



The Advocate of Truth

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***The Lord's Supper this year is on Tuesday evening,
April 7th, after sundown (Roman time), the beginning of
April 8th (Bible time).***



by Tim Buechner

The Passover is a memorial that had its origin the night of the fourteenth day of the first month about midnight, in the land of Egypt.

"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" (Exodus 12:6-11).

The Passover is a type of Jesus Christ, "The Lamb of God." (John 1:29; I Corinthians 5:6-7; I Peter 1:18-19). The lamb must be without blemish. To test this, the lamb was kept up for four days (Exodus 12:5-6). So was our Lord's public life, under hostile scrutiny. It was a testing which proved His holiness (Luke 11:53-54).

The Lamb of God was slain on the exact day as the Passover Lamb of the Old Testament. We are to remember the "Night in which Jesus was betrayed." We are given to understand that Christ is our Passover, and we are to

eat of His body and drink His blood.

"Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat... And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves" (Luke 22:7-8, 14-17).

This testimony from Matthew, Mark and Luke shows plainly that Jesus ate the old Passover with his disciples at the proper time. On the same NIGHT they received it from the Lord, he was betrayed into the hands of sinful men. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about the Lord's Passover just as he had received it of the Lord, and commanded it to be kept as stated.

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:23-24).

It is not a Sacrament, it is not a sacrifice, it is called simply, "Lord's Supper." It is in remembrance of the death of Jesus and a proclamation in the most literal interpretation of the bread and the fruit of the vine symbolizing the Body and blood of the Jesus Christ.

In this observance, memory and hope mingle in a common glory. Memory is of the Lord's life freely given for us. Hope is for us to believe in the return of the Lord and His final reign.

Paul warns against eating and drinking the emblems of the Lord unworthily. None really is worthy of what Jesus, the Lamb, has done. But through the love of Christ, and his atonement, we can be worthy of taking them. If we partake the Lord's Supper in a manner that is degrading, or when we are thoughtless with our thoughts and attitudes which we know are not Christ-like, we should get

rid of them. If we continue to harbor pride, selfishness, scorn for others, a loveless heart, all are sin and must be gotten rid of. This is the leaven that we must put away. There can be no leavening on the Lord's table.

An individualistic attitude violates the essential principle of the Supper, namely, that it is something to be shared. First, we humble ourselves with our brethren and then we refresh ourselves together with the body and blood of the Lord. Taking the emblems is not a matter between Jesus and you, it is between children of God and other children of God. If you try to partake of Jesus without looking at your brother, you're eating and drinking damnation to yourself, not discerning the Lord's Body."

The idea of the Lamb of God is one of the great lessons of the Book of Revelation. In this book Jesus Christ is called the Lamb no fewer than twenty nine times. There is a point to all this. The Apostle John is trying to show us how important our Saviour is and how important the Lord's Supper is because of the Lamb of God. He is trying to point out to every believer the necessity to apply the blood of the Lamb to your life. The word he uses for "Lamb" is not used anywhere else except in Jeremiah 11:19 where we read, "I was like a Lamb...that is brought to the slaughter." The other places in Scripture that use the word "Lamb" are found in John 1:29-30, where we read that Jesus is called the Lamb of God by John the Baptist. Peter speaks of the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (I Peter 1:19). In Isaiah 53:7, in the chapter so dear to our Lord Jesus and to the early church, we read of the Lamb brought to the slaughter. In all these cases the lamb is called "Amnos." In the Book of Revelation and Jeremiah the word "Lamb" is called "Arnion." This is used by John so often that we have a new conception of Jesus, Who gives His Body and His Blood for the salvation of man.

The man who partakes of the emblems of the Lamb will have eternal life in him. That is why the Lamb will continually bear the marks of the crucifixion. The picture of the sacrifice of Christ must never be forgotten or obliterated. Even in heaven they are visible everywhere. Here is the picture of pain and torment, the shame and the humiliation, the death and the Cross, wherein the Lamb was God's perfect sacrifice for the sin of man. Remember to

meet with this wonderful Lamb of God in the night that He was betrayed. It is a night to be remembered! Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you can be a new lump. Come and Dine, the Master calleth. We must follow the example that Jesus set for us. When we gather together on the fourteenth day of the first month, we first come to wash one another's feet (the act of humility) as Jesus did. We then break and partake of the unleavened bread, which represents his body. After this we divide and drink the cup of grape juice, which represents His blood.



NOAH'S ARK Genesis Chapter 6

by Betty Whetstone

God looked down upon His Creation,
And saw it filled only with sin;
And was sorry that He had created
Something as wicked as men.
But in the midst of this evil lived a man named Noah,
A quiet, God fearing man;
And God looked on him with favor,
And revealed to him all of His plan.
He was going to destroy His Creation
Because of the things they had done;
He would put a stop to their evil
If it meant He would destroy everyone.
And also, under God's direction,

Noah began constructing an Ark;
 And no one was willing to help him
 As he labored from daybreak till dark.
 After years of hard work was completed,
 A huge Ark rested there on dry ground;
 The people all pointed and snickered,
 "Be careful or all of you will drown!"
 But Noah had abided by God's orders,
 Gathering feed, and animals, two by two;
 For he knew that a great flood was coming,
 For God had told him what He meant to do.

The people all taunted poor Noah,
 Saying "you certainly are stupid and vain;
 Here you've built a great ship in the desert,
 When there's not even a hint of rain."
 But one day a tiny, black storm cloud,
 Not as big as Noah's right hand
 That kept getting bigger and darker,
 Until it covered all of the land.
 Then down came the rain in great torrents,
 With never a hint it might quit;
 The puddles were all growing bigger,
 There was no escaping from it.
 Forty days and nights it came pouring,
 Till the tops of the mountains were hid;
 There was no one left to blame Noah,
 For doing what God had bid.
 Many days and nights Noah's family waited,
 Not feeling the sun on their face;
 Until God sent a wind to dry the land,
 And the waters all returned to their place.
 Then God was finished with His destruction,
 He opened the door of the Ark;
 "Come out now" He bid Noah's family,
 And they all stepped out from the dark.
 They all stepped into the sunshine,
 And the animals all scampered about;
 Noah's family all greatly rejoiced,
 And praised their God, with a shout.
 Noah offered a sacrifice of Thanksgiving,
 As his family stood there in the mud;
 And God made a promise to Noah,
 Never again would He destroy man with a flood.



HARAN, PADAM-ARAM AND UR OF THE CHALDEES

Marie Rasnick Fetzer

To those of us who live in the Western world, the ancient Eastern world is very unfamiliar and mysterious. The Bible recounts stories in places like Haran, Padam-Aram and Ur of the Chaldees, which were located in the general area called Mesopotamia. Because the Old Testament clearly tells us these places are connected with the Patriarchs, it makes sense to study them to better understand the history of the Hebrew people.

Mesopotamia was an ancient region situated between and around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers north and east of the Land of Canaan. It is generally referred to as the "*Cradle of Civilization*", because it is where civilizations began to emerge after the Great Flood. Today it roughly corresponds to most of Iraq, Kuwait, parts of Syria, Turkey and regions along the Iran-Iraq border. It gave birth to many ancient civilizations like the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires, and later became the battleground of Roman, Muslim and Christian conquests. Important places like Ninevah, Haran, Padam-Aram, Ur of the Chaldees and the Tower of Babel were all located in Mesopotamia, and it was there where the tribe of Judah was carried away during their Babylonian Exile.

After the Ark came to rest upon the Mountains of Ararat (in modern day Turkey), Noah's three sons, **Japheth**, **Ham** and **Shem**, began to repopulate the earth. The sons of Japheth, whose name means "*wide spreading*",

were Gomer, Magog, Madai, and Javan, and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras (Gen 10:2).

Ham's name means "*Hot*", and his four sons were Cush, Mizraim, Phut and Canaan. Because of Ham's sin against his father, (Gen 9:20-25) Noah pronounced a curse, saying that Canaan (the Canaanites) would become a servant to Shem (the Israelites) (Gen 9:26). The Hamitic peoples are shown in Gen 10:6-20 as becoming a godless and worldly people. It was these people who lived in Canaan that Israel battled when they came to the Promised Land, and who did indeed become subservient to Israel after their defeat.

The sons of Shem, whose name simply means "Name", were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram. Genesis 10:21 tells us that Shem became the ancestor of all the sons of Eber, which is the origin for the word "Hebrew". In Gen 11:10-26 we find written the genealogy of Shem down to Abram, and in Gen 14:13 we find Abram called "Abram the Hebrew" for the first time.

Generations after Noah, in the "Land of Shinar" (Babylon), wicked and prideful men challenged God by building the Tower of Babel, causing Him to confuse their language and scatter them across the earth. Genesis chapter 10, the so-called "Table of Nations", lays out the generations of Noah's sons and details their dispersion into the land after the Tower of Babel.

In Gen 11:27-31 we learn that one of those places, Ur of the Chaldees, was the birthplace of Shem's descendant Terah: "Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there." So, all these people, Terah, Abram, Nahor, Haran, Lot, Sarai, Milcah and Iscah were all born in Ur of the

Chaldees, and were all related, even Abram and his half-sister Sarai, who was also his wife. Genesis 20:12 tells us, "And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife."

There are several places named Ur in Mesopotamia. The Ur to the South was a major city located in present day Iraq, which has partially restored ruins of the Ziggurat of Ur Temple dedicated to the moon god Nana. But first century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus and Medieval Jewish philosopher Maimonides believed Ur of the Chaldees was a city in Northern, or Upper Mesopotamia, near Haran, in what is today Syria or Turkey. Regardless of which Ur it was, the family was coming out of a land of idol worship. In his final speech to the Israelite leaders, Joshua begins his recounting of the history of God's formation of the Israelite nation: "And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods." (Josh 24:2).

Because of its close association with the godly line of Shem, it makes Ur of the Chaldees a very important place in biblical history.

Continuing on with the story of Abram, Genesis 12:1-3 tells us, "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." So Abram and his family heeded the Word of God and began again their journey to Canaan, but before they left, Gen 11:28 tells us that Abram's brother, Haran, died in Ur of the Chaldees, in the land of his birth.

While en route to Canaan, they settled temporarily in Haran, which was a major ancient city in Upper Mesopotamia located in present day Turkey. While they were in Haran, Gen 11:32 tells us that Terah died there at the age of 205 years. So Abram obeyed God's call to continue on. He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot

and set out toward Canaan and the Promised Land, but some of the family was left in Haran, and it was the place from which later patriarchs obtained wives, rather than marry daughters of Canaan.

Padam-Aram is an area in Haran and the two names are used somewhat interchangeably.

Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife Milcah stayed in Haran and settled in Padam-Aram with their son Bethuel. Later, when it was time for Isaac to marry, Abraham sent his servant back to Padam-Aram to find a wife among his kinfolk.

According to Genesis 24:1-4, "And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac." The servant found Rebekah, the daughter of Abraham's nephew, Bethuel.

Isaac did likewise in finding his son Jacob a wife. According to Gen 28:1-2, "And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother." Jacob spent twenty years in Padam-Aram working for his uncle Laban and acquired two wives, Rachel and Leah, and two concubines (Gen 31:38-41). God blessed him richly and he amassed livestock and wealth and fathered eleven sons and a daughter, Dinah, while there. Later he went to the Land of Israel, where his twelfth son, Benjamin was born just outside Bethlehem. In contrast, Jacob's twin brother, Esau, took for himself wives from the people of Canaan. So Jacob became the Patriarch of the Israelites, but Esau, who took daughters of the land to wife, became the father of the Edomites. "And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah" (Gen 26:34-

35).

Even after the Flood, when men multiplied and became so wicked that the Lord confused and scattered them at the Tower of Babel, He preserved a remnant of the righteous line of Shem in the family of Terah. They were called out of sin and idol worship, just as we are today, on a journey toward God's promises and blessings, and looked forward to the coming appearance of the Lord. Though constantly surrounded by the heathen, the faithful men of old sought to maintain a separateness from the people among whom they dwelled, taking wives from among their own kin in Haran, where eleven of the Twelve Patriarchs of Israel were born. Even though the lands of Mesopotamia might seem foreign to us, they are closely connected with the beginnings of the Hebrew people and the nation of Israel, and for that reason, are worthy of study.

THE FINAL EVIDENCE FOR GOD'S AUTHORSHIP OF THE BIBLE

IS ITS INFLUENCE

By John N. Clayton

Jesus said it best and frequently, "By their fruits you shall know them." What would be the result of someone reading the teachings of Jesus Christ and following them exclusively and completely? What has been the result when that has been done? When people do something in the name of Christ that is destructive and harmful, they are not using the Bible as the guide and are wearing the name "Christian" for show or financial gain. Most soldiers serving in so called "Christian" wars were mercenaries who had no relationship with Christ at all and did not follow the Bible.

In 2001 Alvin Schmidt wrote a book titled *Under the Influence* (Zondervan Publishing) in which he examined the Bible's influence on the day-to-day life of people who choose to follow it. Women's rights, the elimination of slavery, the increase in education, the development of schools in poverty-stricken areas, and the care of orphans and homeless people are all documented. Who is it that operates food kitchens where you live or has a homeless

shelter for those who are out in the elements in bad weather? How many hospitals in your area are initiated by people who built the hospital because they felt it was Jesus calling them to do so? How many of these things have been constructed, funded, and maintained by atheists. Who were the health workers in Africa who were on the front lines in battling Ebola? Who has successfully battled alcohol, drugs, prostitution, child abuse, and the like? It is easy to find someone who wears the name Christian for selfish, monetary purposes. To hold that person up as what Christians believe and do is not only irresponsible - it is ethically wrong. The track record of Christianity, when the teachings of Jesus have been followed, far overshadows the few but highly publicized charlatans who found the name "Christian" to be politically useful.

If the Bible speaks to us as a book that did not come from human intelligence and wisdom, then it must have come from an intelligence far beyond humans. Inspiration demands there be an "Inspirer," and we would suggest to you that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for refuting error, for giving guidance, for moral discipline and education in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete (II Timothy 3:16-17). God was and is revealed in his Holy Word.

--From Does God Exist



JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED AND THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

The many miracles Jesus performed made Him famous, and Herod heard of His fame. He supposed Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead. You know Herod was responsible for John's death, for on his birthday the daughter of Herodias danced before him, and he was much pleased. Therefore, he promised to give her anything she asked. Her mother persuaded her to ask for the head of John the Baptist (what a wicked wish). The mother did not like John because he had said that Herod had no right to marry her. Rather than go back on his promise, Herod commanded that John should be beheaded. Herod thus became a murderer.

The disciples told all this to Jesus, after they buried John. Jesus then went to a desert place, possibly to pray. Soon the people came to Him, and He had compassion on them and healed their sick. Toward evening, the disciples told Jesus to send the multitude away so they could buy something to eat. Jesus replied that the people needn't go away, but the disciples should feed them. But how could they? was their thought, for they said, "We have here but five loaves and two fishes." Bring them to me, said the Lord. Then He commanded the people to sit down and looking up to heaven He blessed the food. As He broke the bread, the disciples distributed it to the people. It must have amazed the disciples to see Jesus continue breaking the bread, making enough for five thousand men besides women and children. Not only could He give them bread to eat, but He gave Himself as the bread of eternal life. His teachings must come into our hearts to be obeyed.

--From an old Sabbath School

Lesson

We are called to share

**THE
SECRET OF POWER**

--Reprinted

Even casual readers have observed that every great event in the life of Jesus was prefaced by His withdrawal for prayer. When He would preach His “Sermon on the Mount” and pick His twelve from the multitude of His disciples, He spent the whole previous night in prayer. And His busiest days are prefaced with the notice that “He arose a great while before day and prayed.” Just ask any child of God whom you may meet, “What was the secret of the Master’s power?” and they will readily reply, “His life of prayer.” In other words, the secret is no secret at all, for we all know what it was.

But lest we think of this as applying to the Only Begotten Son alone, let us recall that it is true of all who have prevailed with God and with men in the battle for righteousness, and then let us admit that, after all, we know how to be princes of God ourselves. We are fond of alibis, and love to discourse on the lack we see in others. We even like to speculate on what would happen “if people would just pray more.” But let us recall what we already know, that great accomplishments in the annals of God’s spiritual kingdom never have been initiated by masses. Such things always start with the few, and often they have started with just one. The question is: Am I ready and willing to be that one?

The prelude to power is, and always has been separation, not amalgamation. And because this is true, it has been the ones, or at most the twos and the threes, that have started revivals, changing the course of nations, and preserved the heritage of the child of God during the passing of the centuries. Historians maintain that there have been no more than a hundred thousand great men since the world began. But such a list includes many who were great by accident of birth or other subtracting factor; or the discriminating try to pick out ten that have been truly great. Need we therefore be surprised if we discover that numbers are but a small factor in the history of goodness in the world.

But if we know “the secret of power,” why is it we do not make use of the secret? The answer is: We draw back from the price. We want an easier way. Yesterday a “born critic” said, “Why, the doctors do not know how to cure a common cold, and those who follow their prescription are almost invariably cured. The prescription is: “Go home, go to bed, eat lightly, rest exclusively, and within a week you will be all right.” But we want them to give us a tablet that will cure while we go on with our usual business. Likewise, we want a secret of power that will work while we play. There is no such secret. The one that will work is the one that does work when we pray!



Signs of the Times -RARE FAMILY MEALS

I saw an article which stated that family meals are rare and quiet. It stated that the family dinner which once was full of conversation is becoming a rare occurrence. It said that dinner, or any other meal, is supposed to be a time for the family to come together, spend some time with each other, and share what is going on in their lives. It also stated that many families are not eating together more than a few times a week and that four in 10 parents don’t even eat at the same time as their children on most days.

It said that there is evidence that stimulation conversation at mealtimes builds children’s confidence and self-esteem, and these in turn actually boost academic performance.

Comment

All that is stated in the article is true. I know from my own experience when I was a young child. Daddy, Mother and I would sit at the table and share with each other what we did that day.



By Tim Buechner

For a word being comprised of only two letters it is actually a very big word in its usage. We'll talk about some of the ways in which it is utilized. The word "if" occurs 1,595 times in 1,420 verses in the King James translation of the English Bible.

The Merriam-Webster's online dictionary defines it as follows: 1) in the event that, allowing that, on the assumption that, on condition that. 2) whether - as in if the mail has come yet, if I'll pass the course. 3) used as a function word to introduce an exclamation expressing a wish - if it would only rain. 4) even though, perhaps - an interesting if untenable argument. 5) perhaps not even - few if any changes are expected.

The first use of "if" in the Bible comes in Genesis 4:7 where Cain is presented with two options, "If thou doest well,..." and "...if thou doest not well". A huge decision for Cain rests on "if". "If" he chooses to do well he will be accepted by the Lord. "If" he chooses to not do well sin lies at his door. Here the word "if" is utilized to communicate the consequences of Cain's decisions giving him full warning and opportunity to consider the options.

In the fourth chapter of Matthew, Satan uses "if" to create doubt when he was challenging Jesus. Two times he says, "...If thou be the Son of God...". Using the word "if" he questions whether or not Jesus is actually the Son of God. To me, he also uses it in a taunting manner as well, an attempt to goad Jesus into engaging him on his level. Satan goes on in verse nine to make a promise to

Jesus "if" He would fall down and worship him, further challenging Christ and creating the perception that Satan was more powerful than Him.

Jesus once again heard the words, "...If thou be the Son of God...", when those passing by His crucifixion reviled Him, wagging their heads at Him. They challenged some of the statements He had made earlier in His ministry and His status as the Son of God. They implied that if He truly was the Son of God, He would have the ability to save Himself. See Matthew 27:39-40.

In these two passages we see the word "if" being utilized to cast doubt, as a sign of unbelief or to challenge the truth.

In Matthew 6:14-15 it says, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." In these verses Jesus presents two options for our consideration. Option one is that if we choose to forgive others for their trespasses against us that God will forgive us for our trespasses against Him. Option two is we can choose not to (won't) forgive others and in that case He will not forgive us. As with Cain, the word "if" is utilized to communicate the consequences of two different choices.

In Matthew 17:20 and 21:21, Jesus utilizes "if" for a comparison and to communicate the outcome of a fruit of the Spirit. "If" we have faith as a grain of a mustard seed nothing shall be impossible to us and "if" we have faith without doubting we can move mountains. He is utilizing the word "if" to inspire us to have faith and communicate the value of it to a believer.

Jesus uses "if" in parables concerning preparedness in Matthew 24:43, 48-51. In verse 43, He says that "if" a man knew what time a thief was coming to his house he would have been prepared for him and not had anything stolen. This just makes logical sense. If we know something is going to occur and especially the time it will occur we'll be prepared. It would be foolish not to be. In verses 48-51, "if" a servant left in charge of his master's house says in his heart that he has time to correct his mismanagement of the household because the master will come home later rather than sooner that he will be

surprised when the master unexpectedly returns. Furthermore, he will be punished for his poor thinking and lack of preparedness. These parables utilize “if” to communicate the need we have to be prepared for the Lord’s return.

As we can see from these very few examples of the many times the word “if” is used in the Scriptures it is a very powerful word. Small in that it consists of two letters, but big in its ability to communicate concepts and topics worthy of our consideration.



THE PROPHET ELIJAH: A BEACON OF LIGHT

Bond Tennant

During a dark period in Israel’s history, the Prophet Elijah was a beacon of light. Through the influence of Jezebel, King Ahab’s wife, Israel was led into the idolatrous worship of Baal. In the account recorded in I Kings 18:17-40, Elijah arranged for a test to be made on Mt. Carmel to demonstrate which was the true and living God, the LORD or Baal. This was done by the Lord’s direction.

It was agreed that the one who would cause fire to come down from heaven and consume a sacrifice offered to him would be the true God.

On that day, there was a tremendous gathering on and around Mt. Carmel. Elijah insisted that the priests of Baal give their demonstration first. Their demonstration was to no avail. All day they agonized and cried unto Baal, but he did not respond. Elijah said unto them, “...Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked” (verse 27).

The priests continued their cries to their god until the time of the evening sacrifice. Elijah then invited the people to draw near to watch the test he would make. He placed a sacrifice upon an altar which he prepared. In order to demonstrate that no trickery was being practiced, he dug a trench around the altar and filled it with water, drenching the altar and the sacrifice.

Then Elijah prayed: “...LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again” (verses 36-37).

In response to this prayer in which Elijah asked that God vindicate His own name before His people, fire came down and consumed the burnt sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. “And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there” (verses 39-40).

How Do You React?

By David DeLong

"The Lord gave us some wonderful instructions on how we should react to people who abuse us. For instance, it is the natural thing to hit someone back when they have first stricken us. But Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:38-39). This is a very hard thing to do, and can't be done in our own strength. Only God's power within us can give us the love and forgiveness not to strike back, or not to feel resentful.

How do you react when someone speaks lies about you and smears your name? The natural reaction is to call out that person and give him a piece of your mind. Also, we may call him a liar and try to defend our honor. But, notice how the Psalmist approached this situation. In Psalm 119:69 we read: "The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart." The Psalmist didn't try to defend his honor, he said that he will keep God's precepts. In other words, he was going to keep on living right regardless of what others said against him. This is the best way to counter a lie told about us. When we are living righteously, no lie can stand permanently against us. Others will see through the lie.

Sometimes a person will speak angry words at us. Our natural tendency is to "try to shout him down". We might even use harsh words right back at the antagonist. Proverbs 15:1-2 gives us the proper advice concerning this situation: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness." I also like the advice of Proverbs 25:15: "By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone." A "soft" answer will do more good than trying to match the angry person's words.

What would you do if a thief broke into your home

while you were gone and stole some of your goods? The natural reaction, of course, would be to call the police to try to get the goods back. The Lord Jesus, however, makes a startling statement in Luke 6:30: "Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again." I had to think about that statement for awhile. "Of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again." That sounds like the thief we were just talking about. If apparently someone steals our goods, Jesus said not to try to get them back. WOW! That almost blows my mind. My natural reaction would be to call the police and make a stolen items list to try to get back all of the stolen items. Truly, God's ways are not my ways! (see Isaiah 55:8-9).

A beautiful story is told in II Kings, chapter 6, about how we are to treat those who are opposed to us. The King of Syria wanted to find out the whereabouts of the Prophet Elisha. The story is told in verses 13-23. "And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is

Wisdom

this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel."

This story represents the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:20-21: "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. "

How Do You Act, When This Be A Fact?

By David DeLong

How do you act, when this be a fact?

Someone your cheek has smitten;

Do you hit right back, with an awful smack,

Or, be as meek as a kitten?

How do you act, when this be a fact?

When someone your name does smear;

Do you say, "It's a lie!" with a horrible cry,

Or, react with just a tear?

How do you act, when this be a fact?

A person speaks with anger;

Do you shout back words, that run in herds,

Or, lay back more with languor?

How do you act, when this be a fact?

That robbers take of your things;

Do you call the police, to get back a piece,

Or, take what bitter brings?

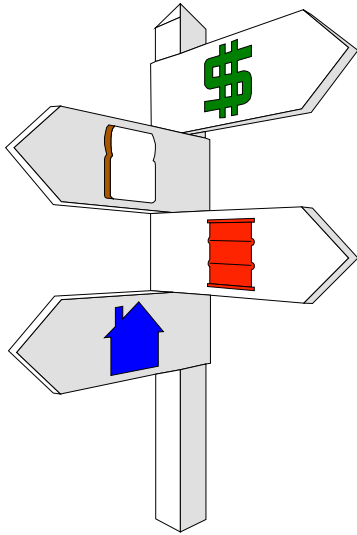
"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!" (Proverbs 16:16). Most people in the world today would rather, it seems, get gold and silver than wisdom. The Scriptures informs us: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee" (Proverbs 4:7-9).

Another word for wisdom is truth. Only a very select few in the world are even concerned with finding truth. Oh, they don't want to be lied to, but living out, and finding, truth is hardly a concern of anyone these days. If anyone claiming the name of Christ truly wants to know the truth, and live it out, they can surely find it. Jesus said in John 14:26: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Though this was spoken to Jesus' first disciples, it also pertains to anyone who is sincerely following Jesus at any time in history.

Anyone with a Bible, or who has access to a Bible, has no excuse for not knowing God's truth. Something as important as salvation should never be left up to following a man's opinion on what he believes the truth is. Each of us needs to diligently study God's Word for ourselves, and not only in church on Sabbath mornings.

As the above Proverb says: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Wisdom personified is the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (I Corinthians 1:23-25).

"Only a very select few in the world are even concerned with finding truth."



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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

GLOBAL FRUSTRATION

This month the main feature of this column is the frustration from which the world suffers. The following is an article which appeared in the Houston Chronicle entitled Wave of protests shows global frustration. It has been condensed:

BEIRUT – In Hong Kong, it was a complicated extradition dispute involving a murder suspect. In Beirut, it was a proposed tax on the popular WhatsApp messenger service. In Chili, it was a 4-cent hike in subway fares.

Recent weeks have seen mass protests and clashes erupt in far-flung places triggered by seemingly minor actions that each came to be seen as the final straw. The demonstrators are fueled by local grievances, but reflect worldwide frustration at growing inequality, corrupt elites and broken promises.

Where past waves or protests, like the 2011 Arab Spring or the rallies that accelerated the breakup of the Soviet Union, took aim at dictatorships, the latest demonstrations are rattling elected governments. The unrest on three continents, coupled with the toxic dysfunction in Washington and London, raises fresh concerns over whether the liberal international order, with free elections and free markets, can still deliver on its promises.

Lebanon

Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese poured into the

streets after the government floated a new tax on WhatsApp on the heels of an austerity package that came in response to an increasingly severe fiscal crisis.

The protests rapidly escalated into an indictment of the entire post-civil war order, in which a sectarian power-sharing arrangement has transformed former warlords and other elites into a permanent political class. In the three decades since the war ended, the same leaders have used patronage networks to get themselves re-elected again and again even as the government has failed to reliably provide basic services like electricity, water and trash collection.

A similar story has unfolded in Iraq since the 2003 U.S. led invasion, where a government that distributes power and top offices among Shiites and minority Sunnis and Kurds has calcified into a corrupt stasis, with parties haggling over ministries as services and infrastructure fall into further ruin despite the countries considerable oil wealth.

“Thieves! Thieves!” protesters in both countries chanted this week.

“Massive economic mismanagement coupled with spiraling corruption have pauperized large segments of the Arab people,” said Fawaz Gerges, a professor of International relations at the London School of Economics. “It is no wonder then that millions of Arabs are fed up.”

Hong Kong

Hong Kong’s protests erupted in early June after the semiautonomous city passed an extradition bill that put

residents at risk of being sent to China's judicial system. At one point, protestors said they had brought 2 million people into the stress.

Authorities were forced to drop the extradition proposal, but by then, the movement had snowballed to include demands for full democracy in the form of direct elections for the city's top leader. Underlying the Hong Kong protest movement are rising fears about China's tightening grip on the city and worries that Beijing is reneging on promises not to meddle with Hong Kong's Western-style civil liberties, such as freedom of speech and an independent judiciary.

Protesters also fear China's technology-powered authoritarianism. Wearing masks to conceal their identities, they have cut down "smart lampposts" and smashed surveillance cameras. They worry about artificial intelligence-powered facial recognition surveillance systems capturing their biometric data and sending it for processing by Chinese technology giants to track and identify them.

Chile

On Friday, an estimated 1 million Chileans filled the streets of the capital Santiago, more than ever took to the streets during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet or the democratic governments that came after him.

The protests were sparked by the subway fare hike but soon morphed into a mass movement against equality in one of Latin America's wealthiest countries. At least 19 people have been killed as protesters have clashed with police in recent days.

Protesters tried to force their way into the grounds of Chile's legislature Friday, provoking an evacuation of the building. Police fired tear gas to fend off hundreds of demonstrators on the perimeter as some lawmakers and administrative staff hurried out of the legislative building, which is in the port city of Valparaiso.

Marta Lagos, head of Latino-barometro, a nonprofit survey in Chile, said the protests have exposed the shortcomings of the country's political system. "There is a failure of the system of political parties in its ability to represent society," Lagos said.

Struggling to contain the strife, President Sebastian Pinera's administration announced increases in the minimum wage, raised minimum pensions by 20 percent and rolled back the subway fare increase.

Comment

The article also covers much frustration and demonstrations in Spain and reports that a total of 49 Iraqi protesters were killed in clashes with security forces in Baghdad and the southern town of Nasiriyah as thousands took part in nationwide anti-government protests.

In the article, Marta Lagos said the protests in Chile have exposed the shortcomings of the country's political system. She also said, "There is a failure of the system of political parties in its ability to represent society." Could this be also true in America? There have been several demonstrations in America.

We may ask what is all this frustration and unrest in the world leading up to? Could it be that the world is being prepared for the revealing of the Antichrist who will appear? No doubt, the Antichrist will be Charismatic and the people will bow down to him.

USA'S AIR QUALITY

The following is the first three paragraphs of an article in **USA TODAY** called *USA's air quality has gotten worse*:

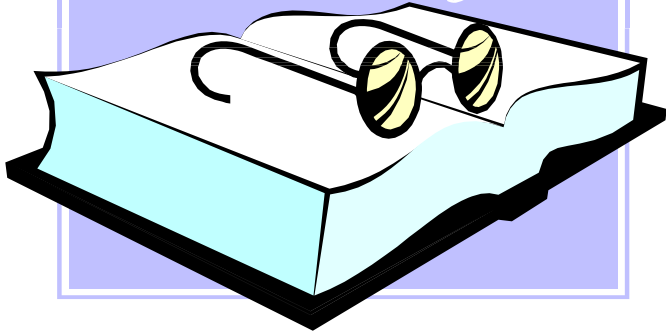
A new report by a nonprofit research group found air quality in the United States has worsened since 2016.

The report finds particulate pollution increased by 5.5 percent between 2016 and 2018 after declining by more than 24 percent between 2009 and 2016. The report draws on data provided by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The findings by two Carnegie Mellon University researches were published in October by the National Bureau of Economic Research, which describes itself as a "non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to conducting economic research." It suggests three possible contributing factors: more wildfires; more economic growth, or increased industrial production; and less enforcement of federal regulations. (Cont'd on pg. 9)

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: What does the word “heretic” mean?

Answer: The Greek word for “heretic” is (hairesis). It means to take for oneself or to choose for oneself. Therefore, a heretic is a person who chooses what he is to believe, who takes false teaching as his own. He rejects all authority no matter what it is: God, Christ, the Word of God, the Church, man. He himself chooses what he is to believe. He and he alone is his authority. He and he alone determines truth-what is and what is not truth.

Question: What is and is not saving faith?

Answer: First, let us see what saving faith is not. Saving faith is not head knowledge. It is not just a mental conviction and intellectual assent.

Saving faith is not just believing the fact that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

Saving faith is not just believing history that Jesus Christ lived upon earth as the Savior just as George Washington lived upon earth as the President of the United States.

Saving faith is not just believing the words and claims of Jesus Christ in the same way that a person would believe the words of George Washington.

Second, let us consider the right kind of saving faith. Saving faith is believing in Jesus Christ, who and what He is, that He is the Savior and Lord of one’s life. One must believe in Jesus Christ with his heart, believing to such a degree that he gives his whole life to Him. One must confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and turn his life over completely and totally to live for Him.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

Question: Why do corrupt ministers and teachers resist the truth? What is their end?

Answer: Corrupt ministers and teachers resist the truth because their minds are corrupted. By this, I mean that their understanding of the gospel is twisted, distorted, and depraved. They have a false view of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is reference made to Jannes and Jambres who were two religious leaders in Egypt. They opposed Moses when he went to Pharaoh to deliver Israel out of slavery. They stood toe to toe with Moses and resisted the truth, but in the end they were destroyed (Exodus 7:1; 8:7; 9:11). The two men are not named in the Old Testament, but they are mentioned in other Jewish religious writings. Their names were apparently well known to the Jews.

Let us note the end of corrupt ministers and teachers. Their corrupt teaching and religion will be exposed. In the end all false ministers and teachers will be tracked down and exposed. It will happen when the Lord Jesus returns.

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Thessalonians 1:7-8).

Question: Will you please explain how the Bible is the roadmap for the child of God?

Answer: Before the modern day of travel, if anyone crossing the continent by wagon and team turned off on the wrong road, before he realized it he would have traveled many miles out of his way. Returning to the right road meant many days of lost time.

The Bible directs the child of God's journey over a highway which leads to a great reward. The Gospel that Jesus Christ preached is spoken of as the way. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus is the way of God, the way of right doing, the way of righteousness and holy living. Salvation is for all men and women who will come unto Him and believe His Word and trust His grace. There is a right way and a wrong way of life. Ask yourself which way you are traveling!

As Jesus is the way of life, the doctrine of Christ is not a system or a code but centered in a PERSON who is the way of eternal life. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

There are two roads, and of the first it is said, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). The way to eternal life is a sinless way. "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul" (Proverbs 16:17). This highway is lifted up far above the ways of the earth, only the just will be found traveling that way. Only those who have departed from evil will travel the lighted road, or way to the kingdom.

The Word of God lights up the highway of holiness, and it becomes brighter as we near our eternal bliss. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and

intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). "Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death (eternal death)" (John 8:51). "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word" (John 17:6). "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

But the way of the wicked is dark and gloomy. "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble" (Proverbs 4:19). "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth" (John 12:35). "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will be withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11). "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5). Children of God are traveling a road that is lighted brightly by the Words of the Master. There is no reason to become lost or confused as long as we stay with the Word of God, and not follow tradition or teachings of men, for there are many.

For children of God to reach their destination, they will need a dependable road map, and that map is the Bible. Those who think they can travel without it are sure to miss the way. The saying, "all roads lead to Rome," is misleading as there are many false ways which end in separation from God. On the broad way, the majority are traveling to their eternal ruin. Jesus said only a few are traveling the right way which is narrow and leads to eternal life (Matthew 7:13-14). Everyone knows that if we do not take the right road we will not reach our destination. The roadmap demands diligent study: so does the guide book, the Bible.



Panama

Brother Jose De La Cruz preaching from the pulpit.





(From left to right): Brothers Maximo Mosquera, Alfonso De Gracia, and Walter Goff.

LESSON I

SAUL ANOINTED KING

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 10:1-13.

Golden Text: I Samuel 10:1.

"Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said. Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?"

NOTE: We studied in our last lesson how Saul was chosen to be king over Israel. He was sent to Samuel who had been instructed by God what to do when Saul came before him. Let us study about Saul actually becoming king, and how the Spirit of the Lord was upon him.

1. Who anointed Saul as king over Israel? I Samuel 10:1.
2. What did Samuel tell Saul would happen after he left him this day? I Samuel 10:2.
3. Then where was Saul to go? I Samuel 10:3-4.
4. When he would come to the hill of God, what was to happen? I Samuel 10:5-6.
5. Was God to be with Saul? I Samuel 10:7.
6. When he arrived at Gilgal, what was he instructed to do? I Samuel 10:8.
7. Did the prophecies come true as Saul left Samuel? I Samuel 10:9.
8. Saul then met a company of prophets, and then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. What did these people who knew Saul say about him? I Samuel 10:11-13.

LESSON II

SAUL PROCLAIMED KING

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 10:14-27.

Golden Text: I Samuel 10:24.

"And Samuel said to all the people; See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we saw that Saul was anointed king by Samuel. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied among the prophets. Let us see now if the people accept Saul as king.

1. What did Saul's uncle ask him in I Samuel 10:14-16?
2. Where did Samuel call the people together? I Samuel 10:17.
3. What did Samuel say to the children of Israel? I Samuel 10:18-19.
4. When Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, what happened in I Samuel 10:20-22?
5. Were the people pleased with their king? I Samuel 10:23-24.
6. What did Samuel do in I Samuel 10:25?
7. Where did Saul go, and who went with him? I Samuel 10:26.
8. How did the children of Belial feel toward Saul? I Samuel 10:27.

LESSON III

SAUL'S VICTORY OVER THE AMMONITES

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 11:1-15.

Golden Text: I Samuel 11:14.

"Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there."

NOTE: In our last lesson how SAUL was made king over Israel, God permitted Israel to have a king over them

for the first time. Up to this time they had not had a unifying force except for God. Now we shall see how King Saul began his reign over the Israelites.

1. The Ammonites came up against Jabesh-gilead, and what request did they make of Nahash? I Samuel 11:1.
2. What was Nahash's answer to the Israelites? I Samuel 11:2.
3. What did the elders of Jabesh say unto Nahash? I Samuel 11:3.
4. When the messengers come to Saul, what did he do? I Samuel 11:4-7.
5. How many children of Israel were there? I Samuel 11:8.
6. Read I Samuel 11:9-11, and tell in your own words what happened to the Ammonites.
7. Was the kingdom then renewed at Gilgal? I Samuel 11:14-15.

"...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

LESSON IV

SAMUEL'S PROCLAMATION TO ALL ISRAEL

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 12:1-25.

Golden Text: I Samuel 12:6.

"And Samuel said unto the people, It is the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt."

NOTE: We have learned that Israel now has a king, King Saul, and in our last lesson we studied about the defeat of the Ammonites by Saul and the Israelites. Let us now

study the warning which Samuel gave to the nation of Israel to keep them from forgetting their God.

1. What did Samuel tell the people of Israel? I Samuel 12:1-3.
2. Did Samuel remind the people how their fathers had been brought out of the land of Egypt? I Samuel 12:6-8.
3. What had happened to their fathers in the land of Egypt when they forgot God? I Samuel 12:9-11.
4. What did Samuel further tell them in I Samuel 12:12-13?
5. If the people of Israel would fear the Lord and obey Him, what would the Lord do for them? I Samuel 12:14.
6. What would happen if they did not keep His Commandments? I Samuel 12:15.
7. What great thing did Samuel ask the Lord to do this day before the people, so that the people would keep the Word? I Samuel 12:16-19.
8. What instruction did Samuel then give the children of Israel, and did he promise to help them himself? I Samuel 12:20-23.
9. What did he say would happen to them and their king if they continued to do wickedly? I Samuel 12:25

Answers to Scrambled Bible Characters:

Old Testament:

- 1. Ruth 2. Jacob 3. Esau 4. Adam 5. Noah
6. Joel 7. Jonah 8. Aaron 9. Moses 10. Caleb*

New Testament:

- 1. John 2. Mark 3. Mary 4. Luke 5. Paul
6. Anna 7. Peter 8. Judas 9. Silas 10. James*



BIG FISH, LITTLE FISH

by Diane Randal

It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining in a bright blue sky. The air was warm and smelled like fresh flowers. The birds were singing their sweet songs. Everyone should have been happy.

Daddy was happy! He went off to work whistling a merry tune.

Mother was happy! She was busy in the kitchen and humming softly to herself.

But for some reason Ryan was cross and miserable! His little sister, Ellen, brought out her toys one after another. And Ryan grabbed every one of them away from her.

"Waaa! Waaa! Waaa!" Ellen cried again and again. "Ryan took it away fum nee!" She sobbed each time and went running to Mother.

Mother looked at sad, unhappy Ellen. Tears were falling down Ellen's pink, dimpled cheeks. Mother looked at cross, miserable Ryan. He did not want to look at Mother. He did not want to look at Ellen. He ducked his head and looked at the floor.

"Big fish, little fish," said Mother looking at Ryan. he lifted his eyes and looked at her. "Big fish, little fish," Mother said again, smiling.

Ellen did not understand. But Ryan knew what Mother was thinking. Ryan was thinking about it, too.

Last Sabbath afternoon, Daddy and Mother and Ryan and Ellen had walked down to the ocean. This was their favorite place to watch the sun set. They strolled along the sandy beach. They found pretty shells. They threw small stones into the water. They climbed around the large

rocks until they came to a quiet pool.

The water was so shallow and clear that they could see many fish. They sat down to watch the fish swimming, swimming, swimming round and round around.

There were short fish and long fish and medium-sized fish. There were brown fish and gray fish and striped fish. and there were some, big, black, fat fish that hid behind the rocks.

As the little fish came swimming along, the big, black, fat fish chased the little fish. When the little fish found something to eat, the big, black, fish took it away from the little fish. And sometimes the big, black, fat fish seemed to have nothing to do but swim around snapping and biting at all the little fish.

"I don't like the black fish!" exclaimed Ryan. "They're naughty! They're not nice!"

"Not nice!" repeated Ellen.

"I'm glad I'm not the poor little fish," Mother said.

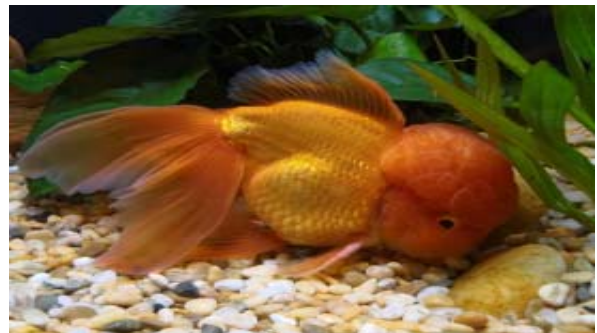
"And I would not want to act like the black fish," admitted Daddy. "But sometimes boys and girls act like that," Daddy continued. "Some big boys and girls are naughty and take things away from little boys and girls. Jesus wants big boys and girls to take care of little boys and girls and to teach them to be nice."

That is what Ryan was thinking about when Mother said "Big fish, little fish." Ryan knew that Mother was thinking about the poor little fish. Ryan did not want to act like the big, black, fat fish. Ryan smiled at Mother.

Ryan smiled at Ellen, too. "I'm sorry I grabbed your toys. I won't anymore," he promised. "Come outside, and I'll push you in the swing."

So now everyone was happy!

But if Ryan forgets, Mother says, "Big fish, little fish." Then Ryan smiles, because he remembers what Mother means.



JESUS AT HOME

Nazareth stands for the home life. It contains the greater part of Jesus' great career. By far the greater number of years were spent here. Here was more praying over the life plan, more communing with the Father, more battling with temptation and narrow prejudice and ignorance than in the few years of His public ministry. Here were purity and steadiness of purpose. More wisdom in action and patience in touch with others and with the knotty little problems of daily life, more of all this being lived than could ever find outlet at His lips. These...years of public life all grew out of this Nazareth home life. They are the top of the hill. Nazareth is the base..., Calvary the tip-top where every victory had already been won.

S.D. Gordon

SCRAMBLED BIBLE CHARACTERS

Unscramble these names found in the Old Testament.

- 1. HURT 2. JOBCA 3. SEAU
- 4. AMAD 5. HANO 6. LOJE
- 7. HANJO 8. ANROA
- 9. SEMO 10. CABLE

Unscramble these names found in the New Testament.

- 1. HONJ 2. RKAM 3. ARMY
- 4. KULE 5. LUPA 6. NNAA
- 7. TREEP 8. SUJAD 9. LASIS
- 10. SAJEM

TRUE OR FALSE

I doubt if you can do these without looking up the references, and some of the answers may surprise you. On the dotted line, write either True or False.

- 1. The city of Philadelphia is mentioned in the Bible. Revelation 1:11 _____
- 2. This is our modern city in Pennsylvania. _____
- 3. In the Jewish church, a lame man could not be a priest. Leviticus 21:18 _____
- 4. Jesus could not write. John 8:6-8 _____
- 5. The three men in the fiery furnace wore hats. Daniel 3:21 _____
- 6. A carbuncle is a red stone. Exodus 28:17 _____
- 7. St. Paul told women to keep still in church. I Corinthians 14:34-35 _____
- 8. Jacob had twelve sons and no daughters. Genesis 30:21 _____
- 9. Noah took only two of each kind of animal into the ark. Genesis 7:2-3 _____
- 10. Huz and Buz were twin sisters. Genesis 22:21 _____
- 11. Noah was a woman of the Old Testament. Numbers 26:33 _____
- 12. The Bible says that money is the root of all evil. I Timothy 6:10 _____
- 13. The Bible says there were three Wise Men. Read Matthew 2:1-12 carefully _____
- 14. Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding. John 2:1-11 _____
- 15. Moses married an Ethiopian woman. Numbers 12:1 _____



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Our Purpose In Life

By George A. Tyson

*Our purpose in life is usefulness,
And is not confirmed to us alone;
Through our faith and love and truthfulness
God will grant us a heavenly home.*

*We all should live in helping others,
Redeem the time and forsaking sins;
Thereby truly love one another
Through the Holy Ghost their hearts to win.*

*Our words, our deeds, whether good or bad
Are all recorded in heaven above;
Have your sins blotted out, Thus be glad you are saved
Through Christ's redeeming love.*

*The Judgment Day is coming to all,
Are you where you ought to be?
If not, flee to Christ, on Him now call,
If eternal life you wish to see.*

*Are you right with God in all that you do?
You must answer this question someday;
These solemn words now appeal to you,
When you meet Jesus, what will you say?*

*Think just now,
Let us praise the Lord;
Come to him now,
Before it is too late.*

