



God's Way

Doctrine

Pride

Redemption

Rebuked

Millenium

The Advocate of Truth



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About The Cover: This photo was submitted by Denise Gonzales from California.

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

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

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

Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com

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Volume LX I Number 3
September 26, 2011
The Advocate of Truth
USPS 542-940



God's Way Is The Best Way

By Sister Nesta John
Grenada, West Indies

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9). “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Why me Lord? is a question that we all love to ask, but we must never question God. He will never lead us on the wrong track. There is a saying which says, “When God says to jump, don’t ask why, just ask how high. When He says to run, don’t ask why, just ask how fast.” God will never lead us astray, and He will not give us anything to our detriment.

“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? (Matthew 7:9-11). We have to trust the Lord in all of our ways, and He shall direct our paths. We might be asking God for things, and He says to WAIT. That word is normally a heavy load for most people. We have to remember that God’s time is always the best time. When we use His timing, we can never go wrong.

There are times when we may think that we know more than God. Getting an answer like NO from God is normally hard to accept, especially when we are expecting a YES. When He does say yes to something for which we ask, there are times when we may feel it is a no from the response from those who are around us. This is when our faith must get much stronger. There are times when

God does certain things to try our faith and patience.

The time of God is always for a reason. Zacharias and Elisabeth had no children because Elisabeth was barren, and they both were stricken in years. Zacharias was praying until God sent the angel Gabriel unto him to say, “...Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John” (Luke 1:13). John had to be born at such time to fulfill the duties that the Lord would have him to do. Six months after, the same angel Gabriel was sent from God to Mary. Mary brought forth Jesus, the Son of God, six months after John. What better timing could that have been?

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (I Corinthians 1:25). Sometimes God does things that do not make sense in our eyes, but He is always right. Sarah, Abraham’s wife, was barren. She had no children of her own. “And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her” (Genesis 17:15-16). This made no sense to Abraham. “Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?” (verse 17). What God said was fulfilled. Sarah did bring forth a child in her old age and called his name Isaac. Isaac was born at that time for a purpose. With God, nothing happens before its time. Through Isaac, the promises made to

Abraham were fulfilled.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11). The Lord knows everyone’s lives from the beginning to the end. He always gives the best to His children. As Christians, let us never murmur, although we may go through fiery trials. The Lord

is refining our gold to make it richer and brighter. When the Lord is holding my hand, I will continue to trust Him in every way because no harm will befall me. We must always consider our ways at all times, whether they are God’s ways or our own. Remember the following chorus, “God’s way is the best way, God’s way is the right way, I’ll trust in Him always, He knoweth the best.”

The King James Bible at 400

The following appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*. It first was published in *The New York Times*.

Sometime in 1611, a new English Bible was published. It was the work of an almost impossibly learned team of men laboring since 1604 under royal mandate. Their purpose, they wrote, was not to make a new translation of the Bible but “to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one.” What was published, 400 years ago, was indeed one principal good one: the King James Version of the Bible.

It’s barely possible to overstate the significance of this Bible. Hundreds of millions have been sold. In 1611, it found a critical balance in a world of theological conflict, and it has been beloved since of Protestant churches and congregations of every stripe. By the end of the 17th century it was, simply, the Bible. It has been superseded by translations in more modern English, translations based on sources the King James translators couldn’t have known. But to Christians all around the world, it is still the ancestral language of faith.

To modern readers, the English of the King James Version sounds archaic, much as Shakespeare does. But there would have been archaism for readers even in 1611 because the King James Bible draws heavily from a version of William Tyndale’s New Testament published in 1534 and from translations by Miles Coverdale also published in the 1530s.

Tyndale’s aspiration was to make his New Testament accessible to “the boy that driveth the plough.” Though

readers often talk about the majesty of the King James Bible, what has made it live is in fact the simplicity of its language.

Scholars have often debated just how much the King James Bible has influenced the English language. They count the number of idioms – “the powers that be,” for instance – that entered the language from the Bible. They look at how often it’s cited in the Oxford English Dictionary.

T.S. Eliot and C.S. Lewis deplored the idea of considering the secular literary or linguistic influence of the King James Bible. Eliot said it had such a profound effect because it was “the Word of God.” Lewis went further. He argued that the King James Bible had little influence on the rhythms of English and that many of the Bible’s characteristic rhythms were simply “unavoidable in the English language.”

But Lewis missed the point. The King James Bible has had an enormous impact on English for the very reason that it captures and preserves – and communicates down through the centuries – the unavoidable rhythms of good English. Its words are almost never Latinate, and its rhythms are never hampered by the literalism that afflicts other translations.

It would have been so easy to get that wrong, to let scholarship overwhelm common sense, to let theology engulf plainness. We owe an enormous debt to William Tyndale’s imaginary plowboy. All who speak this wonderful language still speak in the shadow of the King James Bible.

Verlin Klinkenborg



More About Doctrine

Bond Tennant

The very word “doctrine” is negative in tone to many people who call themselves Christian. Have you ever heard the following slogans? “Doctrine divides, love unites.” “Christianity is all about relationships, not rules.” “It is true for you, not true for me.”

Must we have a fixed set of doctrines (teachings) which are based solely on the Bible? The worldly church says no! They may say, “You’re being exclusive.” They may say, “One person’s belief is as valid as another’s.” They may say, “Let’s get past the antiquated idea of having exact Scriptural teaching. All we need to reach people is the love of Jesus.” The Church of God knows this is not true! The only way to find out how we are to view doctrine is to go to the Bible and find what God expects of us.

What causes the feeling against doctrine? One cause may be a perception that some have that the role of the church is cultural, not spiritual. The role of religion is to comfort and support us, not tell us what to believe or how to live. By believing this, the nominal church becomes therapeutic by ministering to people’s immediate needs, not telling them how to repent and live their lives based on the Word of God so they can receive eternal life!

Many who call themselves “Christian” do not really know what they believe, especially young people. A survey among around 3300 teenagers in America found that most did not seem to know what they believed about their faith. However, they were not ignorant. They could talk readily about the latest electronic machines. They could talk readily about money, sex, and their family relationships. However, for the most part, they were basically biblically illiterate. Only a few of them could recite just a few of the Ten Commandments, or name the four Gospels. Most of them seemed to view Christianity as just being nice and not ruffling feathers. Sad is the result of abandoning the Bible and its plain doctrinal teachings. A basic philosophy

of “feel good and do good” has been substituted!

Let us examine the exhortation of the Apostle Paul to young Timothy when he said, “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (II Timothy 2:1-3). As a leader of children of God, Timothy had a duty to “...behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15). Timothy was to be “...an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (I Timothy 4:12). Paul wrote further, “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (I Timothy 4:13). He also told Timothy to, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (verse 16).

In no way can we improve on this advice given by Paul to Timothy. Paul was not telling Timothy to reason with his people and listen to any ideas which they may have. He was not trying to comfort and console Timothy. He told Timothy to “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (II Timothy 4:2). Timothy was to teach the truths about God’s plan, and about what God says is right or wrong. He was to consider “What has God said?” not “What is your idea?” or “What do you think?”

To have eternal life that God is offering to all and enter into His kingdom, we must follow God’s instructions. That means acquiring a knowledge of the Bible. A knowledge of Bible doctrine is a must. It is impossible to believe wrong and live right!

Pride and Humility

Philippines



A proud look is one of the seven things that are an abomination to the Lord. He hates a proud look, but will give grace to the humble. One of the hardest things for anyone is to humble himself and confess that he is wrong. Many people will go to destruction when the Judgment takes place for this very reason. But the greatest mistake (sin) we can make is to fail to ask forgiveness when we are in the wrong. Many a boy has started on the downward road by getting into bad company and doing something that was wrong, and then, to keep from confessing, he has gone on to do something else wrong, and sometimes has gone to the electric chair or the penitentiary all because he had failed to humble himself, confess his wrong, and plead for forgiveness. “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

God is ever merciful, and when we humble ourselves and confess our sins, He will forgive and lift us up.

We have a good example of what pride will do to us in Daniel 4. Nebuchadnezzar was king in Babylon. He knew something of the God of heaven because of the captive Israelites in his court. Yet he was lifted up with pride and boasted of the greatness of his kingdom and said he had built it all up by his own power. God warned him in dreams, but he did not heed. So the Lord took his kingdom from him and afflicted him to where he thought he was a wild beast and dwelt under the stars, eating grass with beasts of the field. He was left in this condition until he was willing and did confess the God of heaven, and said it was God who gave him his kingdom. Then his reason returned unto him, and his kingdom was restored to him. Nebuchadnezzar then praised God and gave glory to Him.

Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson, Belshazzar, even though he knew what had befallen his grandfather, did not

take warning but became lifted up in pride. He blasphemed God and desecrated the holy vessels taken from the temple at Jerusalem. The result was that he was slain and the kingdom lost to the Medes.

God has warned us not to be lifted up with pride but to have humility in our hearts and lives. If we do not heed, we will also perish in the Day of Judgment. There will be no excuse that we can offer that He will accept. The only safe way is to, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (I Peter 5:6).

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson

HONESTY

By Sister Destiny Benjamin

Truthfulness, Sincerity, Obedience. The reason we are honest is because God commands it, and it is part of being holy. The Lord requires us to be holy for He is holy. “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (I Peter 1:16).

H - Honor thy father and mother
O - Onward Christian soldiers
N - Not forsaking the law of love
E - Every moment must be righteous
S - Self denial is the first step
T - Trust and obey
Y - Yes we can, through Christ



Philippines

What About Redemption? Is It Necessary?

Bond Tennant

To "redeem" means to buy back, to pay the ransom price. This is what Christ did for us when we were captives under sin. Ephesians 1:7 tells us, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

Redemption is the most glorious work of God. We can think of it as being greater than creation. God spoke, and the worlds were formed. However, it cost Him the life of His only begotten Son to redeem mankind. The Apostle Paul spoke much about redemption. He, himself, had been redeemed from sin. He had been washed in the blood of Christ, and he received the Holy Spirit. He had the right to glory in his Redeemer!

Redemption is necessary because the sinner is a captive to sin. "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34). The sinner feels that bondage, and he knows it ruins his life.

Redemption is necessary because the sinner is a captive of Satan. Paul speaks about sinners recovering themselves out of the snare of the devil. "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who

are taken captive by him at his will" (II Timothy 2:26).

Redemption is necessary because the sinner is under the law (the perfect law of liberty). Because the law has been broken, God has concluded all under sin. "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe" (Galatians 3:22). The literal meaning is "shut up in prison." Sinners have been put under arrest for violating the law (the perfect law of liberty--Ten Commandments). The sinner is in a miserable state and needs to be redeemed!

With what are we redeemed? I Peter 1:18-19 has our answer. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Christ voluntarily took the place of the sinner. He stood charged with His sins and paid the penalty with His blood.

Yes, redemption is necessary to become a child of God!

REBUKED

By Daniel Cruz

As children, we were told what to say, how to conduct ourselves and be a person of good report. This seemed difficult, however, when we had fallen from these things,

and our parents corrected us to avoid our doing it again. The rebuke that was given to us was not well received, and we often accepted the chastisement of our parents

without really paying close attention to the instructions of our parents. God gives us the same rebuke, and we find ourselves being inattentive to the Word of God. The Bible gives specific instructions on how we must take heed to God's Word and not make the same mistakes or create new ones. Psalm 39:11 tells us, "When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity." How can we say that God is just if He uses rebukes to correct man? Man is sinning continually, and the Lord corrects man because He loves His creation. Also, man depends on his wealth and image to gain more and find favor with his fellow man. However, God knows our needs best and corrects us to fashion us for His will. Jeremiah received this instruction from the Lord in Jeremiah 15:19. "Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them." Jeremiah can be an example for us today. The situation can apply because we have been given this same option. God calls us and asks us to return unto Him. Yes, we can get lost and use our own thinking to find satisfaction in this world. When we call upon the Lord, and He asks us to return, we have to expect the rebuke of the Lord. He wants our full devotion without returning to our old ways.

How can we come back to the Lord and accept His rebuke for us? We must accept this reprimand from

the Lord without turning from Him. Paul gave instruction to his followers on how to exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. Paul covers the basis of how to help one another remain strong and steady in our walk. Now, can we accept it when we are rebuked by our leaders that God has placed in our local churches? Sometimes this can be a very hard pill to swallow. Many times this can be seen as chastisement from the pastor when we hear the Word of God being used to rebuke us. It is important that we always accept reprimand as a way to keep us safe from the enemy in our spiritual lives. Peter was rebuked by Jesus for denying the prophecies of the Lord's death. Jesus told Peter that it was not to be so, and the Lord in return chastised him by rebuking the spirit of Satan. "But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Matthew 16:23). The Lord knew who was telling Peter to speak the way he did. Jesus loved Peter and brought him out of a spiritual blindness and returned him to Jesus' favor. So, we see that God does the same for us, and He wants us to accept His rebuke and take heed to His Word.

God loves us brothers and sisters. He provides the body with the necessary antibiotics to heal itself and to return it to good form. We have each other, and we should accept that the Word of God corrects the body and keeps it from the harms of Satan. We should see that our reprimand comes from God through His faithful servants and allows us to correct ourselves and help each other to become better children for His kingdom.

Christ's Millennial Reign

By David DeLong

After Daniel had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image, down to its feet and toes, he then



Philippines

commented: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be

destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure" (Daniel 2:44-45).

We are still awaiting this grand event called "the thousand year reign of Christ" or "the millennium". The stone in the scriptural passage above represents Christ (see Matthew 21:42 and other Scriptures where Christ is symbolized as a stone). Daniel 2:35 reads, "...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." As we will see, a mountain can symbolize a kingdom, and thus Christ's kingdom will soon fill the whole earth. What will that kingdom be like? Let us now investigate the Scriptures for a partial answer to this important question.

Christ's millennial reign will be preceded by the sound of a great trumpet. First Corinthians 15:52 calls this trumpet "the last trump". First Thessalonians 4:16 refers to it as "the trump of God". We read in Isaiah 27:12-13: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem."

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 24:27-31: "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect

from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

From these passages of Scripture, as well as from others, we can discern that when the great trumpet of God is blown, His redeemed people will be raised from the dead, "changed", and "caught up together" to be with the Lord (see I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:13-17). This is known as the first resurrection (see Revelation 20:4-6). Also at this time, as we read in Isaiah 27, some of the children of Israel, some in Assyria, and some in Egypt will come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. (See also Zechariah 14:18-19).

Notice how parts of these events are summarized in Revelation 6:12-17: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

So then God's people, the church, will be saved at that time; the children of Israel will soon be given their chance to be saved (see Romans 11:7-32); and the whole unrepentant world (unbelievers) will enter the time of God's wrath known as "the seven last plagues" (see Revelation 16:1-21). Christ's coming will actually be in two parts: the reaping phase, and the warring phase. In the reaping phase, He will come to gather His saints (His redeemed people) *before* the seven last plagues are poured out upon the earth. In the warring phase, He will come with His saints (who have already been caught up to be with Him) *at the time* of the sixth plague which is the Battle of Armageddon.

To differentiate these two phases of Christ's second coming, we turn to a couple of passages in the book of Revelation. Chapter 14, verses 14-16 gives us a look at the reaping phase. "And I looked, and behold a white

cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped." We see here that Christ is wearing one crown and that He has a sickle with which to reap the earth (this is the reaping of the saints).

Now we turn to chapter 19:11-16 to view the warring phase. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Here we see that Christ has many crowns upon His head. A sharp sword goes out of His mouth with which to "smite the nations". His "armies" are made up of those who wear fine, white linen, which is the "righteousness of saints" (see verses 7-8; also Zechariah 14:1-7).

Where will the saints of God be during the time when the plagues are being poured out upon the earth? Let us read the answer. "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:1-2). The saints will be standing upon "the sea of glass" which is another term for the city of God, the New Jerusalem. The city, which is made of pure gold, will be clear like glass (see Revelation 21:9-11,18).

The children of Israel, though they will still be given a

chance to accept Christ, will be on the earth as these events are happening. In the book of Daniel, chapter 12, we get a glimpse of their plight yet to take place. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (verse 1). The book mentioned here is possibly the Book of Life. Those who have their names recorded in this book will be delivered from this terrible "time of trouble".

Jeremiah calls this time of trouble, "Jacob's trouble". "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7). Jacob's trouble may include the seven last plagues. But just like the time when the children of Israel were delivered from the plagues in Egypt (see Exodus 8:22-23; 9:26), it may be that they will be delivered from these plagues as well (please compare these passages with Revelation 12:13-14, where Israel is "...nourished for a time, and times, and half a time...").

When the seventh angel blows his trumpet, ushering in the seventh plague, we find, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). In connection with this seventh trumpet, John informs us: "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets" (Revelation 10:7).

At this time, God will set up the kingdom which we read about in Daniel, chapter 2. Zechariah 14:9 declares: "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one." This kingdom's government will be given to God's Son, Jesus Christ, to administer for 1,000 years. Concerning Christ, we read: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice

from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Satan will be chained in the bottomless pit, and those who are in the first resurrection will sit upon thrones reigning with Christ. We read of this in Revelation 20:1-4. "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. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (see also verses 5-6).

In Revelation 3:21, Christ makes this wonderful promise to His followers: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." This will be the time of judgment which is given to the saints as found in Daniel, chapter 7. Verses 19-22 records: "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."

In Luke 19, Jesus gave a parable known to us as the "Parable of the ten pounds". In verses 16-19 the Lord gave two of His servants authority over 10 cities and 5 cities, respectively. Even though this is a parable, Jesus appears to be teaching that His faithful servants will some

day be given authority to rule over real cities. Indeed, Jesus made it plain that the original 12 apostles will be sitting upon 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel (see Matthew 19:27-28). Isaiah 30, verses 19-21, is most interesting. This passage informs us: "For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Who are these teachers that the people in Zion will see? Very possibly they will be those whom the Lord has appointed as rulers during the kingdom age.

In any event, we know from Isaiah two that God's Law will go forth from Zion. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (verses 2-3). The word "mountain" in verse 2 probably refers to God's kingdom (see Daniel 2:34-35,44-45).

Now the children of Israel will be presented to the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, and will be given a chance to accept Him as such. "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10). We continue in chapter 13: "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness...And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (verses

1,6).

Ezekiel 39:25-29 sums up these thoughts beautifully. "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."

After David has been resurrected, he will be appointed as Israel's prince. "Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle. And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it" (Ezekiel 34:22-24).

In Ezekiel, chapters 40-48, we see what the future of restored Israel will be. The temple services will be initiated once again; the Lord's glory will be in the midst of His people; the prince will have a special place in the restored services; the land will be divided by lot for their inheritance; and there will be a cleansing of the land by the river that flows from the sanctuary. Zechariah 14:8 reads: "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be."

Notice the wonderful words of Isaiah 4:3-6: "And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create upon every

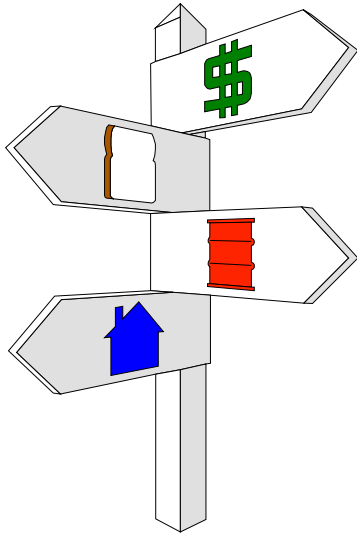
dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

It has been speculated that this "tabernacle for a shadow" is the the New Jerusalem which may be hovering over the land of Israel at this time. Certainly such a shadow could shade the people from the heat, as well as be "a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." It may be that the living waters mentioned earlier flow out from the New Jerusalem and cascade down upon the sanctuary in Jerusalem (compare Revelation 22:1-2 with Ezekiel 47:1-12).

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

Once again, let us take notice that others besides Israel will become God's people. "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance" (Isaiah 19:23-25)

It appears that the average life span for mortals will be, at this time, 100 years (see Isaiah 65:20). The Sabbath and the clean and unclean will still be observed (see chapter 66:15-17,23). Then, after 1,000 years, Jesus will turn the kingdom over to God. "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (I Corinthians 15:28; see also 24-28).



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.

JESUS SEMINAR to mark 25 years of QUESTIONS Group once criticized for showing Jesus as more human than divine turning to other pursuits

By G. Jeffery MacDonald
Religion News Service

Since 1985, scholars affiliated with the Jesus Seminar have been casting doubt on the authenticity of sayings attributed to Jesus and questioning whether he saw Himself as an end-times prophet.

As the seminar marks its 25th anniversary Oct. 13-16 in Santa Rosa, Calif., it's generating far less attention and controversy than in years past, when the media spotlight gave members a platform to reach millions.

Now observers are debating a new question: What difference has the Jesus Seminar made?

Among the seminar's 100 fellows is a strong sense that the group has effectively made the general public more aware of questions surrounding the so-called "historical Jesus."

For example: By using color-coded beads to vote on whether Jesus likely said this or that, the group captured widespread attention, said John Dominic Crossan, chair of the 25th anniversary event.

"When some of our critics said, 'These guys are seeking publicity,' we said 'Duh! That's the whole purpose!'" Crossan said. "We wanted people to know

what we were doing. That was the whole purpose of the voting with colored beads and all the rest of that paraphernalia."

Critics of the Jesus Seminar concede that the group deftly drew the spotlight and got a cross-section of people talking about Jesus. But they also fault the scholars for allegedly misrepresenting their views as mainstream and for shaking the faith of Christian communities.

"They created this impression that they were representing a genuine consensus of opinion that Jesus only said 18 percent of what's attributed to Him in the Gospels and so on," Duke Divinity School Dean Richard Hays said. "In point of fact, that was never so. They didn't represent the sort of consensus that they claimed to represent."

The Jesus Seminar held its first meeting in Berkeley Calif., as 35 individuals, mostly scholars, responded to an invitation from the late Robert Funk, who died in 2005.

Having rejected the fundamentalism of his youth, Funk was eager to assemble scholars to dispel what he considered to be mistaken church teachings about Jesus, according to Lane McGaughey, a member of the seminar since its beginning.

What emerged from the group's seminar meeting was a sense of Jesus as human, not divine, rising to prominence because of His social justice teachings, not

because of His messianic status.

Critics say the Jesus Seminar has long been an agenda-driven project marked by flawed methodology.

Fellows of the seminar defend its methods and its impact.

Crossan says that through the seminar, scholars fulfilled a moral duty to make their insights accessible to rank-and-file Christians and other curious people, not just academic journals.

McGaughy goes even further, saying the seminar, in presenting a historical and human Jesus, helped make Christianity meaningful for people who stopped believing doctrine and left the church.

After more than two decades of examining the Gospels, the Jesus Seminar is moving on. Fellows continue to meet, but they now focus on the biblical book of Acts and the letters of Paul. One umbrella group will in October publish *The Authentic Letters of Paul*.

As the seminar moves beyond Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, critics say the initiative has ceased to compel public interest. Ben Witherington, professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, sees the lack of public attention as a sign that the seminar is now largely irrelevant to public conversation about religion and culture.

“There is in a way less criticism of the Jesus Seminar now and less publicity in fact because our work has been accepted. It’s no longer regarded as on the fringes,” McGaughy said.

--From Belief

Comment

The Jesus Seminar has blasphemed our Lord Jesus Christ for over twenty-five years, and they are still doing it! Now they have expanded their blasphemy even further by using their own human reasoning about the accuracy of the Book of Acts and the writings of the Apostle Paul. The Jesus Seminar is nothing new. There have always been those who want to believe only the parts of God’s Word that make them comfortable.

Jesus said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). As to His own words, Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). Jesus only spoke as

His Father directed Him to speak.

The words in the Book of Acts and the letters of the Apostle Paul are also true when we remember what Jesus said in John 17:17. The Book of Acts and the Letters of Paul are true because they are part of the Word of God.

Man, in his carnal mind, wants only to do his own thing. Therefore he feels free to invent his own theology. Yes, Jesus was an end-time prophet. Please read Matthew 24 and 25 for proof.

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also” (I John 2:22-23)

FOUR IN 10 AMERICANS BELIEVE IN CREATIONISM

By Daniel Burke

Religion News Service

Four in 10 Americans believe that God created humans in something like their present form within the last 10,000 years, according to a new Gallop Poll.

While the percentage represents a slight dip from 2008, when 44 percent said they do not believe divinely made humans evolved over time, it has remained stable since 1982, the earliest year for which Gallop provided data.

Nearly as many Americans (38 percent in 2010) say they believe humans evolved over time, but that God guided the process. That percentage, too, has remained consistent since 1982.

Meanwhile, the number of Americans who believe humans evolved apart from any divine intervention crept up from 14 percent in 2008 to 16 percent this year. With few exceptions, that number has risen – albeit slightly – from 1982.

--From Belief

Comment

One in four is a small percentage! It probably is low in other countries. If one does not believe in the direct creation of man by God, why make an effort to serve God? By denying that God directly created man, one makes God a liar!

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily

shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (II Peter 2:1). Please pay particular attention to the words “even denying the Lord that bought them.” No matter which way it is taught, evolution is a damnable heresy!

Personal About Going To Heaven

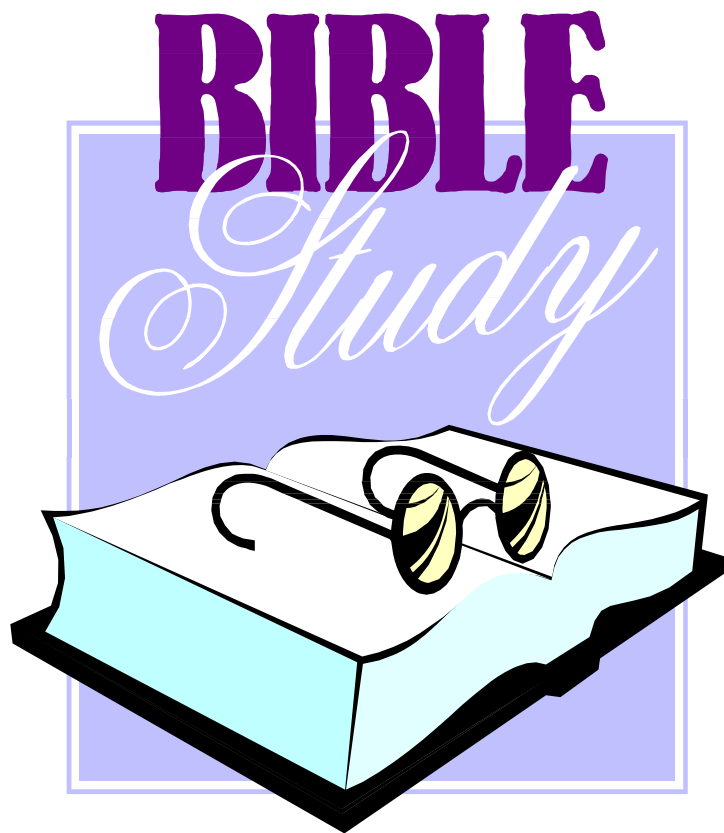
I came across an article which read that the majority of Protestants and evangelicals believe that good people

and people of other religions can go to heaven.

The article mentioned the “Aunt Susan” theory. It read that Aunt Susan is the nice friend of a family member who is well-loved and is an all around do-gooder, therefore Aunt Susan is destined to go to heaven.

The contents of this article shows a real lack of knowledge of the plan God has for man and His kingdom that will be established on this earth where man will learn righteousness.

B.T.



Questions

and

Answers

Question: I have friends who believe that the end justifies the means. I know this is not so. How shall I answer them?

Answer: Let us consider the “end” of the “means” as a reward. The proper understanding of rewards for deeds that are done appears to be lacking in these latter days. The thought that for every deed there is a resulting reward

is losing its significance in these times. The trend, or popular way of thought, is not to concern one’s self with the end result of an act or acts that he may do, but rather do it regardless of the outcome. One of the excuses coming forth in recent times is “the end will justify the means” no matter what the means (methods) might be. As we examine this in the light of honesty and truth and

common sense, we realize right away this thought to be completely out of line, to which the Holy Scriptures confirm. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). The man Eliphaz confirms this thought when he said, “Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same” (Job 4:8).

Consider these examples for a moment. When a farmer makes a decision to have a wheat crop, does he then plant barley seeds in the ground? If a person studies to become a lawyer, does he seek knowledge from a carpenter? When a young girl seeks to learn the proper ways of becoming a wife and mother, does she learn the ways of her father in his daily work? As we can see, the answer to all these questions is no. To have wheat, one must plant wheat, and the young girl must learn from her mother to become a wife and mother. We then see that we reap the rewards of that which we place an effort into.

There is a reward for all the deeds that we do. David said, “... the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness” (II Samuel 3:39). We are reminded in Proverbs 11:18 that, “The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.” There are some rewards that will come sooner while others may not be given for many years. Nevertheless, all deeds will have their due rewards, for there are only two kinds of deeds. They are those of righteousness and those of wickedness. Everything under the sun falls into either of these classes. There is no half-way point or shady area such as some may think. In these last days, the thought of half-right is the trend, and in so-called modern circles the idea that everyone has to have one “vice” in their life is a commonplace practice. This is an abomination unto the Lord as we can understand in Revelation 3:16. The angel wrote to the church of the Laodiceans, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16). The reward for half-way is the same as that of complete wickedness.

There are many who confuse rewards and gifts. In the Scriptures, those who follow the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ are given the gift of eternal life by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Also they are given certain other gifts with which they may further the name of the Lord to the world about them. These are the gifts bestowed upon all true believers and are not to be confused with rewards. The gifts in the Church of God are outlined in I Corinthians 12:1-11. These are not rewards for what the saints have done but rather gifts to be used so that the saints may do. After using these gifts, to the best of our abilities as long as God gives us life, we then may reap a reward accordingly. Let us not confuse God’s gifts and His rewards. This also shows to us that we are expected to place an effort into our lives each day in behalf of the Lord. Through the indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit and the other gifts for spiritual use, we will be able to accomplish the mission, or work, that God has planned for us.

To all who study the Bible, it is very plain to see that there is a coming reward for all wickedness on Judgment Day. Let us consider for a few moments some rewards that are given during our lives. One of the most outstanding examples of this is found in the record of David due to his committing adultery with another man’s wife. Because of David’s great wickedness which displeased the Lord, certain rewards were pronounced through Nathan the prophet of the Lord. The pages of Scripture tell of the fulfilling of these rewards for David’s wickedness. Here we have an account of a reward given to a man during his lifetime. In the book of Job, we read of Job who was blessed by the Lord for following the Lord even after all of his possessions were taken from him. Because of his faithfulness, Job received more after his trials than he had before his trials. This is a good example of a reward for righteousness. We need to consider, however, that just because we follow the Lord in our lives, we should not expect to receive abundant material blessings. There are spiritual rewards given to us during our lifetimes that far surpass any material blessings we can ever have. These spiritual rewards will help us to have a more content and

peaceful life each day, and they will help bring others to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ thus bringing a future reward to us in the Kingdom during the reign of Jesus Christ.

Jesus made some wise statements about rewards when He said in Matthew 6:1-4, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." These few words from the Lord certainly leave us with something to think about as we live our daily lives for Him. It is so easy to do things in the sight of our fellow man, knowing we will be complimented for it, and we will think, "Oh what a nice person he or she is!" This can cause us to desire to do more, knowing it will be known and approved by all. However, this is not what the Lord desires from His people. If we begin to act with the only intent of being nicely thought about by everyone, we are not pleasing the Lord. Our reward for this will not be in heaven, but rather here on earth in the hearts of the world around us. When was the last time we did something for another person and no one ever knew about it? How long ago has it been since we allowed ourselves to be moved back so another could have first chance, and that person never knew you did it? It is this kind of thinking and deeds that the Lord is speaking of here. What we are speaking of here is about the word "charity", and the Lord expects this in our lives each day as we live for Him in sincerity and truth. The actions resulting from these Christ-like thoughts within us certainly will not reap any immediate material blessing. However, they will help to give us contentment and peace of mind that cannot be obtained by any other way of living. This is the fruits of the Holy Spirit of God. For all of those following in this way, Jesus promises a great reward in due time.

In the Scriptures, we are given a brief look at the rewards to be given to those who follow the Lord during their lives. The Bible informs us in Revelation 5:10 that God's saints will be "kings and priests," and they will "reign on the earth." We are not given a detailed outline of the rewards given, but we are provided with enough information to know that God's saints will be rewarded. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:12-26 further outline God's rewards for faithfulness. Herein also is described a reward for unfaithfulness. These thoughts expressed by our Lord should cause us to examine ourselves to see if we are conducting ourselves according to His Word. We will be held accountable and a just reward given at God's appointed time.

It is very plain to understand that there will be a reward given for our actions during our lives, be it righteous or wicked. The so-called modern ides wherein we should not worry about the end results of our deeds is only another lie coming from the father of lies, the Devil. The world so easily gives in to this lie. When covered over with some shady reasoning, it begins to appear logical. It is one of the tricks of Satan, and God's people need to be aware. Let us consider our deeds in the light of the Word of God, thereby pressing on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).





These photos were taken during the time of the Lord's Supper.





LESSON I

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-26.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:2.

“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

1. What words did God speak to the children of Israel? Exodus 20:3-17. If you do not already know these Ten Commandments by heart, let us all try to memorize them.
2. What did the people see on the mount after this, and what did they do? Exodus 20:18.
3. Were the people afraid? What did they say to Moses, and what was his reply to them? Exodus 20:19-20.
4. Where did the people stand, and where did Moses stand? Exodus 20:21.
5. What did the Lord tell Moses, and what were they to make? Exodus 20:22-26. Were the children of Israel promised a blessing of obeying God in this request?

NOTE: In Chapters 21-31 of Exodus, the children of Israel are given additional laws and ordinances that they are to keep.

6. What did God give to Moses when He finished talking to him on Mt. Sinai? Exodus 31:18.

NOTE: The Ten Commandments were written on these two stones.

7. Are we to keep the Ten Commandments still today? Ecclesiastes 12:13; Revelation 22:14.

The darkness of the night cannot extinguish the smallest candle.

LESSON II

THE GOLDEN CALF

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:7.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.”

NOTE: Moses is still talking to and receiving instruction from God. He was delayed in coming back down to the people. Let us see what the children of Israel have done while Moses is talking with God.

1. What did the people ask Aaron to do for them? Exodus 32:1.
2. Did Aaron listen to them? What did he ask the women and daughters to do? Exodus 32:2.
3. What did Aaron do with the golden earrings? Exodus 32:3-4.
4. When Aaron had finished the altar, what did the people do? Exodus 32:5-6.
5. How did the Lord instruct Moses when He saw what the children of Israel were doing? Exodus 32:7-9.
6. Was the Lord angry with them? Exodus 32:10.
7. How did Moses plead with God to be merciful unto them? Exodus 32:11-13.
8. Did the Lord repent of the evil which He thought to do unto them? Exodus 32:14.
9. What did Moses have with him when he came down from the mount? Were these writings of God or Moses? Exodus 32:15-16.

***** ANSWER TO WHO IS IT? — AARON. *****

LESSON III

MOSES BREAKS THE TABLES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:17-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:19 (last part).

“...and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.”

NOTE: While Moses was in the mount talking with God, the children of Israel had Aaron to make them a golden calf and worshipped it. Now let us study to see what happens to them for disobeying God.

1. When Moses came nigh unto the camp, what did he do as a result of his anger? Exodus 32:19.
2. What did Moses do with the calf? Exodus 32:20.
3. When Moses asked Aaron why he had done this, what was Aaron’s excuse? Exodus 32:21-24.
4. Moses stood in the gate of the camp. What question did he ask the people? Who gathered unto him? Exodus 32:26.
5. What were the children of Levi instructed to do to the people? How many were slain that day? Exodus 32:27-28.
6. Why was Moses going back unto the Lord the next day? Exodus 32:30.
7. When Moses returned unto God, did he plead for God to forgive their sins? Exodus 32:31-32.
8. Did the Lord forgive them? Where was Moses instructed to lead the people? Exodus 32:33-34.
9. What did the Lord do to the people because they made the calf? Exodus 32:35.

LESSON IV

GOD TALKS WITH MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:1-11.

Golden Text: Exodus 33:11 (first part).

“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...”

1. What does the Lord tell Moses to do in Exodus 33:1?
2. What was the Lord going to do before Moses and the Israelites? Exodus 33:2-3.
3. Were the people happy when they heard what the Lord said about them? Exodus 33:4.
4. What did the Lord then tell Moses to say unto the children of Israel, and did they obey him? Exodus 33:5-6.
5. Where did Moses put the tabernacle? What did he call the tabernacle? Exodus 33:7.
6. What did the people do when Moses went out unto the tabernacle? Exodus 33:8.
7. What stood at the door of the tabernacle as Moses entered? Exodus 33:9.
8. Did the people worship the Lord when they saw the cloudy pillar at the door? Did the Lord speak to Moses at this time? Exodus 33:10-11.

WHO IS IT?

This man was spokesman for Moses
 Before the King Pharaoh,
 When the plagues were sent because he refused
 To let the Israelites go;
 He became high priest and took care of
 The tabernacle of the Lord;
 And offered the burnt sacrifice
 According to His Word.

SUSAN'S IDEA

There once lived a small girl named, Susan. God was the head of the house she lived in. Every night Susan's family, including her parents and her sister Sally, sat in the living room while Mother read from the Bible, and Father prayed. They also sang songs of praise. Susan liked these worship services. They made her feel that God was very close to her. She liked to hear the Bible stories especially.

One night, when it was almost time for worship, something happened! A storm came up! The wind blew hard. It blew so hard that the electric light wires were broken down and so the lights were out all over the house. It was very, very dark.

Susan and her brothers and sister Sally had a hard time walking from one room to another. They stumbled over things, and one of her brothers took a tumble before they all found their way into the living room.

Their father's voice spoke from the darkness, "It is too dark for Mother to read a story tonight so we will have a prayer and go to bed."

Susan was very disappointed. "But," she thought, "if it's too dark to see, can't we ...?" then she had an idea! She groped out into the darkness near where she sat, and finding her mother, whispered something to her.

Mother said, "Of course, Susan!" So Mother and Susan felt their way out of the room. When they came back, Susan had a candle. It was the candle she sometimes used when she went upstairs to bed.

"Now," she exclaimed, "Mother can read us a Bible story!" So Mother read a story before they had prayer.

"...and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). Here it spoke of a child leading the beasts in the new kingdom, but a child can lead older people into the ways of God, too, just as Susan found a way to show her love for God and made it possible for the family to hear more about Him.

JESUS TEACHING HOW TO PRAY

Jesus often rose very early in the morning to talk to His Father in heaven. The disciples saw that His face looked happy and strong when He came back from praying. They said "Master, teach us to pray."

Upon the quiet mountain, Jesus sat down with His disciples around Him. He told them that they might call God their Father. He taught them the Lord's prayer. If they received no answer at once, Jesus told them to keep asking and seeking in prayer. "If you ask your father on earth for bread, would he give you a stone?" He asked them. They shook their heads. "If you give good things to your children, how much more will the heavenly father give good things to you when you ask Him!" said Jesus.

One day Jesus told them the story of men who came into the temple to pray. One wore fine clothes and held his head proudly high. He was a wise teacher called a Pharisee. The other was a man who collected taxes. He was called a publican. All the tax collectors were hated because they took too much money from the people.

As the proud man went along, he was thinking what a good man he was, He kept himself holy, and obeyed the law, and gave money to the poor. He walked to the front of the temple and prayed so that all might hear him, "O God, thank Thee that I am not wicked like other men. I am not like the publican." Then he went on about good deeds which he did.

The publican found a dark corner in which to stand. He bowed his head, and cried out to God to forgive him. His heart was full of sorrow for his sins. Then he turned and went away happy, for he knew that God had heard him and had forgiven him. But the rich man received nothing from God, for he had asked for nothing. He had only told God how good he was, and had not asked to be forgiven.

Jesus taught His disciples that God heard the prayer of the man who was sorry for his sin, but not the prayer of the proud teacher.

BIBLE VERSES

1. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."
2. "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy."
3. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
4. "Judge not that ye be not judged."
5. "Jesus wept."
6. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

We have listed six Bible texts above. Below in the puzzle you will find each of the words from each text listed. See how many you can find.



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Sanctuary To The Mind

By David DeLong

When evil presses in to tempt,
(There is no person who's exempt;)
O urgently, then, one must find
A sanctuary to the mind.

All doors of access must be shut
To keep the heathen from our hut;
In solitude and peace, aligned,
Find sanctuary to the mind.

But more than just a noble thought
Is needed, now, to win what's sought;
The Scriptures, as God's Word, defined
Is sanctuary to the mind.

Then, whatsoever things are pure,
And whatsoever things endure;
Upon these subjects, good and kind,
Make sanctuary to the mind.

No harm can come when Christ takes charge,
Though all the demons be at large;
He'll with His Holy Spirit, bind
A sanctuary to the mind.

