

*The Advocate of Truth*





The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

**POSTMASTER:**

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
P.O. Box 328  
Salem, WV 26426-0328**

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Fax: 304-782-2248**

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Volume LXXI                      Number 9  
February, 2023  
The Advocate of Truth  
USPS 542-940

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*Cover picture Edgewater Park Cleveland, Ohio*

*Guide to Prayer - Coals of Fire - Proverbs 25:21-22*



*Lord, You tell me I am to treat everyone - even those who hurt me - with love and concern, and You will reward me for my actions. The next time I am prepared to lash out at someone who has hurt me, let Your forgiveness and love be reflected in my response.  
"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee."*



Remember  
*the* SABBATH DAY,  
*to* KEEP IT  
HOLY.  
EXODUS 20:8

## *Our Sabbath*

*By Carlo Rasmussen, deceased*

Have you ever been speaking with someone and the subject of the Sabbath Day comes up? At that time, have you heard the words, "Oh yes, that is your Sabbath?" These are sometimes the words that are said in a general conversation with others around us. I know those who say this do not intend to be contentious or mean; however, I wonder if they really know what they are saying when they say these words, "your Sabbath?" What is actually inferred here is that the 7th day is our day, set aside by us, which is not true. We did not set the day apart from the others in the week. The Bible states, "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God:..." (Exodus 20:10). The seventh day of the week is actually God's Day and it was the Lord who set it aside for mankind to rest therein. Many today feel that because the majority of Christians maintain that Sunday is the "day of rest" that this is it because everybody could not be wrong. This whole concept of thinking is erroneous and is a canny trick of Satan. Jesus was very plain in His words when He said, in Matthew 19:17, "...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." This included the seventh day of every week, which is the Sabbath Day. At no time in the Scriptures do we find a Sunday mentioned as the day of rest.

The child of God fully understands that it is the Sabbath of the Lord and that the day was created by the Lord because; "...in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:10). Here we have Gods' reason for setting aside the seventh day of every

week: it is the day of rest. Jesus also stated, "...The sabbath was made for man..." Thus we see again that it is not our Sabbath Day but rather God's Day instead. Jesus continued by saying that He "...is Lord also of the sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28). The words of Jesus are very clear and we would do well to take heed and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. For us to add or take away from His words could mean the loss of eternal life. When Jesus spoke, He did not speak His own words, but rather they were the words of His Father in heaven (see John 14:24). This thought is reassuring and comforting to the child of God because it brings to our memory the unchangeable love God expresses to His people since the Creation. The Sabbath Day gives us a chance to show our love back to God and His creation by ceasing from our daily labors and concentrating more upon His Word and the wonders of His creation round about us.

God's Sabbath or Day of Rest is included in the first of the two great "Commandments" Jesus spoke of in Matthew 22:37-40. He said, "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." By remembering and observing the seventh day of the week, God's Sabbath, we are showing our love to Him and fulfilling a part of the first four Laws of Liberty and Love.

Let us "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" unto God. In so doing we will be reaffirming what is already the Lord's. Please remember the seventh day of each week is God's Day of Rest and not "our sabbath," as if we somehow set aside the day by ourselves. May God bless you to understand these thoughts.







# *Two Sticks*

*by David Royer*

A December 2021 Sabbath School Lesson had referenced a statement made by Jesus in Matthew 12:25, which in part said: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation...” His words were my inspiration for this article.

When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, Joshua had assigned territory to each of the 12 recognized tribes. The Levites did not receive any land, as they were the priesthood of the nation of Israel. Forty-eight cities scattered around Israel and located within the territories of the other tribes were allotted to them (Joshua 21:41-42). While no tribe bore the name of Joseph, two tribes were named after Joseph’s sons, Manasseh and Ephraim (Gen. 48:4-22).

The tribe of Benjamin provided Israel with its first king, Saul, and later aligned itself with the tribe of Judah. On page four is a map of the Promised Land with the tribal land distribution.

As prophesied by Ahijah, this original twelve-tribe, kingdom nation of Israel divided against itself at the end of King Solomon’s rule (I Kings 11:31-37). This split of ten northern tribes (Israel) from the two southern tribes (Judah) resulted from a revolt of his subjects because of heavy taxation and mandatory subscriptions to military service and work projects levied by Solomon and

Rehoboam, his son.

Jesus’s word of “desolation” rang true. In 722 BCE, the Assyrians invaded and destroyed the northern kingdom. Most of the population was deported as per Assyrian military policy, and this relocation resulted in the so-called Lost Ten Tribes of Israel. However, they truly were not lost.

The southern kingdom (Judah) was invaded and destroyed by the Babylonian Empire in 598-582 BCE, and the most influential citizens of that region were taken to Babylon.

On page six is a map of the relocation of the nation of Israel. Approximately 120 years later, Judah was invaded, and many of its residents were deported to Babylon.

During the nation of Judah’s captivity in Babylon, the Lord called upon Ezekiel to minister and prophesy to those Jewish captives in the towns around Babylon. Ezekiel’s messages to Judah included a rebuke of their apostasy (abandonment of a previous loyalty; an act of refusing to continue to follow, obey, or recognize a religious faith). In addition, the Lord showed Ezekiel a vision of the resurrection of the house of Israel, affirming that the Lord’s chosen people would eventually be gathered to the lands of their inheritance (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

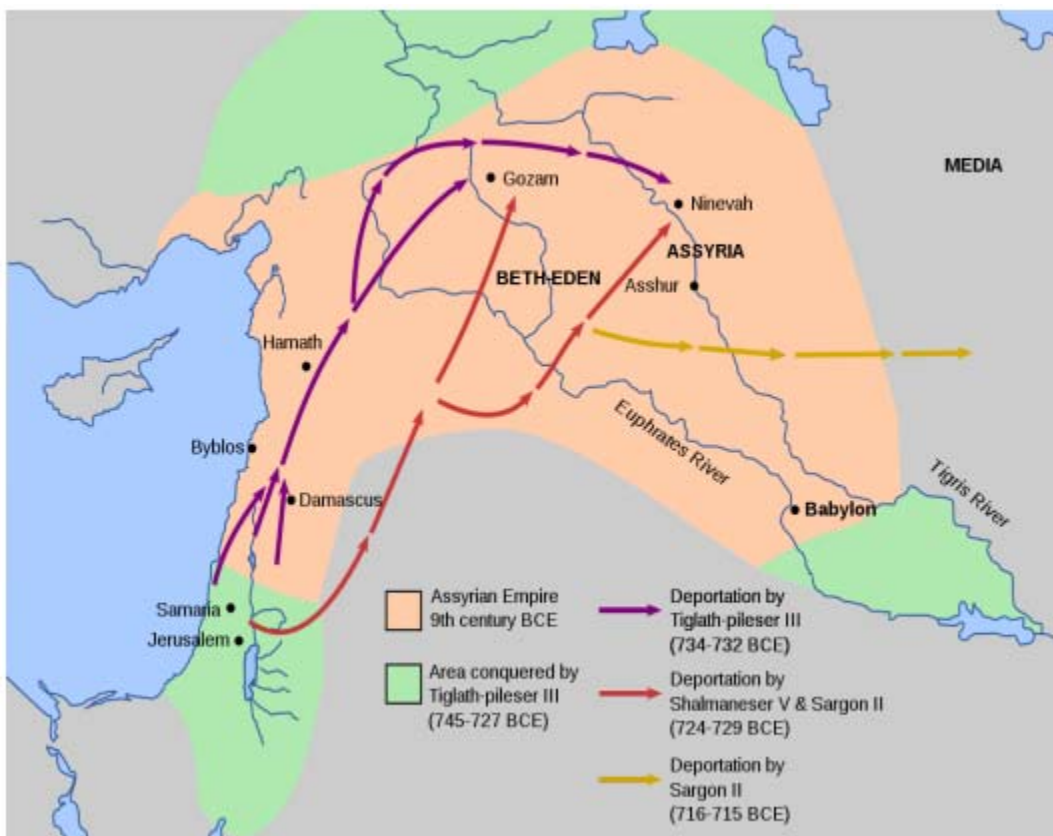
As further visual confirmation of God’s promise to reunite the former kingdoms of Judah and Israel, God instructed Ezekiel to inscribe “two sticks”, one for Judah and one for Joseph. On one stick, he wrote: “...For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions...” On the other stick, he inscribed, “...For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions” (Ezekiel 37:16). Ezekiel was told to join the sticks together and make them one.

The Almighty used the act of writing the names of the two halves of the Israelite nation on two sticks and joining the sticks together as representative of the future unification of Judah (the Jews) and the Ten Tribes represented by Joseph and Ephraim. The Twelve Tribes will remain separate until reunited as one nation in the “End Times”. Even though they shall become one nation, each tribe will dwell in its own territory, as further explained in Ezekiel 37:

*“And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I*

*will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:” (Ezekiel 37: 17-22).*

As mentioned, this final reunification of nations will occur during the “End Times”, during which our current world, as we know it, will end and be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth. A further study on the “last days” is warranted. Just remember that God’s covenants and announced prophecies are guaranteed to take place. *“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:17).*



# BIBLE TRIVIA

*Answers found on page 14*

1. Abram was Lot's (nephew; uncle; brother-in-law). Genesis 12:5
2. Four men brought a man sick of the palsy through the (door; roof; window) to be healed by Jesus. Mark 2:3-4
3. Solomon told the Lord to give him an understanding heart in the (Temple; early morning; dream). I Kings 3:5-9
4. Jesus answered a (nobleman's; lawyer's; rich man's) question by telling the parable of the good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37
5. Pilate told the Jews to judge Jesus according to their (law; conscience; good judgment). John 18:31
6. Rachel stole her father's (gold; clothing; images). Genesis 31:34
7. (Benjamin; Judah; Reuben) told his brothers to cast Joseph into a pit. Genesis 37:22
8. Solomon's (wisdom; wives; riches) turned his heart after other gods. I Kings 11:3
9. While Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God, a (great earthquake; kind jailer; thunderstorm) opened the prison doors. Acts 16:25-26
10. Because the Lord was with David, (the wicked men; the giant; Saul) sought to kill him. I Samuel 18:28; 19:1
11. When (Nabal; Achan; Absalom) died, he was cast into a great pit in the wood and covered with stones. II Samuel 18:17
12. Judas cast the thirty pieces of silver in the (Temple; river; money bag) and hanged himself. Matthew 27:5
13. The Jewish priest's garments were made of (silk; wool; linen). I Samuel 2:18; 22:18

# *Abominations to God*

*by Bibi Allicock Guyana West Indies*

Abomination means to hate something very much or to regard it despicably. The Bible mentions several different things that God considers as an abomination. This article will look at some of them. The first is the relationship of a man and a woman. The current open lifestyles promoted in the world today are not biblical. This is shown in the following verses. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death..." (Leviticus 20:13).

If we are worshiping Almighty God as we should, will He not show us where we are going wrong? How can some pastors and preachers and their congregations claim homosexual rights and are begging the government of various countries to give them rights on marriages concerning lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and transsexuals? "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, And all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness

by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:24-31).

After Almighty God made all the animals and Adam, He saw that only Adam had not an help meet; thus He took a rib from Adam after causing a deep sleep to fall upon him and made an help meet for him as He saw fitting. What did the man call the help meet? He called her woman, because she was taken out of man. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul...And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 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...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 2:7; 18-23; 1:27).

We see here Almighty God created man in His own image: meaning his RESEMBLANCE; also MALE AND FEMALE created he them. (MALE - MASCULINE GENDER): - (FEMALE - FEMININE GENDER). "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother,



and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:24-25).

Almighty God made the man to be the head of the home and not the woman. The Apostle Paul quoted in the holy book: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God" (I Corinthians 11:3,11-12).

Although Almighty God gave Adam and Eve everything in the garden of Eden which they should consume for food, only He commanded them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). A command is an order to do or not to do something given from someone in authority, and since Almighty God is the one in highest authority above us all: therefore we must make every effort to obey Him. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. 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. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 55:8-13).

From the Scriptures given above, we can clearly see that Almighty God's ways are not our ways: thus as He commanded us to do various things, we should try our utmost best to be obedient. Nevertheless, Eve did not obey, yielding to the devil (that is how some of us operate

today and blame each other for our wrongdoings); she ate and gave to her husband, who also partook, although he knew that Almighty God commanded them not to do such. He should have rebuked his wife, and not eaten, but he did, and thus consequences followed. "And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 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. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return...Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Genesis 3:13-24).

Since Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and knowledge is on the increase, that mankind is running to and fro for it, can't people possibly see that man and woman have opposite sexual organs for reproduction? "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature" (Romans 1:18-26). "And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:27-32).

As our Lord Jesus came to magnify the law and make it honourable: He himself said it is not even lawful that a man divorce his wife or a woman to divorce her husband, saving for the cause of fornication. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge...The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put

away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:3-9).

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet Ezekiel had a vision showing him abominations committed by Israel. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry." Almighty God commanded: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. "He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations." "And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth." Has the Lord God forsaken the earth? Definitely not. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Thus He is looking down upon us because He is still pouring down the rain on the just and the unjust, also the sun is shining upon all (Ezekiel 8:5-12; Proverbs 15:3).

Many people in the world are worshipping as they feel, bowing down unto idols, the workmanship of men's hands. But is Almighty God pleased with that? "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I

the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments...The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them" (Exodus 20:4-6; Psalm 135:15-18).

Many are claiming there is one God; but everyone is worshipping their own way. If there is ONE GOD: most definitely there will be ONE WAY of worshipping. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all...And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Ephesians 4:4-6; 11-14). "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers...Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the

sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:1-5; 7-16).

There is always one way in worshipping Almighty God: which is the right way, and there will still be one way: Because our Lord "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." He will not change to suit mankind: "For I am the LORD, I change not..." (Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6).

Mankind has to make a change in their lives to please Him. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers (or governing bodies) that be are ordained of God." Regardless who Almighty God puts up or takes down, He is the one with the final say. The Apostle Paul admonished, "I beseech you therefore, brethren (or believers in Almighty God), by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service...For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God...The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The Lord does not want any to perish, but men choose to perish; that is why they are worshipping in their own way. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." And that will be eternal death. "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt...And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched...Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the



resurrection of damnation" (Romans 13:1; 12:1; 14:11; II Peter 3:9; Proverbs 14:12; Daniel 12:2; Mark 9:43-44; John 5:28-29). We see here Almighty God has the power to give a reward unto every man according as their work shall be: and thus it will be done accordingly.

As we are on the topic of ABOMINATIONS, let us look at another greater abomination: WEEPING FOR TAMMUZ. "He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz" (a Sumerian fertility god similar to the Greek god Adonis) (Ezekiel 8:13-14). We see here that they were not worshipping the Almighty God, but a god whom they imagined. And since Almighty God is a jealous God, is He really pleased? Definitely not: Mr. Tammuz is the one who was born the 25th of December, whom the people are worshipping when they celebrate Christmas, claiming our Lord Jesus Christ was born then, and are celebrating His birthday. But our Lord never leaves an example that we must celebrate His birthday, but He leaves us with the Lord's Supper, which was the Passover when the children of Israel were to come out of Egypt. They had to kill lambs from the sheep and kids from the goats which were a year old and sprinkle their blood on the two side posts and the upper door posts so that when the death angel came to smite all the firstborn in Egypt, they would be saved when the death angel saw the blood. "And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with

fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever" (Exodus 12:1-14).

We see here how things ought to be done to please Almighty God. And since He is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore, His Son instituted the Lord's Supper to be kept now instead of the Passover, celebrating His death and not His birth. "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father (meaning the time had come for Him to be crucified and rise again to be with His Father), having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to

wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:1-15).

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives...Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me...If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (Mark 14:22-26; John 13:19-20; 17).

In the Old Testament, the children of Israel, which were God's chosen people, used to celebrate the LORD'S passover. Thus in the New Testament, the children of God which were Gentiles who were converted after repenting from their sins and were baptized, received of the Holy Spirit, and continue in the Lord's doctrine, are celebrating the Lord's Supper on the appointed time, which is the fourteenth day of the first month, Nisan or Abib, and since the names of the months have changed, it would be either late March or early April, depending on the moon closest to the vernal equinox, which is the beginning of the season of spring.

We see here what was being celebrated: The Lord's Supper, which was being instituted on the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, and to be continued until He comes again. We do not have any indications in the Bible to celebrate His birth, which is not the 25th of December, which is commonly known as Christmas. And since Almighty God saw women weeping for Tammuz as a greater abomination unto Him, therefore celebrating Christmas is also an abomination unto Him. While many

are joying and frolicking in this joyous celebration, not knowing or caring to know its origin, Almighty God is very wrathful concerning it. Christmas, like all other heathen feast days that still remain in the churches of our day, came from Babylon. After the Flood of Noah's days, there lived a very wicked man named Nimrod, a great grandson of Noah, and the founder of ancient Babylon. This man was so evil that it is said he married his own mother, who bore a child for him. His mother's name was Semiramis. After Nimrod's death, Satan used his wicked mother to propagate the evil doctrine of the survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. Semiramis claimed that a full grown evergreen tree sprang overnight from a dead tree stump, which symbolized the springing forth unto new life of dead Nimrod. She also claimed that on each anniversary of his death, Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts thereon. This is the origin of the Christmas tree. The 25th of December is supposed to be really the birthday of Nimrod. Santa Claus is but another form of the name St. Nicholas, and reliable reference books explain that Old Nick is a term for the devil.

In the book of Jeremiah the prophet Jeremiah said, "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen (or unbelievers) are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good" (Jeremiah 10:2-5).

The propagation of Christmas with all its heathen practices is pagan and harmful. Those who accept and observe the ancient pagan holiday should heed the admonition of the Lord Jesus Himself, who said: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

Another abomination to Almighty God is the sun worship. "Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs

toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them" (Ezekiel 8:15-18).

Sun worshipping is not good because we are not worshipping Almighty God, but we are worshipping a part of His handiwork, which is not convenient for us. We are supposed to worship Him only in spirit and in truth. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

In the book of II Kings, the LORD was very wroth with the children of Israel and dealt with them for worshipping the host of heaven, which He commanded them not to do. "If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them; either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die" (Deuteronomy 17:2-5).

"Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified

against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only" (II Kings 17:13-18). Amen.



1. *uncle*   2. *roof*   3. *dream*  
 4. *lawyer's*   5. *law*   6. *images*  
 7. *Reuben*   8. *wives*  
 9. *great earthquake*   10. *Saul*  
 11. *Absalom*   12. *Temple*   13. *linen*

**If You Could Win A Prize**  
 By David DeLong

If you could win a prize,  
 Would it be for a burger and fries?  
 Or, would you make claim,  
 To a wonderful name,  
 And a heart that was clean from all lies?  
 So press toward the mark  
 For the prize,  
 For all of us this applies.



# Trained Firefighters

By David DeLong

I have been sitting at my desk watching a house adjacent to the Publishing House, here in Salem, W. Va., burn. A number of supposedly trained individuals have been fighting the fire. It is interesting that they are wearing firefighting equipment and are using tools to get at the fire that at times can't be seen. A copious amount of water has been spent on putting out the blaze.

This reminds me of the fate of the wicked, and how we are to warn people of the fires of Gehenna. Jesus said: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). It is our duty, as disciples of Jesus, to bring the message of salvation to a lost world. This could even involve our brothers and sisters in Christ. James wrote: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20).

We must also be trained disciples. And we must have on our firefighting equipment. Ephesians 6:10-18 admonishes us: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and

the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints".

Part of our message to the lost is that they need to be baptized in Jesus' name with hands laid on for the reception of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." This water baptism reminds me of the water used to put out the house fire.

In the book of Acts we find: "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-17). We must be trained in the Word of God to be effective witnesses for the Lord. We must be trained in the Church's doctrine, and in how to present the Lord Jesus Christ to the lost.

We know that the fires of the Lord are coming. II Peter 3:7 tells us: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." And in Revelation 21:8 we learn: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Shouldn't we then be trained firefighters, warning those destined for the lake of fire? This is my challenge to all Church of God, 7th Day members. May the Lord give us the training and equipment to do this.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Home Instructor 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 14 - THE MILLENNIUM

**QUESTION:** What are the days after the return of Christ called?

**ANSWER:** "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:20-21).

**QUESTION:** For how long will the devil be bound?

**ANSWER:** "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:1-2).

**QUESTION:** Will Satan be permitted to deceive the

nations during this time?

**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" (Verse 3).

**QUESTION:** How do we know this reign is one thousand years long?

**ANSWER:** "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Verse 6).

**NOTE:** The word millennium does not appear in the Bible. It comes from two Latin words, mille - meaning one thousand, and annum - meaning year. During this time the devil is chained and the saints reign with Christ.

**QUESTION:** Where will this reign be?

**ANSWER:** "And they (the saints) sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).

**QUESTION:** Where does Daniel say this reign will be?

**ANSWER:** "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven (not up in the whole heaven), shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27).

**QUESTION:** How old is the promise of the kingdom?

**ANSWER:** "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

QUESTION: Are we told to pray for this kingdom to come?

ANSWER: "Thy kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10 first part).

QUESTION: Why should we pray for the kingdom to come?

ANSWER: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Verse 10 last part).

QUESTION: What will Christ establish at this time? Where? What will the nations do?

ANSWER: "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house (the New Jerusalem) shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills (both literally and spiritually); and all nations shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2:1-2).

QUESTION: What will many people do?

ANSWER: "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Verse 3).

NOTE: This will be done in the last days. The Lord will come to catch up the saints into the New Jerusalem so that they will miss the seven last plagues which fall just before the millennium begins.

QUESTION: What will Christ do? What else will the nations do?

ANSWER: "And he (Christ) shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Verse 4).

QUESTION: What will the kingdoms of this world become then?

ANSWER: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11: 15).

QUESTION: Over what will the saints have power?

ANSWER: "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father" (Revelation 2:25-27).

QUESTION: What three classes of people will be on the earth when the Lord returns?

ANSWER: "For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many (NOT ALL). They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues (Languages); and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them (the saints) unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles (heathen)" (Isaiah 66:15-19).

NOTE: Those who have heard the fame and glory of the Lord and rejected it will be destroyed. Those who have heard the fame and glory of the Lord and accepted it shall escape this destruction and shall be sent to the heathen nations that have never heard the fame or glory of the Lord. Only those who never had a chance to accept the Lord will have it in the millennium. The Bible does not



teach a second chance for anyone but it does teach a first chance for every one.

**QUESTION:** Why does the Lord give the heathen this thousand year opportunity?

**ANSWER:** "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" II Peter 3:9).

**QUESTION:** How will the day of the Lord come?

**ANSWER:** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (Verse 10 first part).

**QUESTION:** How peaceful will the earth be?

**ANSWER:** "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them . And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:6-9).

**QUESTION:** How safely will the people of the earth live?

**ANSWER:** "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit (take it from them); ...and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of the their hands" (Isaiah 65:21-22).

**QUESTION:** How old will a man be before he dies?

**ANSWER:** "There shall be no more thence (from that time on) an infant of days, (children will not die in infancy), nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed" (Verse 20).

**QUESTION:** What event will mark the close of the millennium?

**ANSWER:** "And when the thousand years are expired (finished, ended), Satan shall be loosed out of his prison" (Revelation 20:7).

**QUESTION:** When did Matthew say the end would come?

**ANSWER:** "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

**NOTE:** The work of teaching the nations does not end with the coming of the Lord. This work continues during the thousand years. When all nations shall hear and have their full opportunity to repent then the end will come. Let us take God's Word for when the end comes. not our own interpretation.

**QUESTION:** What is before (ahead of) the Lord when He comes?

**ANSWER:** "Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him" (Isaiah 40:10).

**QUESTION:** When will the end come?

**ANSWER:** "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (I Corinthians 15:24).

**QUESTION:** Why must Christ reign a thousand years?

**ANSWER:** "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet" (Verse 25).

**QUESTION:** What is the last enemy to be destroyed?

**ANSWER:** "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (Verse 26). "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" (Revelation

20:14).

NOTE: Death is destroyed after the millennium.

QUESTION: Over how many things will Christ reign?

ANSWER: "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is

excepted, which did put all things under him (the Father)" (I Corinthians 15:25-27).

QUESTION: What then will Christ do, and what will He become?

ANSWER: "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God (the Father) may be all in all" (I Corinthians 15:28).



*Dallas Texas Church - Welcome our young Brother in Christ Desmond Davis  
Laying on of hands picture left to right - Apostle Paul Herrera, Brother Richard Santiesteban,  
Brother Alfonso Telesca and Apostle Ricky Herrera*



LESSON I

MARY ANOINTS JESUS' FEET

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-11.

Golden text: John 12:3 (first part).

"Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair..."

- 1. When did Jesus come to Bethany, and who was there? John 12:1.
- 2. Jesus is invited to supper. What did Martha and Lazarus do? John 12:2.
- 3. What did Mary do to Jesus? Was this ointment expensive? John 12:3.
- 4. What did Judas Iscariot say about the oil that Mary used? John 12:4-6.
- 5. What was Jesus' reply to Judas? John 12:7-8.
- 6. Why did many of the Jews know that Jesus was there? John 12:9.
- 7. What did the chief priests plan to do and why? John 12:10-11.

LESSON II

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-21.

Golden Text: John 10:14.

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

- 1. What did Jesus say to anyone who tried to enter the sheepfold by any other way than the door? John 10:1.
- 2. Who is the shepherd of the sheep John 10:2.

- 3. Discuss verses 3-6 of John 10.
- 4. Who did Jesus say was the door of the sheep? John 10:7-10.
- 5. Who did He say is the good shepherd? John 10:11.
- 6. What did He say about the hired shepherds? John 10:12-13.
- 7. What does the good shepherd do for His sheep? John 10:14-16.
- 8. What did He say of His power to lay down and take up His life again? John 10:17-18.
- 9. What did the above sayings cause among the Jews? John 10:19-21.

LESSON III

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:1-10.

Golden Text: Matthew 18:3.

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

- 1. What question did the disciples ask of Jesus? Matthew 18:1.
- 2. What did Jesus say they must do before they could even enter the kingdom? Matthew 18:3.
- 3. Who then did He say would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 18:4.
- 4. What did Jesus say of those who caused one of these little ones to stumble? Matthew 18:6.

NOTE: Jesus did not only mean children young in age but all those who are young in Christ. When we are baptized, the old self dies, and we become "new babes in



Christ."

5. What does Jesus say about offenses? Matthew 18:7.

NOTE: We must try to never offend anyone.

6. Why should we not despise any child? Matthew 18:10.

7. What two types of children do we read of in the Scriptures? Colossians 3:6; Ephesians 5:6; Romans 8:16; Galatians 3:26.

8. Jesus wants us to continue to be humble as a child, but He also wants us to grow in His Word. I Peter 2:2-3.

#### LESSON IV

### HEALING THE SYROPHENICIAN WOMAN'S DAUGHTER

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:24-30.

Golden text: Mark 7:25.

"For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet".

1. Where did Jesus now go, and what did He try to do? Mark 7:24.

2. Who heard of Him, and what was her trouble? Mark 7:25.

3. What was the woman's nationality? Mark 7:26 (first part).

4. What did she ask Jesus to do? Mark 7:26 (last part).

5. How did Jesus answer her? Mark 7:27.

6. How did she answer Jesus? Mark 7:28.

7. What did her saying cause Jesus to do? Mark 7:29.

8. What did she find upon her return home? Mark 7:30.

## THE RIGHT WORDS

Mother always read Ted and Barbara's favorite Bible stories to them on Sabbath afternoon. It was really amazing how many times they wanted to hear the story of the children of Israel and the deliverance from Pharaoh's rule, but today they wanted to hear about Jesus.

"Yes, Mother, a story about Jesus. One where Satan tries to get Jesus to not do what God wanted Him to do," said Ted.

So Mother read: "And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve (Luke 4:6-8).

Mother wondered if Ted, the younger of the two children, really understood what had been read. He seemed to take in every word. Well, she was to know later.

The next day while working in the flower garden, Mother heard Ted mumbling, tin cans rattling and the old cat howling. She went to the hedge and looked over into the small playground. There was Ted, holding the cat and doing his best to untie the tin cans which were fastened to the cat's tail and mumbling over and over, "Get behind me" as the cat scampered away. Ted stood up. He saw his mother how she had been listening. A broad smile came over his little face.

"Mother, I said the right words and they worked. After I got that old cat tied up, I thought about Jesus. He would not have done that to a cat. I know He couldn't....but old Satan was a telling me. Mother, he did. Now, when I do naughty things, I'll just say the right words like Jesus did."

"They are the right words, aren't they son?" answered Mother, thinking as she turned back to the flowers how thankful she was to God for a son, who though very small, loved Jesus and wanted to follow in His footsteps.



### BEING A WHISPERER

"I don't like her," said the little girl of a new playmate the other day, "cause she's always whispering. I don't mean in school but just all the time."

"Well, suppose she does whisper, what harm is that?" said another girl.

"Why, she whispers mean things. She doesn't like to say them out loud, and that's why she whispers. I don't like her a bit."

She was right, too. The whisperer is not a good companion for anyone to choose. And being a whisperer is not good for any girl. The things we do not "like to say out loud" are usually things which are better not said at all. When we must lower our voice and take another girl into the corner to say something, the chances are that it is an unkind thing or an unworthy thing to say. Girls - don't you really think so? Of course, there are sometimes little harmless "secrets" between intimate friends, but they do not keep us whispering all the time. The confirmed whisperers are not a wholesome playmate to have around, for there is not a more contagious habit, and we need to avoid its contagion.

As far back as the days of wise King Solomon, this habit made trouble. In the Proverbs we find the saying "...a whisperer separateth chief friends" (Proverbs 16:28). The little girls in Jerusalem were very much like little American girls today. They had those among them who would take one of a pair of friends into a corner and whisper: "Do you know what Ruth said about you yesterday?" and then repeat some thoughtless word, twisting it perhaps in repetition so as to seem unkind. Friends can be separated very easily if they listen to whisperers, and whisperers are the same today, talebearers. "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" is another of the Proverbs, and the word

translated "talebearer" is one that also means "whisperer."

This habit, then, is held up as wrong in the Old Testament. When we turn to the new Testament we find the great Apostle Paul writing twice about whispering to his converts. "Such a little thing!" I hear some boy or girl say, "Why should Paul take the trouble to write about it?" but all the great sins go from little beginnings, you know; and Paul puts whispering right into the catalog along with "envying, backbiting, tumults," in one place and in another, with maliciousness, deceit, and murder. Paul knew how a whisper of evil has made murder happen in the end; how a whisper of slander has ruined a whole life. Some of our worst temptations come in a whisper. The less we have to do with whispering the better, boys and girls.

Whatever we are ashamed to say out loud can be dropped from our conversation without losing anything. We shall be better liked by all if we do not yield to the whispering habit. The rules of good manners have long ago settled the point that whispering in company is ill bred. The ill-natured whisperer, the sharp little laugh - these will not make us favorites, we can be sure. Being a whisperer is a great mistake for a young person to make. Openness and kindness of speech are the better way. Let us leave whispering and slander and envy and evil thoughts - the whole kindred group of them - out of our lives, and we shall never miss them, but rather profit greatly by their absence.

#### Answer Key for Bible Riddle Patience - Luke 9:54

Answer Key for Buried Treasure:  
1. G 2. F 3. C 4. I 5. H  
6. A 7. B 8. J 9. E 10. N

Answer Key for Cities and Towns:  
1. Lebanon 2. Babylon 3. Salem  
4. Mizpeh 5. Bethlehem 6. Beulah  
7. Gilead 8. Sinai 9. Canaan  
10. Hebron 11. Ararat 12. Pisgah  
13. Zion 14. Tyre 15. Dothan  
16. Bethel 17. Hermon 18. Carmel 19. Kidron

*Bible Riddle*

*I am better than pride  
You should have me towards all men  
Jesus, Job, David and Moses had me  
The apostles lacked me.*

*What am I?*

**BURIED TREASURE**

*Here is a list of ten objects to find as quickly as you can. They are "buried" in Bible verses. Look up the "clues" given below and match them to the letter answers. Just to make it more interesting, there are some false clues.*

1. A bell
2. A broken pitcher
3. Seven trumpets
4. A little boy's coat
5. A leaf from an olive tree
6. A piece of money
7. Three baskets
8. A cloth
9. A harp
10. A cup

- a. in a fish's mouth (Matthew 17:27)
- b. on a baker's head (Genesis 40:16)
- c. in the hands of seven priests (Joshua 6:13)
- d. in a new cart (I Samuel 6:7-8)
- e. hanging on a willow tree (Psalm 137:2)
- f. at the fountain (Ecclesiastes 12:6)
- g. sewed on the hem of a priest's robe (Exodus 28:34)
- h. in the mouth of a dove (Genesis 8:11)
- i. in Solomon's temple (I Kings 7:45)
- j. over a candlestick (Numbers 4:9)
- k. under a bushel basket (Matthew 5:15)
- l. in the house of Samuel's mother (I Samuel 2:18-19)
- m. on the hand of the prodigal son (Luke 15:22)
- n. in a sack of corn (Genesis 44:1-2)

**CITIES AND TOWNS  
IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

*Many cities and towns have Bible names. Look up the Old Testament verses, and see if your town is mentioned in the Bible.*

1. L \_\_\_\_\_ II Chronicles 2:8
2. B \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 50:24
3. S \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 14:18
4. M \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 40:10
5. B \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth 2:4
6. B \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 62:4
7. G \_\_\_\_\_ Hosea 6:8
8. S \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 68:17
9. C \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 106:38
10. H \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 13:22
11. A \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 8:4
12. P \_\_\_\_\_ Deuteronomy 3:27
13. Z \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 126:1
14. T \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua 19:29
15. D \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 37:17
16. B \_\_\_\_\_ I Kings 13:11
17. H \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 133:3
18. C \_\_\_\_\_ I Kings 18:42
19. K \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 31:40

**SINGING BIRDIE**  
by Barbara Sauder Millard

*I watched a little birdie  
In a green willow tree.  
He cocked his wee, shiny head  
And sang this song to me:  
"I'm just a little birdie:  
I cannot jump or play.  
I just sing the love of God  
All through the long, long day.  
I'm just a little birdie  
In a green willow tree,  
Singing praises to Jesus,  
Won't you come sing with me?"*



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### **Bent But Not Broken**

As I venture through life trails,  
I've fallen many times but I've never failed.  
I've gotten off track in route to my destination but I never derailed.  
It seems as if no matter what I go through I prevail.  
Though life may seem like a crash course I keep my eyes open,  
Pacing myself upon this road; I may be bent but I'm not broken.

*Poetry By Brother Derrick Shaw Jr.*

