take his family to a new place, and so he chose the land of Moab. Moab was the land of the Gentiles, but he thought that it would be better than the place they were now living. It was in this land that he died and left his two sons and his wife Naomi alone.

While the two sons were young men, they met two young women in this Gentile land and fell in love with them. Their names were Ruth and Orpah. They married them, and they lived together for about ten years and were very happy, but one day a very bad thing happened, for both of the brothers died and left Naomi alone with Ruth and Orpah. Even though she had learned to love the two girls, she was not happy and longed to be back with her own family and friends. Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi, too.

One day, Naomi heard that there was prosperity again in her home land, and so she came to Ruth and Orpah and told them that she had decided to go back home again. They both walked part of the way home with her so that she would not have to go all the way by herself. They both cried as she kissed them goodbye. She told them to go back home and find them a husband and have a happy life. Neither one of them wanted to leave Naomi, but Orpah kissed her and turned and went on her way home. Ruth just could not leave her side but she wanted to go home with her to her country and stay with her the rest of her life. "I want to learn of your God and serve Him. I want to be a friend of your people and live in your land. Please say that I can go with you and dwell in your house with you the rest of your days." When Naomi saw that she was sincere and really wanted to serve God, she granted her wish and took her with her to

the land of her people in Bethlehem-Judah.

In this new land, Ruth worked hard in the fields where she gleaned barley for a very wealthy man named Boaz. Ruth was very happy working for Boaz for he was very kind to her. One day Ruth asked Boaz why he was so good to her, and he told her that he had heard the story of how she had come to this new land to serve the God of heaven. He also told her that he liked her because she had been good to Naomi. This made Ruth even more happy for she liked Boaz and liked to work for him. One day she was made even happier than she had ever been, for Boaz asked her to be his wife.

Ruth made a very wise choice when she decided to go with Naomi and serve the God of Israel. God gave her many blessings. We, too, should serve God and do His will. He will never fail to give us many blessings and make us happy, just as he did for Ruth.

Now, as always, there is a great need for cheerfulness in the world. As a family, social, and business investment, cheerfulness pays more dividends than any other quality within the privilege of man.

When you feel the corners of your mouth turning down, turn them up again. Dark and gloomy feelings thrive on turned-down lips, and the probability is that the only words that will pass between them are those better left unsaid.

So smile! Let your eyes twinkle with cheerfulness, and see how quickly pessimisms will vanish, how rapidly the cobwebs will clear from your mind, and how much brighter and better a place to live in the world seems.

Answers to unscramble letters on page 21 - Pitcher, torch, trumpet

A PRAYER

**I need Jesus in the morning
So I'll start the day aright;
I need Jesus as my Helper,
Till I go to bed at night.
Helping me, helping me
Not to do wrong:
Jesus is helping me
All the day long.**



KNOW YOUR CITIES

1. Who built the first city? (Genesis 4:17).
2. From what city did Abraham come? (Genesis 11:31).
3. What wicked cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone? (Genesis 19:24).
4. From what city did Andrew and Peter come? (John 1:44).
5. In what city did Jesus perform His first miracle? (John 2:1-11).
6. The Lord Jesus mourned over what great city? (Matthew 23:37).
7. Saul became a Christian on the way to what city? (Acts 9:1-3).
8. In what city did Cornelius live? (Acts 10:1).
9. The walls of what city were destroyed without being attacked? (Joshua 6:1, 20).
10. What Egyptian treasure cities were built by Israelite slaves? (Exodus 1:11).

"CHANGE A LETTER" BIBLE PUZZLES

1. Find the prophet who wrote the book after Jonah. Add one letter, and you have Lot's sister (Genesis 22:23).
2. Find the second book of the New Testament. Cut off one letter, and you have a sacred box carried into battle (I Samuel 4:3).
3. Find the mountain where Aaron died (Numbers 20:25). Add two letters, and you have the place where Moses saw the burning bush (Exodus 3:1).
4. Find a good woman who blessed a baby Jesus (Luke

- 2:36). Add one letter, and you have the son of Joseph (Luke 3:24).
5. Find a city of Egypt mentioned in Nahum 3:8. Add one letter, and you get a town where the priests lived (I Samuel 22:19).
6. Find a blue stone in Exodus 24:10. Change the first letter, drop 3 letters, add an "a" to the end, and you have another Bible king (Joshua 10:3).
7. Find King Saul's grandfather in I Chronicles 8:33. Add a letter, and you have an ancestor of Jesus (Luke 3:27).
8. Find the city where Abraham lived (Genesis 11:31). Cut off one letter and you have the name of a city in Assyria (I Chronicles 5:26).
9. Find the king who killed John the Baptist (Mark 6:18). Cut off one letter, and find what David became when he slew the giant Goliath.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

By Maran B. Wilkinson

We know that Jesus always went to church on Sabbath. It was what He liked to do. When he was big, He read the Bible in church. But if He were little like you, right now, what do you think He would do? Answer the questions Yes or No.

1. *Would Jesus walk into church in a noisy way?*
2. *Would He ever wiggle and whisper?*
3. *Would Jesus need a toy to play with in church?*
4. *Would He try to listen to the sermon?*
5. *Would He always sit with His step-father and mother?*
6. *Would He look around during prayer?*
7. *Would He be happy in God's house?*
8. *Would He be quiet and reverent?*
9. *Does Jesus want you to love God's house, too?*
10. *Will He help you to be quiet and good?*

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As the Trees are Covered with Snow

by David DeLong

*As the trees are covered with snow,
So, our sins are covered with love;
And God, in His mercy, below
Sent life from His heavenly Dove.*

*As the trees are covered with snow,
So, the Lord, with His wings covers those
Who by their obedience show
That they'll follow wherever He goes!*