

The Advocate of Truth

Thy Word is Truth

Confidence

ABC's of Salvation

Sectarianism

Christ Was Made

Bottomless Pit

Audited



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THY WORD IS TRUTH

OCTOBER IS BIBLE MONTH

The Word of God is a well-trying rule of faith and practice, and knowledge with capacity to receive will always prove to be the best aid and the best means for executing the rule of life. The Author of the Holy Scriptures informs us that He magnified His Word above all "...thy name" (Psalm 138:2).

The student should approach the Word of God with reverence, and if possessed of a "...willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath..." (II Corinthians 8:12).

Well may the Book of books be styled as the "book of life," and on its sacred pages may be found many an object lesson worthy of our thoughts and study.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

There is a prevailing thought that though error may be shown to have entered into many acts of the apostles, it should be remembered that they were not infallible men, and that after they had written the Scriptures they were obliged to study their own writings, unto whom the subject matter was revealed.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you" (I Peter 1:10).

The revelation which man requires, God can and does

supply. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"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).

The Word of God is a divine illumination in the temple of God, and its mission is to guide the multitudes of the earth across the desert of sin, and into the eternal haven of rest. Every doctrine must be defined and proved. The first table of the Decalogue defines man's duty to God, while the second table defines interchanging relationships that exist among men: the fountain of life is ever overflowing, and its message is something new. "Whoso readeth, let him understand."

INTERPRETATION

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (II Peter 1:20).

Prophecy must not be interpreted by one's own knowledge or inventive ideas of what he thinks or says. To inject into the Scripture that which is not there is to humanize the subject studied, and falsify the mystery of godliness. Private judgment is not competent to give an exposition of prophecy. Its meaning can be ascertained only by rightly dividing the words of truth.

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I

Corinthians 2:13).

Private interpretation may be properly charged with all the great errors that have crept into the church since time began. Students can often attribute a double sense to the words of Scripture for the purpose of upholding a theory, not realizing that they have destroyed the use of the inspired letter. Instead of trying to unfold the letter, they refuse to investigate the true and natural sense of the Word by turning to the idle fables of modern time. See II Timothy 4:1-4.

Without controversy, the literal meaning of the Word is that which God would have understood. In the violation of the principle involved, heresies, false doctrines, and errors of all kinds have crept in, and a Babylon of confusion prevails throughout the world. The reader of the Bible should first find out the literal meaning of the Word of God; this, and this alone, is the foundation of faith and Christian theology. The Spirit of God will never communicate to the mortal mind of a devout Christian any doctrine which contradicts the literal meaning of the doctrine as expressed in the letter of the Word. When Christ opened the minds of His apostles, it was that they might understand the Scriptures. Pastors have no license to tickle the ears of fashionable sinners and lull them to sleep in the carnal security of what some scholar has said is the spiritual meaning of the inspired Word. "Hear ye the Word of the Lord."

THE BIBLE RELIABLE

Our Protestant Bible was translated in Alexandria, Egypt while the Roman Catholic Bible was translated from the Latin in Douay. Bishop Hendric alludes to the New Testament as follows:

"In adopting the words and phrases of the Protestant version of the Bible, I have followed the example of others who have revised the Rhemish translation. It is not to be regretted that while we point to errors that need correction, we acknowledge excellencies which we are free to imitate, thus diminishing the asperity of censure by the tribute which we literally render to literary merit."

When speaking before the House of Lords, Bishop Doyle, a Roman Catholic, was questioned, "Whether he considered the authorized version of Scriptures of a character which would warrant them being called the gospel of the devil?" he replied.

"I have said before, God forbid that I should so consider it; for, though it has many errors, I consider it as one of the noblest works, and one of the ablest translations that has ever been produced."

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

EVIDENCE COMPLETE

When convicted of a great truth, it is often remarked that the Old Testament is only a history of the Jews, while the New Testament is the record of a spiritual life. This error has blinded the eyes of many who have been content in listening to the uninformed.

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat" (Hebrews 5:12).

In the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrhah, we have an illustration of the nations at the second coming of Christ. See II Peter 2:5-8; Jude 1:4, 6-7. The history of those cities is not set forth in the New Testament for the reason that the immortal side of the tomb contains no record of an endless eternal torture. The destruction of these cities is an example of just what will take place immediately following the resurrection of the unjust. See Acts 24:15. Compare Revelation 20:5-6, 14. Christian people are supposed to understand this and to protect their hearers from the fears of a never-ending torture.

Our Lord's reference to Jonah and the City of Nineveh is very brief, but we shall never understand unless we heed the admonition, "Whoso readeth, let him understand." Much of the prophecy of Daniel has its fulfillment in this twentieth century. Prophecy never loses its force until it has been fulfilled. To heed the warning is to avoid the effects of the judgment involved.

Chronology is an aid to the study of the Bible. It enables us to distinguish the generation living in the light of fulfillment, and to whom its fulfillment is an advantage.

Our Lord instructed us to "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). But, the only knowledge we have of her is through the study of the Old Testament.

We often hear the expression that “We are a New Testament Church.” If this expression were true, then we would be like the man who builded his house upon the sand.

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:27).

There is great wisdom in the apostle’s instruction to Timothy: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy

scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:15). The Scriptures here referred to were written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. See II Peter 1:21.

In conclusion, we are admonished to take the prophets as an example of suffering and patience. See James 5:10. The full amount of their sufferings is all in the Old Testament. The rejection of the Old Testament leads to the rejection of the New Testament, and thus waives every claim to the means of grace.

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ADVOCATE OF TRUTH

CONFIDENCE

BY CATHERINE NOEL



*Dedication ceremony at
Muppalla, India*

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward” (Hebrews 10:35). Confidence means assurance, trust, and reliance, to confide. Here, Paul is asking us not to cast it away because it is something we need. Especially in these troubled times, we need to trust in the Lord at all times and to rely on Him for everything. In this passage of Scripture, Moses was reassuring the children of Israel to “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it” (Deuteronomy 31:6-7). These are the words of assurance and trust. God never fails His people. At times, we fail ourselves by disbelief. “Let your conversation be without

covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6). The Lord needs us to do more than we are doing. He wants us to trust Him completely and to keep our eyes on Him and to be in harmony with His word. “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him” (Psalm 34:8-9).

When one loses confidence in another, there is hardly anything that can be said or done that will restore confidence. “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint” (Proverbs 25:19). We ought not to confide in any man, especially one who is out of touch with God. There is a saying, “He who has lost confidence can lose nothing more; he or she has lost all.” It is different with the Lord.

You have to confide in Him and trust Him no matter what. Surrender your all to Him and have a strong conviction in Him and trust Him no matter what. Surrender your all to Him and have a strong conviction that God's promises never go unrewarded. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)" (Hebrews 10:22-23). Without faith it is impossible to please God. Without faith there would be no hope or assurance. When

our faith is weak, our prayers could be hindered. We need to have strong confidence and enduring faith in the Lord. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (I John 5:14). If we are to weather the storms of life and experience God's perfect peace, we must fix our minds on Him. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). May the Lord's blessing be upon all who really have confidence in Him. Great will be our reward.



Muppalla, India

THE ABC'S OF SALVATION

Selected by Errol Noel

A stands for All

All must acknowledge sin. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10.)

I have sinned.

All are ruined by sin. (Rom. 5:12; Revelation 21:8.)

I have been ruined by sin and must repent of my sin. (Acts 17:30; II Corinthians 7:10; Romans 2:4; Luke 13:5.)

B stands for Believe

Believing on Christ brings Salvation from sin. (Acts 16:31; John 6:69; Acts 8:37; Romans 10:14.)

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Is there anything more to believe? Yes, believe first that sin is death. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22; James 1:15; Hebrews 9:12.)

We have to believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins. (I Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 9:12.)

We believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. He

is the living Savior. (Rom. 10:9; I Corinthians 15:4; Acts 2:32; Romans 4:25.)

C stands for Come

All must come to Jesus to be saved. Accept His invitation. (Revelation 22:17; Matthew 11:28; John 6:37; Isaiah 55:1.) To come to Jesus is to accept Him and confess Him as Lord and Savior. (Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9; Revelation 3:20.) We must confess Jesus Christ as Lord. To confess Him is to call on Him and share Him with others. (Romans 10:13,14; Acts 2:21; Luke 18:13, 14.)

A Acknowledge your sins.

B Believe on Christ to be saved.

C Call on His name and Come to Him today.
Now is the day of Salvation.



Muppalla, India

PAUL AGAINST SECTARIANISM

By Moises Torres M.

NOTE: The Apostle Paul cautioned the Corinthian brethren for their making a difference between, and following different, ministering servants. This introduced a spirit of sectarianism in that church.

1. How did Paul show his adversity for this situation? (I Corinthians 1:11-16.)

2. What did Peter and John tell the people as to who made the lame man to walk? (Acts 3:1-13.)

3. What did Paul and Barnabas say and do in Lystra when the people believed they were gods? (Acts 14:8-15.)

NOTE: Paul was called Mercurius, and Barnabas was called Jupiter.

4. In what other place did the people think that Paul

was a god? (Acts 28:1-6.)

5. Did the angel allow the Apostle John to worship him in Revelation 22:8-9?

6. How many gods does the Bible say that the church has? (I Corinthians 8:5-6.)

NOTE: It is not bad to have appreciation for and confidence in certain leaders in the church. However, a spirit of sectarianism causes strife and idolatry. We should not practice wickedness by favoring one leader over another in the church because they are all ministers of the same gospel and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church does not belong to any one in particular, whether he is a prophet, pastor, or apostle. We are not of Paul, nor Apollos, nor Cephas. We are of Christ! Let us be mature, and follow the advice of Paul by not letting the spirit of sectarianism enter into the Church of God.

Christ Was Made
Selected by Bond Tennant



Muppalla, India

The Word (Christ) was made flesh.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God” (I John 4:2).

He came in the flesh, and walked the streets in the flesh, was crucified in the flesh, but He arose as the

victorious Son of God.

Christ was made in the likeness of man but made Himself of no reputation.

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth” (Philippians 2:7-10).

Christ was made better than the angels.

“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than

they” (Hebrews 1:4).

Christ was made better than angels and archangels. He was made better than any living thing in heaven or this earth.

Christ was made our High Priest forever.

“So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to-day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” (Hebrews 5:5-6).

“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood” (Hebrews 7:24).

Words cannot express how much we appreciate our Lord’s goodness and mercy. Jesus is so wonderful!



Elder M. Kanakarathnam teaching in Muppalla, India

Waiting

By Christine Sarah Joseph

While waiting for a bus one day, I began to grow impatient. The bus delayed, and I was in a hurry. There were other people there waiting as well, but I seemed to be the only unsettled one. The sun was very hot, and there was no shelter. Even the umbrella in my hand was no help, which made the waiting more unbearable. I prayed that a bus would come soon, so that I could be on my way. About an hour passed. By then I decided that I would try to get a taxi or some other means of transportation. I began walking but kept looking back for the bus. The thought came to me--"you should have patience. Remember you prayed." But I ignored my thought and kept on walking. When I looked back a little while after, there was the bus, taking up the people I left at the stop, and I was too far to go back.

I got angry at myself, but that was the choice I made. When I finally got another transport, I thought about what happened and began to reflect on my life. I thought that there might be other people like myself, who failed to trust the Lord and to remember His words when things do not go our way. We are told in Luke 21:19, “In your patience possess ye your souls.” We ought to remember that, when we pray, we must wait.

In our journey on this Christian pathway, there is so much to experience before we receive the victory that is awaiting us. At the start, we usually are very excited, having the feeling that we will make it in no time at all, but do not know what is ahead.

Let us examine the part that God provided--a shelter (the umbrella), a shelter in the time of storm. We are

given another word--"shield"-- in Psalm 33:20, which says, "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield." While we are on this Christian journey, whatever the situation, the Lord will provide protection or comfort as it is pleasing to Him. It could be a word of encouragement from another of His children, exhorting us to hold on and be not dismayed, for help is on the way. Sometimes, though, we make an effort to do it our way, even ignoring the help the Lord sends.

Another part is hoping and praying. In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Sometimes we doubt, but we must remember that Jesus said, "...If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove..." (Matthew 17:20).

Praying is an essential ingredient. Jesus said in Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation..." May the Lord continue to bless us as we WAIT.

A Short Thought

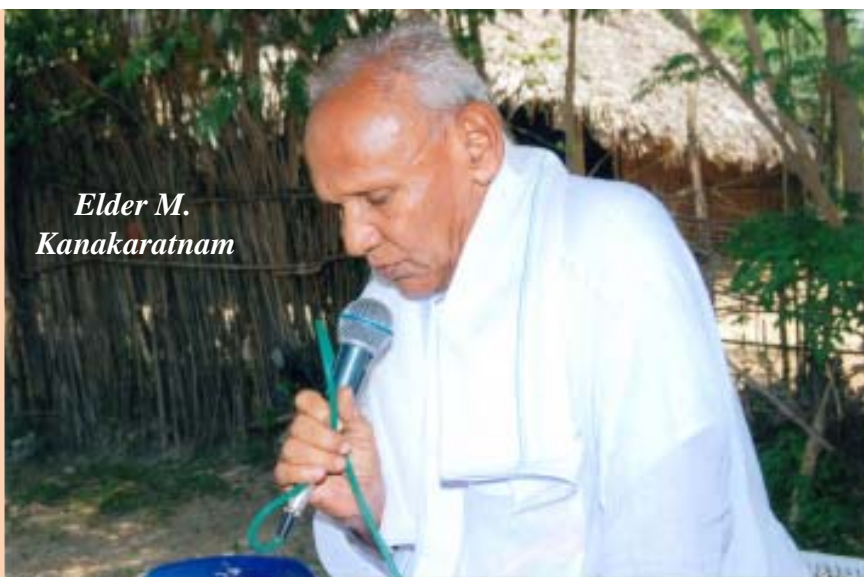
LET US WALK IN THE SPIRIT

By keeping the temple of our bodies spiritually clean, so the Spirit of God will dwell within us, it is possible to live a pure life, and to be a soul winner for Christ. Without the Spirit of God, we are dead to Christ.

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson

The Bottomless Pit

*Some Thoughts
For Study
By David DeLong*



*Elder M.
Kanakaratham*

The book of Jude, verse 6, informs us, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." The "angels which kept not their first estate" probably refers to those angels of God who followed Satan in the great heavenly rebellion. They "left their own habitation" (heaven) by being conquered by the archangel Michael, and God's faithful angels, and being cast to the earth.

Revelation 12:7-12 reads: "And there was war in

heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our

God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

According to Jude, at least some of these fallen angels (now known as demons) were placed into "everlasting chains under darkness" to be kept there until the Lord's judgment. Here, the word "everlasting" in the Greek is "aidios"(see Strong's Concordance), and means "everduring". These angels will be imprisoned for a time, then judged, at which time they will be cast into the lake of fire (see Matthew 25:41). Satan, at the present, has not been so chained, but eventually he will be. He, and some of the demons are now permitted to roam the earth, to test God's people.

A parallel verse to Jude 6 is II Peter 2:4. It reads, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment"...The word "hell" in this verse is "tartaroo", and it comes from "tartaros", referring to an incarceration in an abyss. The imprisoned angels are being held in this holding-cell, if you will, chained by God's power, later to be released for judgment. This verse is the only one in the Bible which uses the word tartaroo. It is a special prison for demons.

Four words are used in the Bible to translate the word "hell". In the Old Testament, the word "sheol" refers to the grave (see Psalm 30:3 for an example). In the New Testament, "hades" is comparable to "sheol" and also refers to the grave. The lake of fire, the burning hell which destroys the wicked is "gehenna". Finally, we have just seen that "tartaroo" is a prison for demons (see Luke 16:23; Matthew 10:28; II Peter 2:4).

An extremely interesting passage is found in Luke 8:26-33. It records the story of a demon-possessed man called "Legion", from whom Jesus cast out many demons. "And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said,

What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked."

The demons in this story begged Jesus not to send them "out into the deep". Now, sometimes the "deep" can refer to a sea, such as in Luke 5:4, where Jesus advised Simon Peter, "Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." The word used here is "bathos" and means "depth" (see Strong's Concordance). However, in Luke 8:31, the word used is "abussos" and it means "abyss", "depthless", and "bottomless". These demons apparently begged Jesus not to send them into prison where they would be henceforth chained, not free to roam the earth. Jesus consented to their wish, instead sending them into a herd of swine.

We come, at this point in our study, to the book of Revelation chapter 9, which refers to the "bottomless pit". This scene is the fifth trumpet, or plague, during the seven last plagues. Verses 1-12 informs us: "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was

as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter."

Let us note here that the Greek word for "bottomless pit" is the same word used in Luke 8:31 for "deep", which is "abussos". The "star" which falls from heaven to the earth and opens the "abyss", or "bottomless pit", is almost certainly an angel of God. Notice that when the "bottomless pit" is opened, smoke comes out of the pit, and "locusts" come out of the smoke. What, or who, are these "locusts"? We must remember that the book of Revelation is highly symbolic, and we need to be very careful about how we apply this symbolism. From the foregoing study about "tartaroo" being a prison for demons, and the "abussos" also, apparently, being that very prison, I wish to submit that the "bottomless pit" may well be the same thing.

If this idea is true, then the "locusts" which come out of the "bottomless pit" could be imprisoned demons who are released on the world during the seven last plagues (and just before their ultimate judgment by God). Let us examine some clues which could point to these "locusts" being demons. The first clue that I wish to look at is in verse 7, "And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle..."

Now, when we go to the book of Zechariah, chapter 6, we see something most interesting. Verses 1-8 informs us of four chariots being pulled by four sets of horses. There were red horses, black horses, white horses, and grisled and bay horses. Notice what the angel tells Zechariah in verse 5: "And the angel answered and said

unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth." It appears from this verse that horses can represent spirits. We know that demons are evil spirits, therefore the possible reference to them as "horses prepared unto battle".

Revelation 9:7 also informs us that "...on their heads were as it were crowns like gold..." Crowns represent a position of rulership. Do demons possess such a position? Ephesians 6:12 assures that they do. "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." Ephesians 2:2 tells us that Satan is "...the prince of the power of the air..."

The last part of Revelation 9:7, and first part of verse 8 reads, "...and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women..." This description of these beings is, admittedly, a little hard to understand. Sometimes angels appear in the form of men (for instance, Genesis 18:22; 19:1). Demons could probably do the same. The reference to their having "hair as the hair of women" could be an acknowledgement that these beings are in rebellion to God's authority. (See I Corinthians 11:14, where Paul wrote, "...if a man have long hair, it is a shame...") Demons are definitely in rebellion to God's authority.

In any event, "...their teeth were as the teeth of lions" (Revelation 9:8). The Apostle Peter warned the "Elect" in Asia Minor concerning Satan, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). This would also be an apt description of demons who want nothing better than to devour God's people.

Revelation 9:9 says, "And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle." Similarly, to what we saw in Zechariah 6, we notice a reference to "chariots of many horses". We see here, in Revelation, that these "locusts" have wings. Demons, most definitely, have the ability to fly.

Could this description be the final fulfillment of what the Prophet Joel saw? "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you... The appearance of them is as the appear-

ance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array" (Joel 2:25;4-5; see also 1:6). The account of a great locust infestation that Joel wrote about, in the land of Israel, seems to be a type of the great devastation that will occur at the end of the age (please read Joel 3).

Going back to Revelation 9, we read in verse 10, "And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months." Jesus likened Satan, and demons, to scorpions in Luke 10:17-19. "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Notice that in Revelation 9:3-5, the "locusts" were "commanded" to only hurt "...those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." These people will be tormented 5 months, but not killed. What could constitute the torment from the "locusts"? We know that demons can possess unsaved people. Such individuals are truly tormented with all sorts of addictions, obsessions, fears, doubts, depression, blasphemy, violence, and a multitude of evil thoughts and actions, many of which they can't control. This will be a horrible time for these people.

Taking another look at the "bottomless pit", we now go to Revelation 20:1-3, where we get a glimpse of the

binding and imprisonment of Satan, himself. "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, 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."

During the time of the Millennium, while Jesus is ruling the Earth, Satan will be imprisoned in the "bottomless pit". Presumably all of the demons will be imprisoned there as well. Satan will then be released from his prison, and will make one last, futile attempt to be victorious over God. The Enemy of good, however, will fail. "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Revelation 20:7-9). Verse 10 informs us that Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire.

Much is at stake concerning this study. It isn't, perhaps, so much about what comes out of, or goes into, the "bottomless pit", as it is about not receiving God's wrath from the plagues. May the Lord help each one of us to be faithful to Him at all times, so that we will be overcomers in the end.



Muppalla, India

Audited

By Del DeLong

The words "you are being audited" strike fear in the

hearts of many people - especially around income tax

time. If they tried to cheat a little on their income tax returns, then they are especially fearful of these words. On the other hand, if someone has been completely honest with his information, then he has nothing to fear from the audit.

David made a profound statement in the book of Psalms when he said, "Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth" (Psalm 26:1-3). Basically, David is asking the Lord to audit him.

If we want to talk about an extreme audit, that would be one conducted by the Lord Himself, and yet David was asking for this very audit from God. David's heart was right with God and he was happy to have God audit him.

The next question we might ask would be, what kind of an audit was David asking for? If we examine the last few words in verse three, we can see very clearly what kind of an audit was being requested. David said, "I have walked in thy truth."

God has given us His truth, and this is found in the Word He has given us--The Scriptures (both Old and New Testaments). Many proclaim that they are in God's truth, but any statement of truth must be backed up with God's Word to be real truth.

There are those who say that God's commandments are done away with, but even Jesus stated, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:17-18). We read in I John 5:3, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

David surely loved God and kept His commandments. In his statement in Psalms he said, "I have walked in mine integrity". In other words, David not only knew God's commandments, but he walked in them, and because of

this he asked God to judge him.

David's heart was true and his intentions were pure. He knew what God wanted him to do, and he did it. Was he always true to God's commandments? No, like all of us he made mistakes, but he always asked for forgiveness and strove to keep the ways of his Father in Heaven.

Would we be willing to ask God to audit us? Are we following His commandments? Are we putting His will before our own? Are we following the truth? In Revelation 12:17, we find the definition of a saint (a child of God), "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

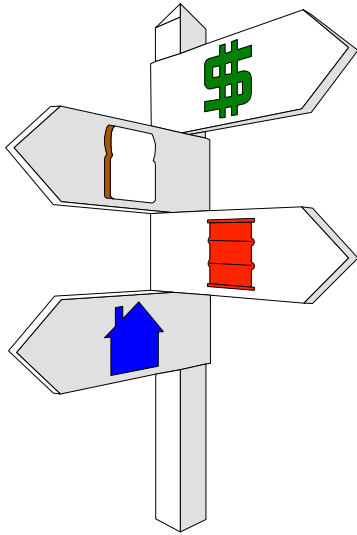
Jesus did what His Father asked Him to do. When we have the testimony of Jesus, we follow in His footsteps and use Him as an example in our lives.

Do we want an audit of our lives? When we become a child of God, we are under a constant audit. Our Father's eyes are on His children. He does not care about those who do not choose to follow Him. They have made their choice and essentially have failed the audit. Does that mean that they do not have a chance at salvation? Of course not, because they can choose to turn their lives over to God at any time, but that is the individual's choice.

How is your audit going? If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready? Some might say that it's been such a long time since Jesus was first here that He probably won't be here any time soon. The signs of our times tell us that He could return at anytime, but even if He prolongs His return, what would happen if you died tomorrow? Your time to be ready would be at that instant.

Just as David walked in God's truth, so must we walk in His truth. David said, "examine me". We, too, must say "examine me, Lord, I walk in Your ways and keep Your commandments. I have the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour, and just as He walked in Your ways, so too will I walk in Your ways."

Audit me Lord, I am ready. Keep me Lord in Your loving care. I want to be Your child.



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.

SEEKING OUT CERTAINTY

**By Jennifer Latson
Houston Chronicle**

Cheryl Lucas' questions could stump even the sharpest financial adviser. The 63-year-old Houston woman, who lost three-quarters of her retirement savings in the economic downturn, wants to know whether she'll ever get that money back--and if so, when? Should she go back to work, and doing what? Will she have to move, and where?

They're the kind of questions it would take a crystal ball to answer. And that, in essence, is what she sought.

On a recent afternoon, Lucas sat in Kim O'Neill's Spring dining room drinking lemonade and reading the questions off a list she had typed up for the appointment. O'Neill, a 53-year-old self-described soccer mom, sat at the head of the table scribbling on sticky notes as she closed her eyes and nodded. "This is a time to make truly different decisions from what you would do in a strong economy," she counseled. "This is a time to buy. If you've got any pennies lying around, you can get \$80 or \$90 stocks for \$10.00."

O'Neill says she doesn't come up with the advice herself--she channels it from Lucas' guardian angels.

Psychics, mediums and channelers like O'Neill say they've attracted significantly more clients since the recession began--many of them searching for clarity on career choices and certainty in investment decisions.

As recently as a year ago, relationship issues were Elaine Palmer's bread and butter. Palmer, who specializes in tarot readings at her Galleria-area office, says financial questions now trump the love-based variety, although those haven't disappeared.

It's not uncommon for psychics to gain popularity during times of upheaval, said David Myers, a social psychologist who wrote the 2002 book "Intuition: Its Power and Perils."

Myers cited a 1982 study that found astrology and mysticism also drew a larger audience in periods of crises and uncertainty, when they appeal as a way to assert control. "That doesn't mean they provide any real help," Myers said.

John Kern, who heads the Houston chapter of the National Association of Personal Advisors, declined to speculate on the validity of divination but urged caution when entrusting financial decisions to a single person--psychic or analyst. Wealth managers, like psychics, rely on a certain amount of intuition to predict the market's future. Some turn out to be wrong, and some are deliberately misleading.

"I'm a firm believer in empowering people to do your own homework and trusting yourself," Kern said. "I'd never put 100 percent of my trust in one person--that's

just my way. The problem with Bernie Madoff is that people put 100 percent of their trust in him.”

Clients say talking to a psychic can calm their troubled minds and bolster their own decisions.

Lucas’ half-hour consultation with O’Neill--at a rate of \$150--yielded specific advice and details about her future. O’Neill told her she should cut ties with her current adviser and said she’d run into another one at the grocery store, sometime in the next two weeks.

"Her name sounds like ‘Betty,’" O’Neill said, cocking her head to the side. "Last name is something like ‘Smith.’ She’s very fiery, no-nonsense, experienced."

With the new financial adviser, O’Neill said, Lucas would recover her losses. In fact, by 2012, Lucas and her husband will buy a new house: 4,000 square feet, with four bedrooms, a spa bathroom and modern kitchen. "I can see your house. It’s adobe. But not rustic adobe: modern adobe," she said. "So you see that your money situation is going to rebound."

It was Lucas’ second session since seeking O’Neill’s help in May, when financial worries were keeping her up at night.

- Excerpted from the Houston Chronicle

Comment

People do desperate things when they worry and have fear about the essentials of life. Cheryl Lucas has been deceived by Satan who can lead man into the way that seems right, but in the end is the way of death. Lucas is dabbling into the unseen world of unclean and familiar spirits just like Saul when he sought out the woman with a familiar spirit at Endor.

Channeling, which Kim O’Neill practices, is when a human relinquishes his or her mind and body to an invading spirit or spirits who then speaks through that person. In each case, the invading spirit or spirits are unclean spirits, who are among Satan’s cohorts!

Kim O’Neill thinks that she is getting information to

give to Cheryl Lucas from Lucas’ guardian angels, when in reality it is unclean spirits, posing as Lucas’ guardian angels, who is giving O’Neill the information to tell Cheryl Lucas.

Let us meditate upon I Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” Let us also consider II Corinthians 11:14: “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

It is because the influence of the bright and shining Satan is so strong that these practices which give heed to seducing spirits, such as channeling, are very popular.

Defining Perplexity

I read in a newspaper that former U.S. Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson, in a CNBC interview, said that he did not know what to do in the midst of the Lehman Brothers financial collapse. In other words, he was perplexed! He did not know what to do or how to handle the situation. Let me quote some words from the story in the newspaper: “I’m scared,” he said he told his wife on a cell phone, “I didn’t know what to do.”

He asked his wife to pray for him. “Then I put on my armor and went back into the room and acted like I knew what to do.”

The Webster Handy College Dictionary defines "perplex" as “make confused or bewildered: puzzle.” A minister has said that perplexity means “no way out.” Yes, the perplexed person is always looking for a way out of his troubles.

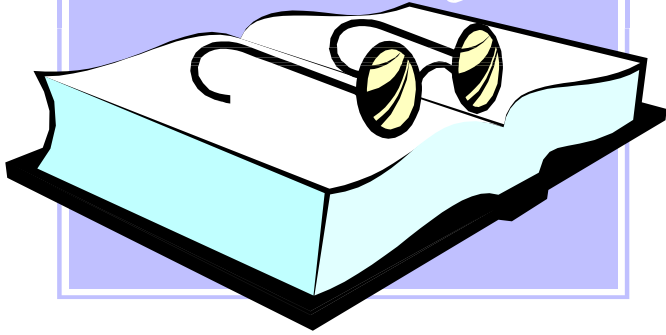
In speaking of world conditions in these days, Jesus said in Luke 21:25: “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with PERPLEXITY, the sea and the waves roaring.”

Yes, the nations are in a perplexed condition. They have many issues that must be solved, but the leaders are confused and bewildered, and cannot seem to find a solution to their troubles.

Let us thank our Heavenly Father that He has arranged for a coming kingdom in which there will be no perplexity.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: Some say that the Apostle Paul was converted on the way to Damascus. Others say, “in Damascus.” What is your view of this?

ANSWER: The Lord appeared to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus to make him a “minister and a witness.” “But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee” (Acts 26:16). He did not appear to Saul to tell him what to do to be saved. He sent him into the city (Damascus) to wait for instructions. “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (Acts 9:6). Then the Lord sent Ananias to Saul. “And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth” (verse 11). In every case of conversion, a human being is used to state the terms of salvation.

On the road of Damascus, Saul was convicted of his sins. He realized that in persecuting children of God, he had been persecuting Jesus Christ. For three days, he experienced soul-searching agony because of his new convictions. Paul now believed, and he was truly repentant. So when Ananias came, he did not tell Saul to believe or

Questions and Answers

to repent, but he did say to him, “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). This was a reference to the forgiveness of sins that takes place at baptism. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Paul emerged from the watery grave of baptism as a new creature in Christ. He began to walk in newness of life. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

QUESTION: Was Cain repentant after he murdered his brother?

ANSWER: Genesis 4:14 gives the lament of Cain when he was driven out after murdering his brother. He was overwhelmed with a sense of the severity for his sentence, but there was no sign of penitence or cry for pardon. There was no expression of regret or sorrow. It was the cry of a selfish soul about to be deprived of all his material belongings and driven forth into the wilderness.

QUESTION: I have heard people say that healing is not in the atonement because all saints are not healed. Is this true?

ANSWER: No, it is not true. One might as well argue that forgiveness is not in the atonement because all sinners are not forgiven. This is an illogical and unscriptural excuse. The reason people are not healed is because they fail to believe that God heals, just like a sinner fails to believe God for the salvation of his soul. Only those who have faith will get what they want. Healing is in the atonement as proved in Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; I Corinthians 11:29-30; I Peter 2:24, and therefore, everyone who has faith in the atonement can get all that it provides for him.

One of the most insensible and foolish arguments of unbelief today is that divine healing, gifts of the Spirit, miracles, and all supernatural inspiration and manifestations ceased in 64 A.D. when the original apostles died. In the first place, all of the apostles did not die by 64 A.D. Secondly, there is no one passage that teaches such a theory. The Bible promised healing throughout this age. Today, there are thousands who have been healed, and they testify that they were healed miraculously by God's power.

Men use the case of Trophimus in II Timothy 4:20 to prove that the day of miracles is over and that Paul and others had lost their power by that time. But this example does not prove this. The Greek work for sick here is *asthenia* from *asthenes*, meaning feeble, strengthless, and weak. It does not always mean that sickness is from some disease. It is translated "without strength" (Romans 5:6), "weak in faith" (Romans 4:19; 14:1-2), "weak" law (Romans 8:3), "weak" conscience (I Corinthians 8:7-12), "weak" people (I Corinthians 9:22), "weak and beggarly elements" of the world (Galatians 4:9), and "weak" in boldness (II Corinthians 11:21, 29; 13:3). It is also used of humility and dependence upon God (II Corinthians 13:3,4,9). Not one time is physical sickness referred to in these passages.

Trophimus was no doubt run down in body and had a physical breakdown because of his many labors for Christ, and he needed to stay at Miletum to regain strength and rest a while. This is definitely stated of Epaphroditus who was brought back to health by rest and faith (Philippians 2:25-30). No doubt it is true that many people in Bible days did not exercise faith and get healed, but that does not do away with God's plan and provision for all who believe. Multitudes were not saved in Bible days, and yet shall we say that salvation ceased when the apostles died

just because everyone was not saved in their day? This would not be a logical conclusion and therefore it would not be a good excuse for unbelief about healing.

QUESTION: What does the Apostle Paul mean in Romans 5:7?

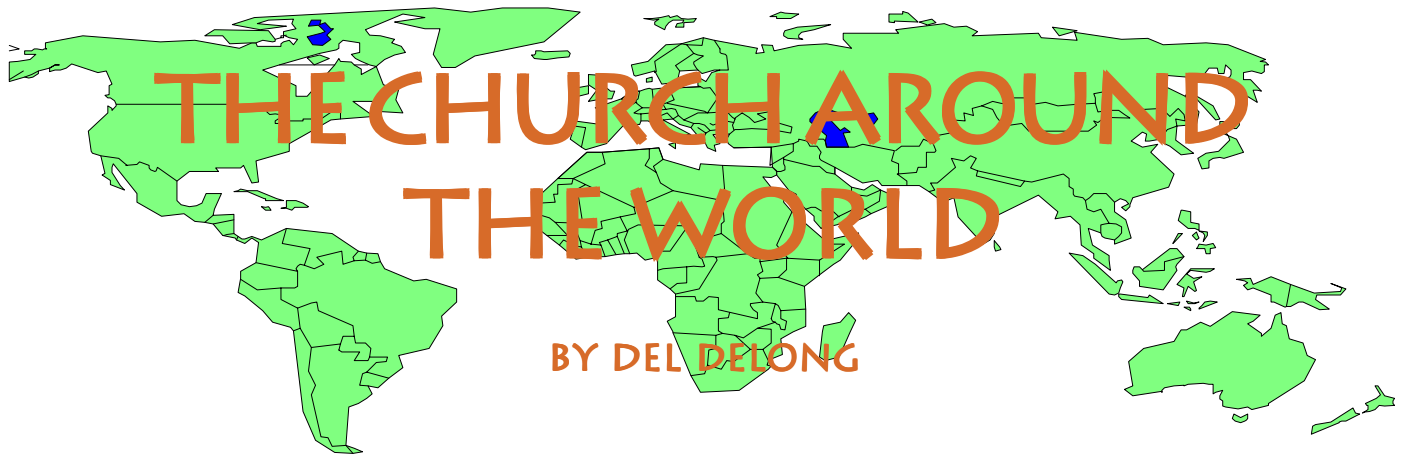
ANSWER: Let us quote the verse. "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die." Paul is illustrating the fact of the atonement by the facts of everyday life. He says it is hard to find one man who will die for another, even if that other be righteous; but that for a man who is really good, some might be found who would be willing to die. Then follows the keen application: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (verse 8).

QUESTION: II Corinthians 5:16 reads: "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." What does it mean to know Christ after the flesh?

ANSWER: It is to know Him as the man "in the flesh," or the unregenerate man, knows Him. Scofield describes such knowledge of Christ as "an intellectual belief in the historical Christ, which is distinct from 'believing on Him.' The latter implies trust, dependence. Intellectual belief does not bring salvation, as belief with trust does to those who truly, with the heart as well as the mind, believe."

QUESTION: Who were the just persons to whom Jesus refers in Luke 15:7?

ANSWER: They were imaginary persons. There are no persons who are righteous except those who are justified by faith. But the Pharisees and scribes of verse two imagined themselves to be "just persons who need no repentance." Our Lord's Parable of the Lost Sheep was intended to teach them otherwise, and to show them that the publicans and sinners of verse one, whom they considered hopeless, were the cause of great joy in heaven, because they repented while the religious leaders--the Pharisees and scribes--were themselves the hopeless ones because they refused to repent.



Muppalla, India

The following photos show the beginnings of a new church building in Muppalla, India. The position for the cornerstone of the foundation is shown in some of these photos.





LESSON I

JOSEPH ARRIVES IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:31-36; 39:1-6.

Golden Text: Genesis 39:2.

“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.”

NOTE: In the last lesson, we learned how Joseph’s brothers plotted to kill him but then decided to sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. We will now study how Joseph’s father feels and what happens to Joseph in Egypt.

1. What did Joseph’s brothers do to his coat of many colors? Genesis 37:31.
2. When they brought the coat to their father, what did they ask him? Genesis 37:32.
3. What did he think had happened to Joseph? Genesis 37:33.
4. What was his attitude when he thought that something had happened to Joseph? Genesis 37:34-35.
5. Who bought Joseph when he arrived in Egypt? Genesis 37:36; 39:1.
6. Who was with Joseph all the time? Genesis 39:2.
7. Why did his master make him overseer over his house? Genesis 39:3-4.
8. While Joseph was overseer of the Egyptian’s house, did he prosper, and why? Genesis 39:5-6.

LESSON II

JOSEPH IN PRISON

Scripture Reading: Genesis 39:19-23; 40:1-23.

Golden Text: Genesis 39:21.

“But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”

NOTE: We studied last week how the Lord blessed Joseph and his master, Potiphar. Potiphar’s wife falsely accuses Joseph, and he is put in prison. We will now learn about Joseph in prison.

1. How was Joseph treated in prison? Genesis 39:21-22.
2. Who were placed in prison with Joseph? Genesis 40:1-3.
3. Was Joseph in charge of the butler and the baker while in prison? Genesis 40:4.
4. What did these two prisoners say? Genesis 40:5-8.
5. What was the chief butler’s dream, and what did Joseph tell him it meant? Genesis 40:9-15.
6. What was the chief baker’s dream, and what did Joseph tell him? Genesis 40:16-19.
7. Did the dreams come true? Genesis 40:20-23.

LESSON III

JOSEPH INTERPRETS PHARAOH’S DREAMS

Scripture Reading: Genesis 41:1-37.

Golden Text: Genesis 41:16.

“And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

1. What happened after Joseph had been in prison for two years? Genesis 41:1 (first part).
2. What did Pharaoh dream the first time? Genesis 41:2-4.

3. What did Pharaoh dream the second time? Genesis 41:5-7.
4. Who did Pharaoh call to interpret his dreams, and could they do it? Genesis 41:8.
5. After no one else could interpret the dreams, who was recommended to Pharaoh? Genesis 41:9-13.
6. Who did Joseph tell was the only one who could interpret his dream? Genesis 41:14-16.
7. Who caused Pharaoh to dream the dreams? Genesis 41:32.
8. What did Joseph tell Pharaoh to do about the dreams? Genesis 41:33-36.
9. Did Joseph's interpretation and advice please Pharaoh? Genesis 41:37.

41:47-49.

6. What happened after the first seven years of Joseph's rule? Genesis 41:53-55.

7. Did the famine extend over the face of the earth, and did other countries go to Joseph to buy corn? Genesis 41:56-57.

FIND THE WORDS

Find these words
in the letters below.

DISCIPLES BOAT
WIND AFRAID
QUIET FAITH

LESSON IV

JOSEPH A RULER IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 41:37-57.

Golden Text: Genesis 41:41.

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.”

1. Did Pharaoh realize that Joseph possessed the Spirit of God? Genesis 41:38-39.
2. How did Pharaoh reward Joseph for giving an interpretation to his dream? Genesis 41:40-41.
3. What else did Pharaoh give to Joseph? Genesis 41:42-45.
4. How old was Joseph when he stood before Pharaoh? Genesis 41:46.
5. What did Joseph do as governor of Egypt? Genesis



LITTLE MISS LEAF

A MAKE-BELIEVE STORY

One day in fall when the Autumn Wind was blowing the leaves high in the air, he came to a little leaf who would not budge.

"Come, come, little Miss Leaf," he sang, "all the others are gone, and you must go, too."

"No, no!" cried little Miss Leaf. "I want to stay right here on the tree. I have lived here all my life, and here I will stay."

All day long she had watched her brothers and sisters dropping away from their sturdy home, one by one, and she made up her mind that she would not move. She loved her home on the tree, and she was unhappy at the thought of being any place else. So she clung tight to the bough and refused to follow the other leaves.

At first, the wind was gentle. He came with no more than a little puff. "Come," he whispered softly. Little Miss Leaf shook her head. "No, no!" she said.

So the wind tried harder and sang a little song to her. But no matter what he said, he could not persuade her to fall from the tree.

At last he grew very angry. Puffing out his cheeks like a big balloon, he blew a strong cold blast upon the bough. Poor little Miss Leaf could hold on no longer.

Down, down, down she fell--turning, twisting, flying through the air so fast she could hardly catch her breath!

"Oh, dear, oh, dear!" wailed little Miss Leaf. "Wherever am I going?"

Just then she landed softly on something cool and smooth, and a gentle voice said, "Good-day, little Miss Leaf. Don't be afraid."

"Who are you?" asked little Miss Leaf. "And where am I?" she said still so out of breath she could hardly talk.

"I am the River," came the answer. "And you are floating along on my surface."

"Is it safe?" Little Miss Leaf was still quite worried.

"Indeed it is," replied the River. "I will carry you with me until we reach the ocean. I don't suppose you saw much of the world from the shelter of the tree."

"No-no," admitted little Miss Leaf.

"Well, you shall see it now," promised the River, "and I will explain as we glide along."

His voice was so kind and gentle that little Miss Leaf settled back comfortably to enjoy the ride.

The way wound through field and town, sometimes bending one way or the other, sometimes going straight ahead; and always the River pointed out the places of interest.

"There is the schoolhouse to the right," he said as they passed through a country village.

"So that's the school," thought little Miss Leaf. She had often heard the children talk about it as they rested in the shade of her tree.

"And there is the church a little farther ahead," the River went on.

"I used to hear the bells every Sabbath morning," said little Miss Leaf, "And from my bough I could see the tip of the steeple against the sky. I always thought I should like to see the church!" They flowed past the village and out through the fields once more. She closed her eyes, and when she opened them, something dark hung over their heads.

"What is it?" cried little Miss Leaf. "Where are we now?"

"Don't be alarmed," laughed the River. "We are under a large bridge. We will soon be out."

"But what is all the noise?" asked little Miss Leaf.

"It is made by trucks and cars and busses carrying the people across from one of my banks to the other."

They came to a railroad bridge and saw a train snorting along with feathery smoke coming out of its engine and a whistle shrieking a warning to everybody in its way.

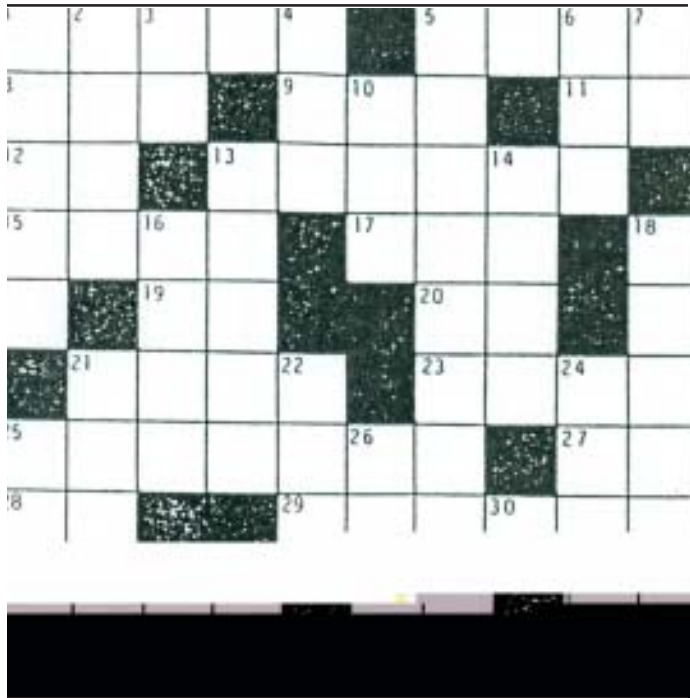
"What is that ugly monster?" Little Miss Leaf shivered as they passed under it.

So the River told her all about trains.

They went on slowly through the countryside until they came to the next bend, where the River turned toward the sea.

"I must leave you here," he said. "You wouldn't like the great ocean waves." And very gently he lifted little Miss Leaf up and set her down on a mossy bank.

"Thank you, thank you for a most exciting time," called little Miss Leaf.



BIBLE FOODS

ACROSS

- 1. Food tree called a “king” - Judges 9:8
- 5. What Ruth gleaned
- 8. Seed with a hard shell
- 9. Extinct bird
- 11. First half of Bible (abbr.)
- 12. I am (short form)
- 13. Put somewhere
- 15. Precious stone
- 17. Young dog
- 19. College degree
- 20. Military police (abbr.)
- 21. Cages, hutches
- 23. “Brought beds, and basons, ... and _____

- and lentiles.” (II Samuel 17:28)
- 25. What Esau sold his birthright for (Genesis 25:29-34)
- 27. Regarding
- 28. Epistle (abbr.)
- 29. “For the _____ was in the ear...” (Exodus 9:31)
- 31. “Comfort me with _____” (Song of Solomon 2:5)
- 34. Preposition
- 35. Pertaining to you
- 36. To bridge

DOWN

- 1. The leeks, and the _____ of Egypt. (Numbers 11:4,5)
- 2. Rough piece, clod
- 3. That thing
- 4. Long slender fish
- 5. As “a lodge in a garden of _____” (Isaiah 1:8)
- 6. Staff
- 7. Where the Gospel is (abbr.)
- 10. Plan of a country
- 13. Flora form
- 14. Sword (French)
- 16. Aid, help
- 18. Samson found some in a lion’s carcass (Judges 14:8)
- 21. Oriental flower
- 22. Curved sword
- 24. Sports coliseum
- 25. Green vegetable
- 26. One of 3 forms of matter
- 30. Rim, esp. a pitcher
- 32. Italian river
- 33. Chemical symbol for lutetium

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The Creator

By Dymon Charles (Grenada)

God is in nature,
And He's our Creator.
He sees all things,
And life He brings.

He made the sky,
And the birds that fly.
With one great command,
God created man.

God is ever true,
He'll always be there for you.
He will take away your sin,
And give new life within.

