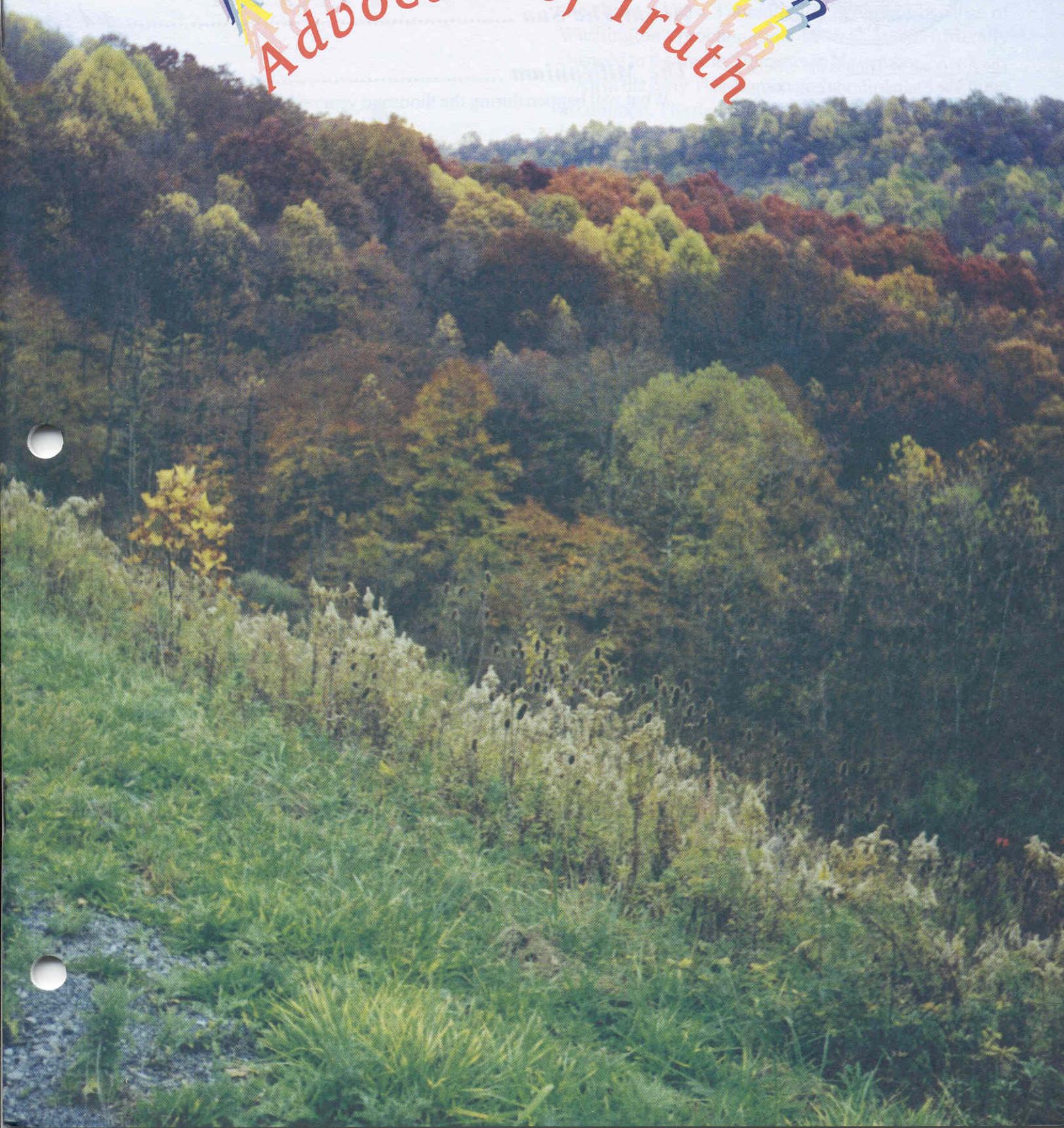


Advocate of Truth



THE THANKSGIVING STORY



Though it was not called Thanksgiving at the time, what we recognize as the first Thanksgiving feast was celebrated in 1621 by the pilgrims of the Plymouth colony along with about 90 Wampanoag Indians. The Pilgrims had suffered through a devastating winter in which nearly half their number died. Without the help of the Indians, all would have perished.

After the first harvest, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer to God. The food, which was eaten outdoors, included corn, geese, turkeys, ducks, leeks, plums, cod, bass, barley, venison and corn bread. The feast lasted three days. Though the exact date is unknown, the feast clearly took place in late autumn.

In 1663, a period of drought was answered by colonists with a proclamation of prayer and fasting. This prayer and fasting was changed to another thanksgiving celebration when rains came during the prayers. Later that year, Governor Bradford proclaimed November 29 as a time for pilgrims to gather and "listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."

Throughout American history, there were many thanksgiving proclamations and celebrations. In 1789, George

Washington proclaimed a National Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday in November, in honor of the new United States Constitution. Thomas Jefferson, the third president, later discontinued it, calling it "a kingly practice."

In 1863, Sarah Josepha Hale, the author of the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb," convinced Abraham Lincoln to proclaim Thanksgiving a national holiday. For the date, she chose the last Thursday in November because of Washington's proclamation. In 1941, it was officially changed to the fourth Thursday in November.

All of the early Thanksgiving celebrations had one thing in common. The thanksgiving was directed toward God. It did not matter that many had very hard times. The people knew that God was their creator and provider and that all good things ultimately came from Him.

7

THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

THE SUN

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. It was created to rule the day.
"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also" (Genesis 1:14-16).

2. During a battle with the Amorites, it actually stood still. "Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel" (Joshua 10:12-14).

3. The Lord God is a sun and shield. "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

4. It was an object of worship (and continues to be). "And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the

Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east" (Ezekiel 8:16).

5. Jeremiah was told that the images of Bethshemesh (house of sun) would be broken in Egypt. "He shall break also the images of Beth-she-mesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire" (Jeremiah 43:13).

6. Jesus said that the righteous will shine as the sun. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 13:43).

7. We will not need the sun in the future. "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:23).

NOTE: Symbolically, the sun is like God and the moon is like Jesus. The moon reflects the sun. Did not Jesus say in John 5:30: "I can of mine own self do nothing:....." Jesus perfectly reflects the Father.

THE MILLENNIUM

By Seigfreid Maywald



After the great wrath of God is over, we enter into the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. What two great events mark the begin-

ning of the one thousand years period of restitution of all things?

1. The prophecy of Acts 3:20-21: "And **he shall**

send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: **Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." This prophecy is then fulfilled and **Jesus will rule** as the Son of the Highest (Luke 1:32). "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful" (Revelation 21:5).

All things on earth need to be restored and cleaned from the pollutants men have caused upon the earth. In their greed for money, they not only polluted the soil, but also the waters in rivers, even the air we breathe, and now we are informed that the oceans can no longer withstand the pollutants man dumps into them. The whole environment of the earth is under stress and groaning.

2. The prophecy of Revelation 20:1-3: "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."

First, we note that Jesus Christ is sent by God the Father to begin the restitution of all things here on earth and to restore all that had been polluted and destroyed by man to its original perfect state.

Second, we see that the Devil, the old Serpent, is bound and unable to deceive the nations any more till after the thousand years are over. He can not stir up strife which is important for Jesus Christ to be successful in His mission.

Now let us turn our attention to all the followers of Jesus Christ, to those who had not worshiped the beast nor received its mark. What happens to them?

What reference is made to all the martyrs among the dead and their future work? In I Thessalonians 4:16-17 we read: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Note: We meet the Lord in the air, not somewhere in heaven.

In Revelation 20:4 we read: "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.**"

Where will this 1000-year reign take place? In Revelation 5:9-10 we read: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. **And hast made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth.**" Note: We will reign with Him on earth, not in heaven!

Daniel 7:27 tells us: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven (referring to the earth's atmosphere), shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." If there are dominions left on earth to be ruled over, then there also must be people left alive to be ruled. Remember that God made a promise to Noah that he will never destroy all life on earth ever again. We read in Genesis 9:16: "And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth."

II Peter 3:7 further informs us that: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**"

For: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it" (Isaiah 13:9). Only the wicked and ungodly will be destroyed and not all people living on earth!

In Zechariah 13:8-9 we are told, "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is

my God." Note: There will be people left of all the nations.

In Matthew 24:21-22 we are even told that: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:** but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

God will have to interfere in the affairs of man, otherwise no flesh will be saved alive. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved," (Matthew 24:13). "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and **I will be his God, and he shall be my son**" (Revelation 21:7).

Now note what Revelation 20:5-6 indicates: "But the rest of the dead (all those who died and had rejected Jesus and or accepted the worship and the mark of the beast) lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**" We see here that only the saints will take part in the first resurrection, and **the wicked** will remain in their grave and **will have to wait until the second resurrection** after the thousand years are over.

What conditions will exist during the Millennium? The Bible clearly states: "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

So we see that many people and nations will remain alive and active after the battle of Armageddon, and they all will enter the millennium reign of Jesus Christ. There will be needy people, even sinners and sick nations left alive on earth as we already saw indicated in Zechariah 13:8-9. They all will need healing. "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" (Zechariah 14:8).

All rivers bend their course toward some sea or other, some eastward some westward. It is through the inherent healing power of those physical waters that the message of Jesus Christ will be spread throughout the world. The

knowledge of God shall diffuse itself as the divine power goes along with these waters, because everyone and everything that touches these waters and is sick will be healed instantly.

In Zechariah 13:1 we read, "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.**" This indicates that a fountain will be opened for spiritual and physical cleaning and healing. **This is referring to the mind and body! "And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth (spiritually), which moveth (physically), whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh" (Ezekiel 47:9).**

If these waters would only be understood in a spiritual sense, the spreading of divine knowledge, as some try to imply, the physical aspect of the healing of peoples' sicknesses would be missed. Again, if it applies only to the spiritual aspect, why was the depth of the waters literally measured? Why then are there great multitudes of fishes therein present? (Ezekiel 47:3-5) The meaning here is both in the spiritual and physical realm.

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: if shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and **the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.**" (Ezekiel 47:12).

If there would only be spiritual beings left on earth at this time, then there would be no need for medicine, because spiritual beings do not get sick. Why would spiritual beings need healing waters? Think about that! Only the remaining physical bodies, earthly people, who are still living on earth during the time of the Millennium are in need of healing and are dependent on food! Spiritual beings can eat, but are not dependent on food for survival. Only physical beings are!

The conditions that will prevail in the millennium are:
1. Jesus will be king of kings and will judge and rebuke many people (Isaiah 2:4). The tabernacle of God is with man (Revelation 21:3). Fulfillment of Jesus words as seen in John 14:2-3. 2. All former war material will be turned into farm machinery and other goods which serve for the

benefit of men. War is not taught any more (Isaiah 2:4).
 3. The earth will be full of the knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:9). (Spiritual) 4. People will live in peace and will enjoy the fruit of their labor (Isaiah 65:23). (Physical) 5. Houses will be built and gardens planted, and none shall be driven away from his property (Isaiah 65:21-22). 6. The age of the people will be longer. "For as the days of a tree are the days of my people." For the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed." Note: There will be sinners living on earth during the Millennium. (Isaiah 65:20-22). 7. All deserts or wilderness areas will blossom and be like a garden of the Lord where joy, peace and gladness is found for the people (Isaiah 51:3, 65:17-25 and Ezekiel 36:35). 8. There will be healing for all sickness (Ezekiel 47:12) as indicated in Revelation 22:2). (Physical) 9. Animals will live in peace with one another and man, and none will hurt or destroy the other anymore (Isaiah 65:17). "Violence shall be no more heard in thy land" (Isaiah 60:18). (Physical) 10. "And he (Jesus) shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father" (Revelation 2:27). (Physical) 11. "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). (Physical) 12. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9). (both Spiritual & physical) 13. The nation and kingdom that will not serve the Lord shall perish (Isaiah 60:12). (Physical) 14. "All they that despised thee (the Lord) shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 60:14). (Spiritual)

What will be the condition of the Holy Land? "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the

young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:4-9). Refer also to Isaiah 65:18-25 and Psalms 110.

What event marks the closing of the 1000 - year Millennium? After the thousand years are past Satan, the Devil, will be loosed for a little season and again will deceive the people and bring new strife to earth (Revelation 20:7-10). Wickedness will again increase in the earth even after people had experienced the peace and harmony during Christ's reign as King of kings. Unbelievably, people again will be deceived by the Serpent, who is Satan, the Devil, and will assemble themselves together to battle. Note: Satan is going out himself to deceive. He does not leave the deceiving to others. His special tools this time will be Gog and Magog who denote the nations as a whole.

The word Magog is mentioned in Genesis 10:2 as the son of Japheth. In Ezekeil 38:2, 39:1, it refers to a land or country of which Gog is the chief prince.

And what will be the mission of those wicked people? "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 (New Jerusalem), and the beloved city (earthly Jerusalem):

But what calamity will happen? "and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Revelation 20:8-9). We see two different cities attacked by those people and also note that God the Father is still in heaven at this time!

What will happen then? "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (meaning complete destruction not continuous punishment" (Revelation 20:10).



THANKSGIVING

By Bond Tennant

In the United States of America, the fourth Thursday in November is set aside as a day of national thanksgiving to the Lord. This is good, but every day should be one of thanksgiving to the child of God who is abounding in all things and involved in following in the footsteps of the Master. If we are walking in the Master's footsteps, and are rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, we will find cause for thanksgiving in every experience of life. We will thank God for the sunshine and the rain, and we will thank Him for the sorrow and the pain.

There is a special significance in Paul's expression, "abounding with thanksgiving." "Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:7). Certainly, this implies that our thanksgiving will abound. If it does, will it not follow that our abounding will be manifested in every aspect of our daily walk? Will we be likely to hold resentment in our hearts toward those who vex us if we thank God for the trials which reach us through them? We will abound in our patient waiting on the Lord if we thank Him for the situations which He permits to test our loyalty and the depth of our consecration. If we are thankful to the Lord for every opportunity we have to sacrifice our lives in the service of the truth, we will not be likely to allow these opportunities to pass unused.

If we thank God for His word, and for the wonderful promise and instructions it contains, we will not be lax in studying His word in order to show ourselves approved unto Him.

If we daily thank God for His love and mercy through

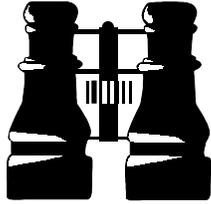
Christ in recognition of our great need of His atoning blood, it will keep us forcefully reminded of our own imperfections and make us more sympathetic toward our brethren whom we know are also acceptable to God through the merit of the Redeemer.

A faithful child of God is thankful. Those who abound in their thanksgiving will likewise abound in all things. These are the ones who will have an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:11).

PSALMS 106:1-5

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can shew forth all his praise? Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance."

WOULD A MICROSCOPE



OR



BINOCULARS BE NEEDED?

By Carol Buechner

A microscope is an instrument that is made up of lenses or a combination of lenses that make very small objects look larger so that they can be seen or studied. A microscope can enable you to see microorganisms or single cell animals that are not even visible to the human eye. Without a microscope, you would never know that such a thing exists. I remember seeing such an organism for the first time many years ago. A drop of water was placed on a glass slide and put on the microscope. As I looked through the lens of the microscope, I was fascinated to see the one cell protozoan moving about. It was almost like magic. What made this possible? It was the lens or combination of lenses that are special pieces of glass that enlarge the object as you look through them. This is called magnifying. There are many things in the world that you do not know exist. The only way you can know that they are there is if you look at them through magnifying lenses. There are magnifying glasses that are used to aid you in reading if the print is too small for you to read. Tiny print becomes large under a magnifying glass. Another object that has a similar effect is binoculars. They do not actually magnify objects but they make the objects appear closer to you, therefore they look bigger. There are two large turkeys and nine small ones that come out into my yard to eat. They usually do not come very close to the house, and I can not see them very well, so I watch them through binoculars. It seems as though they are right in front of me. I can see the feathers on them and the various colors displayed on their bodies. It is an enjoyable activity to see them run about the yard. I would never be able to get physically close to them because they would become

frightened and run away. The binoculars allow me to view them in a much more satisfying manner.

MAGNIFYING THROUGH FOCUSING

The microscope and binoculars remind you of the importance of the word MAGNIFY and the need to consider it with careful attention. The word magnify means to become larger, to make greater in size, importance or status. It can mean to glorify or extol. When you use a microscope, in order to clearly examine the specimen on the slide, you must focus the lens or what you see will be blurred and not be seen distinctly. There are devices to move to bring everything into focus. What does the word FOCUS mean? It means to bring about a clean, distinct and sharply defined image. It can also mean to fix, concentrate or settle your attention on a particular thing. If you are very interested in what you are focusing on, you give full attention to it, regard it carefully and study it intently. You are absorbed or engrossed by it, and you occupy your mind and thoughts with what it means and how it can affect your life.

WHAT SHOULD BE MAGNIFIED?

With all this in mind, what are you magnifying in your Christian life? What are you focusing on each day? How does all this affect those in contact with you? The best place to begin would be to point out where your focus should be, then determine what should be magnified. The Bible leaves no doubt about the answer. It is stated clearly

in several verses. Psalm 40:16 states: "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, **THE LORD BE MAGNIFIED.**" "And let **THY NAME BE MAGNIFIED FOR EVER, SAYING, THE LORD OF HOSTS IS THE GOD OVER ISRAEL...**" (II Samuel 7:26). "...**THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS WAS MAGNIFIED**" (Acts 19:17). "...**LET THE LORD BE MAGNIFIED,** which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant" (Psalm 35:27). "...**FOR THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD...**" (Psalm 138:2). "Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and **THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY MERCY,** which thou hast shown unto me in saving my life..." (Genesis 19:19). Can there be any doubt about what you should be focusing on and magnifying? **IT IS THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD, HIS MERCY AND HIS SON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

MAGNIFYING IS GLORIFYING

It is clear that God should be magnified. When you magnify God, you glorify Him. What does it mean to glorify? It is to **EXALT** or to rise in status, dignity or power. It is to **HONOR** which means to recognize with high regard, to elevate, pay tribute to, bring dignity or distinction to and to show worthy. It is to **ACCLAIM** or to give strong and enthusiastic approval. It is to **VENERATE** or look upon with feelings of deep respect. It is to **WORSHIP** or to be devoted to, show one's admiration or love for by engaging in prayer, praise and other such activities. It is to **PRAISE** or show admiration for, commend worthy and express approval through spoken words, singing, praying and actions that are complimentary. This all works together to show how one feels about God. These are all positive actions. You glorify God in everything that you do and say.

TWO WAYS TO MAGNIFY GOD

There are basically two ways in which you can magnify or glorify God. The **FIRST** way is **IN YOUR PERSONAL PRIVATE LIFE.** Your personal life would be just you alone and without anyone else. Your private life is by yourself, secluded, individual, separated, withdrawn, away from public view. This is what you think and do

solely on your own. This can be a choice of what you are going to do to develop your personality, thoughts, ideas and reactions to life. It is important that in your personal, private life, you establish a personal relationship with God through prayer, reading, meditating on and studying the word of God daily. "...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversations, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ...Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee..." (I Timothy 4:12-14). "Study to show 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. 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 3:15-17). "...yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Corinthians 4:16). If you know the scriptures, you will not be put to shame because you can discern the truth and you develop wisdom. In the verses in second Timothy three, it is stated that God's word is profitable or beneficial for learning doctrine, which are laws, teaching, or principles. The word is for reproof, which means rebuke, reprimand, admonition or correction and this aids in changing or removing mistakes, faults or untruths. The word is to instruct, which is to educate, give lessons, guidance, present facts and teach about righteousness, which is acting, doing and saying what is correct or godly. As a result of knowing God's word, you will be perfect, which is to be complete in all respects, sound or excellent, and thoroughly, absolutely and accurately furnished or supplied or equipped to do all kinds of good or godly works. You then are renewed or revived, refreshed, refitted or repaired every day in your mind, soul and spirit. You must do this through daily study of the Bible and meditation on what it means. It then becomes a process of applying it to your life. When you know the word of God, the Holy Spirit will quicken it in your heart and mind. It will be there when you need it. If you do not know the word, it will not be there for guidance. Simply listening to a sermon on Sabbath is not enough. It is only a "taste" when you need "the full meal." When you are filled with the word of God, you are ready for the trials of life as well as the blessings He sends. When you travel in

unknown areas, you need a road map to guide you. The Bible is your road map in your spiritual life. It is only useful if it is used.

Another important aspect of your personal, private life is **PRAYER**. This is your communication with God. It is the time you worship God, praise Him and express your love for Him. It is a time for thanking Him for all He has done. It is a time devoted to drawing close to God and establishing a bond with Him. It is a time to bring your requests, petitions, concerns, needs, etc., before Him. Prayer is necessary because the Bible states, "...Ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2). It also states, "Ask, and it shall be given you..." (Matthew 7:7). More advice is, "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus was certainly a prime example of prayer. He was the SON OF GOD yet He needed to spend much time praying to His Father. On the night preceding His death on the cross, Jesus spent much time in prayer. "Then cometh Jesus with them (the disciples) unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could you not watch with me one hour? He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them (the disciples) asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words" (Matthew 26:36,39,40,42-44). In Luke 22:44, there is a description of how Jesus was praying at this time. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." This was the kind of prayer that Jesus offered in His most trying time. It was not an, "Oh, God, help me!" prayer. It was an earnest, serious, intense, ardent, grave, solemn, fervent and passionate prayer in which Jesus sought the will of His father. Even His disciples were not able to stay awake and pray with Him at such a time of agony for Him. Jesus advised his disciples, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). If prayer was so important to Jesus while He was here on earth, then it should be just as important to us. When prayer and

reading of God's word dominate, govern or is foremost in your private life, you are prepared and ready to walk in the will of God as Jesus did. You are in a personal relationship with God in which you are magnifying and glorifying God because He is first in your life.

The **SECOND** way you can **MAGNIFY GOD** is **IN YOUR PUBLIC LIFE**. This is just the opposite of your personal, private life. This is what people see you do and say at home, in the neighborhood, at your job, in school, in church, in good times or trying times. Where you are and what you are doing should not change the way you act and speak. This is how you are recognized and what you are known for. It can be done in silence, through facial expression and body language or it can be done through what words you use (godly or ungodly) and how you react to other people (in the fruit of the spirit or works of the flesh). This is an extremely important part of your life because this is how you convey your personal inner life to others. This is how you become a witness or ambassador for Jesus or for Satan. If someone were to mention a name of a person you know, your mind immediately thinks about them in a certain way because of the things they do and say. Think of someone right now. Are they a godly person? Why or why not? For example, think of the name Paul. Does your mind immediately think of the Apostle Paul? Taking a look at an incident in his public life may help you understand the importance of maintaining a Godly life for all to see. "And when they **HAD LAID MANY STRIPES UPON THEM** (Paul and Silas), they **CAST THEM INTO PRISON**, charging the jailer to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and **MADE THEIR FEET FAST IN THE STOCKS**" (Acts 16:23-24). Both men have been severely beaten. They are bloody and in pain. Their feet are in stocks so they can not move around or do anything to stop the bleeding or soothe the painful wounds. The jail is dark, stuffy and smells bad. There are flies and other insects crawling all over them. Rats are running about. This is not a modern day jail that is air-conditioned, well lit, has television and medical help. Do you suppose you would hear Paul and Silas screaming, crying and yelling such words as this: "God, why did you let this happen to us? We are being treated terribly. Oh, our pain is awful. Help somebody, we need help! God, we have been your servants and you are allowing this to happen to us? Why, God, why? Oh,

we are suffering and can not bear the pain. Can you not do something to help us?" What does the Bible say Paul and Silas were doing? "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Verse 25). Can you hear them? "Oh, God, we love you, we glorify Your mighty name. We exalt you above all things because You created the heavens and earth. You are our strength and ever present help in this time of trouble. You are a god of power, might and victory. Nothing is impossible with You. Thank You God for taking care of us. We worship You because we have nothing to fear for You never leave us or forsake us." Then you may hear them sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer! Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer; In his arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there!" (WHAT A FRIEND- Written by Joseph Scriven). It is important to notice that everyone in the jail heard Paul and Silas singing, praying and praising God. Those hearing them must have wondered, "What is with these men? How can they be singing and praising their God after being beaten and are in stocks? What have they got that I do not have? Are they crazy?" What was the result of all of this? "And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed" (Verse 26). Paul and Silas did not escape from the jail, but they went to the jailer and told him they were there. Now comes the wonderful climax! "And they (Paul and Silas) spake unto him (the jailer) the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; AND WAS BAPTIZED, HE AND All His, straightway" (Verses 32-33). Many were converted and baptized! Would this have happened if Paul and Silas had been moaning and groaning over their situation? Absolutely not! It is signifi-

cant to note the reason Paul and Silas were beaten and put in jail. Was it a crime they committed? All they did was to remove the spirit of divination from a girl that was possessed. The masters of the girl were angry because their source of income from what the girl did as a soothsayer was now gone. The masters took Paul and Silas before the rulers and accused them and caused the crowd to become violent toward them. Ask yourself now, "Could I have maintained my faith in God and reacted as did Paul and Silas?" Maybe your public viewing would have been quite different. Possibly now you can see the impact that your public life can have on others.

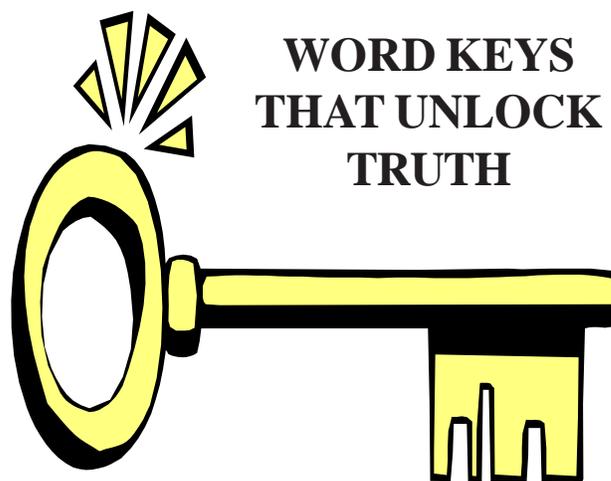
WHAT ARE YOU?

It can be concluded that, "Now then we are AM-BASSADORS FOR CHRIST..." (II Corinthians 5:20). An ambassador is a special representative or messenger sent on a particular, distinct or definite mission or service to perform. You are to be that person to represent Christ and bring others to salvation or redemption through Christ Jesus. That is your mission if you are a Christian. Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 6:19-20. "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." As you have learned, you become an ambassador in your private life by reading God's word, praying and spending much time with God in many ways. You become an ambassador in your public life by living and speaking what you have learned privately. You are ready to speak it boldly as Paul did. Paul further advises, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast PROFESSED A GOOD PROFESSION BEFORE MANY WITNESSES" (I Timothy 6:12). Many people are going to see you in your lifetime and what you portray to them in your life is vital to bringing others to salvation. Inspiring advice is given you in Hebrews 12:1-3: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the same, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, LEST YOU BE WEARIED AND FAINT IN YOUR MINDS." Look to Jesus and he will give you the strength for the race!

THE BINOCULARS AND MICROSCOPE

The question now is, "Would someone have to look through binoculars or examine you under a microscope in order to see you as an ambassador for Christ?" The way you live and talk should be an obvious statement of your Christian beliefs. Someone should not have to magnify you to see what your Christian walk is really like. They should not have to look so carefully under a lens to try to find out that you are a servant of God. It should be immediately obvious to an observer that you are magnifying God and the Lord Jesus Christ and that you are an ambassador for them. If you are not magnifying them, WHO ELSE COULD YOU BE MAGNIFYING? Quite possibly it is Satan! Do you really want to magnify him? If you are not living to magnify God, consider changing now. Make whatever changes need to be made in your personal, private life and in your public life. The signs point to the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ! ARE YOU READY? How many others have you brought to know the Lord Jesus Christ so that they will be ready? Let us stand together and magnify God now and not be ashamed to profess Him to others! "Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever: and blessed by thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" (Nehemiah 9:5-6). "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name" (I Chronicles 29:11-13).



**WORD KEYS
THAT UNLOCK
TRUTH**

MIND

The Apostle Paul tells us to have the same mind in us which was also in Jesus Christ. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). Exactly what does that mean?

We know that it does not mean that we can develop a mind with the capabilities of Jesus, who was a perfect and sinless Man while He was on earth. Even on our best days, this is impossible! However, we can develop the same attitude toward things that Jesus had. Philippians 2:6-8 makes it clear that "mind" in verse five refers to His attitude of humility.

The Greek word for "mind" in verse five (phroneo) is used in other places, and there it is translated "regard," "savour" or "think." In Colossians 3:2, phroneo is translated "affection." We are told to set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." What this means is that our minds are to have a burning passion for the ways and things of God.



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.

The following article appeared in USA Today.

BUG OUTBREAKS CLOUD USA

by Patrick O'Driscoll
USA TODAY

Wildfires in Oregon, California, Colorado and Arizona. Flash floods in Texas, Idaho, New Mexico and Nebraska. Drought just about everywhere else. What could be next for the West this summer - biblical plagues of locusts?

Well, yes. Across the parched western half of the USA, creepy-crawlies are burrowing through forests, invading rangelands and chomping on crops, making an already bad season worse.

Bark beetles are attacking drought-withered pine, spruce and fir in parts of the same forests now in flames. Although some outbreaks go largely unseen in remote wilderness, others damage the scenic views from backyard foothills to popular tourist destinations such as Colorado's Vail resort.

Hordes of grasshoppers spawned by another mild winter and chronic dryness have hit Nebraska, several other states and Canadian provinces. Some infestations are the worst since the Great Depression, costing millions of dollars in lost crops and insecticide bills. Grasshoppers have even eaten the paint off homes.

"If you're an entomologist, it's quite interesting, but if you're a farmer, it's scary," says Greg Abbott of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a federal agency that battles agricultural pests. Bands of wing-

less Mormon crickets are marching cross-country in Utah, Nevada and Idaho, damaging vegetation and crawling over houses.

"They won't poison your cat and don't bite your children," says Abbott, cricket coordinator for Utah and Nevada. "But when they die, they stink to high heaven."

The bug woes aren't confined to the West.

The southern pin beetle, scourge of the South's forests, continues last year's assault, which killed trees valued at \$275.3 million. Midyear trends now show rising infestations in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia. A widespread outbreak continues across South Carolina.

And an outbreak of West Nile disease, which is carried by mosquitoes, has killed four people in Louisiana.

On Western ranches and farms, growers fight the grasshoppers and crickets with air-borne spraying. In woodlands, foresters use insecticides and "treat" beetle-prone areas by sprinkling the trees. They also use artificial sex hormones to lure bark beetles into "trap trees." The trees are then felled and hauled away to stop further infestation.

All the insects are part of the natural ecology of growth, decline and renewal. But scientists say the intensity of the beetle attack is another consequence of the mismanagement of overgrown forests. Some farmers and ranchers also accuse federal managers of not controlling grasshopper and cricket outbreaks that start on government land and spread to private lands.

The bark beetles can even foster a vicious cycle in which trees injured by forest fires become more susceptible to infestation. Those "host" trees, in turn, die and

become potential kindling for the next wildfire.

This year's insect invaders:

Bark beetles. These pests strike more than 1,560 square miles of Western forest a year. A Forest Service report last spring estimated that more than 32,800 square miles of Western forests - an area half the size of Florida - are at high risk of "significant" tree kills in the next 15 years. That's 6% of the West's 565,000 square miles of woodlands.

While grasshoppers and crickets destroy grass and crops, beetles kill by attacking the nutrient membrane beneath the bark and infecting trees with a fatal virus. The chief culprits:

Spruce beetle. As many as 80% of the trees on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula have been killed by this insect, which ravaged more than 4,500 square miles of Alaskan forests in the 1990s. Outbreaks in southern Utah have killed more than 3 million trees. A new infestation in the Colorado Rockies could become the most aggressive of all officials say.

A freak windstorm near Steamboat Springs, Colo., in 1997 blew down more than 20 square miles of spruce. The resulting jumble of deadwood became a breeding ground for beetles that have invaded more than 780 square miles of nearby forest. Experts fear that one-third of Colorado's mature spruce trees could be dead within the decade.

Mountain pine beetle. Outbreaks in South Dakota have turned broad swaths of forest in the Black Hills to rusty red. "For the homeowner or tourist who has enjoyed the view for the last 20 to 30 years from their cabin, it can be a real negative thing," Frank Cross of the Forest Service says.

Douglas fir beetle. Montana's fiery summer of 2000, in which 1,100 square miles of forest burned, set up the largest outbreak of this insect in state history. At least 156 square miles of Douglas fir, the predominant tree in Montana's forests, are infested. Drought and wild fire stress have made the trees "prime hosts" for the tiny bugs, says Peter Kolb, a former specialist for Montana State University's extension office.

Grasshoppers. Hundreds of species prey on green farm crops from hay to zucchini once drought dries up the brush and grasslands where they often emerge. This year, APHIS has charred numerous "hot spots" of serious outbreaks but not a widespread infestation in the West. Even

so, near Steamboat Springs, federal pest surveyors counted more than 200 grasshoppers per square yard, 25 times the threshold for economic damage to crops and rangeland.

Hardest hit is Nebraska, where pervasive drought already had forced many ranchers to pull cattle off parched rangelands early. Some banded together to spray insecticides at more than \$6 an acre.

Mormon crickets. This year's infestations in Utah and Nevada are the worst in more than 50 years, covering 4,700 square miles of Utah and more than 3,100 square miles of Nevada. The worst previous outbreak started in 1931 and lasted 17 years. It peaked with nearly 30,000 square miles infested in 11 Western states.

Native to the arid Great Basin region, this insect is named for the 1848 legend in which flocks of seagulls are said to have rescued the crops of Mormon pioneers by gorging on crickets and grasshoppers. Though not as destructive as the grasshopper, it has been known to chew through screen doors and travel as far as a mile a day.

Even as efforts to prepare for and treat insect outbreaks continue, "We cannot totally control these things," Abbott says. "Nature is going to bring us the relief, just like it brought us the suffering."

Comment

Bug outbreaks seem to be appearing all over the world. Jesus said in Matthew 24:7, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in diverse places." Notice the word famine. The insects destroy the trees and crops from which we depend upon for fruits and vegetables. They also destroy the land which provides food for the cattle, thereby causing a shortage of good clean meat. Truly, the bug outbreak is one of the signs of the times.

The following article appeared in the Houston Chronicle.

Body language: Security may soon get under your skin. A Florida company will seek government approval for a computer ID chip that would be implanted inside the body and could be used to store everything from secret codes to medical information. Applied Digital Solutions' VeriChip is another sign that September 11 has catapulted the effort to secure America into a realm with uncharted possibilities - and new fears for privacy.

-Associated Press

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Does this text prove that the soul is a separate entity from the body and that it can continue to live after the body does?

Answer: It does not when properly understood! The word "soul" is used into the Bible for the first time in Genesis 2:7. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." From this text, we learn that the soul is the being. It is clear that the living soul is the combination of the body animated by the breath of life. This indicates that the destruction of the body would mean the death of the soul, for there cannot be a soul, or living man, without a body.

Then what did Jesus mean when He spoke of those who are able to destroy the body but are not able to destroy the soul? This statement was made to His disciples whom He was sending out into the ministry of the Gospel. He warned them that they would be persecuted and perhaps be put to death. He wanted them to be assured that in the event they were killed, it would not mean their eternal destruction, for they would be restored to life in the resurrection.

Because God intends to raise the dead, He looks upon them as merely being asleep. The significance of the resurrection from this standpoint is shown by Jesus when He

said to the Sadducees: "Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him" (Luke 20:37-38).

This thought is stated from another standpoint in Matthew 16:25, where Jesus is quoted as saying, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." In sending his disciples into the ministry, Jesus was giving them an opportunity to sacrifice their lives in His name and in His service. He said that by doing this they would "find" their lives, which of course, could be only into the resurrection. Thus, while their enemies might destroy their bodies, their lives would be restored. Another interesting fact is that the Greek word translated "soul" in Matthew 10:28 is the same one that is translated "life" in Matthew 16:25.

Another interesting text bearing on the point is John 5:24. In His text, Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." The everlasting life now possessed by believers is on the basis of faith in the resurrection. In verse 29, these are said to come forth in the resurrection to "life" rather than come into condemnation.

So it is that by faith believers do have a life, a soul, that is not permanently destroyed when the body dies.

These names are in God's book of life. While they may remain asleep in death for awhile, they will be awakened in the resurrection. Thus, they live unto God. On the other hand, if because of willful disobedience to God they are destroyed by Him, their lives are snuffed out forever.

Question: Jesus said, "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Matthew 12:31-32). What is this unpardonable sin against the Holy Ghost?

Answer: The Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are the same terms. For the sake of clarity, we will use the term, Holy Spirit, in this answer.

In order to find the answer to this question, we must first take into consideration what the Holy Spirit is and how it operates. You may write or e-mail us to request the tract, "The Holy Spirit." Briefly, the Holy Spirit is the power of God, utilized by Him for the accomplishment of all His purposes. It was exercised in creation. It shapes the plans of God for His people, and it works in their hearts and lives to will and to do of His good pleasure.

On the occasion when Jesus said that speaking against the Holy Spirit could not be forgiven, either in this world (age) or the world (age) to come, He had just employed the power of the Holy Spirit to heal a man who was possessed of a devil and who was blind and dumb. See Matthew 12:22. The people were amazed, but the Pharisees charged that Jesus had performed this miracle by the power of "Beelzebub the prince of the devils" (vss. 23-24). Jesus was referring to this viewpoint of the Pharisees in making his statement about speaking against the Holy Spirit.

The connection is obvious. The Holy Power of God had been manifested in miraculously healing a man. A good work had been performed which the Pharisees could not condemn. Nor could they claim that what had been accomplished was other than a miracle. The afflicted man was beyond human help. But they refused to acknowledge the truth. They spoke against what had been so clearly demonstrated, saying that this good work was done, not by the Holy Power of God-the Holy Spirit-but by the power of the Devil. Thus they spoke against the Holy

Spirit!

Applying this principle, we could say that sin against the Holy Spirit is any willful opposition to revealed truth. To the extent that we have been enlightened and know that a certain attitude, or course, is wrong, yet persist in it, we would be sinning against the Holy Spirit. The position of the Pharisees was unusual, in that Jesus, the Son of God, was personally in their midst, and through Him they were given many demonstrations of the power of the Holy Spirit.

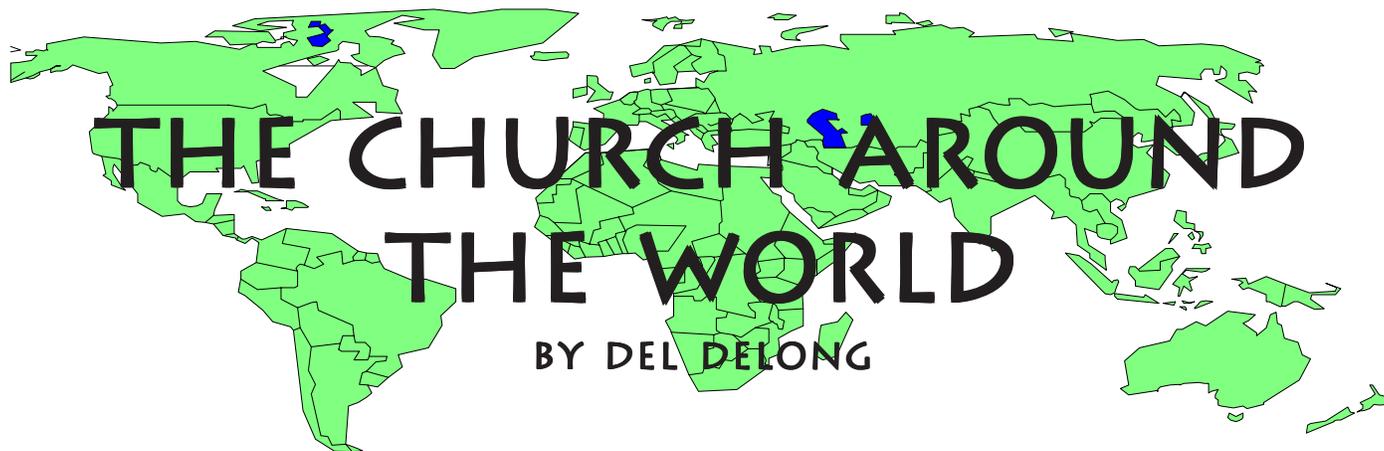
Those who have received the begetting and anointing of the Holy Spirit are in a different position than are the unconsecrated of the world. They have devoted themselves to the doing of God's will. The great desire of their hearts is to please and honor Him.

The Holy Spirit also has enlightened their minds, so that willful transgression of the will of God on their part would be a sin against the Holy Spirit. Concerning this, we read: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost (Spirit), and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they should fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

In Hebrews 10:26-27, the Apostle Paul writes in a similar vein, saying, "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." Both of these passages in Hebrews reveal clearly that it is possible for those who were "once lightened" and who have received the Holy Spirit to commit willful sin, which, if continued, would lead to the full and eternal penalty of sin, the "second death."

Such willful sin on the part of a child of God does not usually come about suddenly. The prophet David prayed: "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression" (Psalm 19:12-13).

"Secret faults" may lead to "presumptuous sins." A presumptuous sin is willful sin and, if persisted in until the heart becomes hardened, will lead to the "great transgression," the "sin unto death," the "second death."



INDIA

Elder M. Yehoshuva, a member of the Twelve, sent these photographs showing the dedication of the church building in Brahmanapally. At the time of the dedication, 5,000 were present and 81 people were baptized





LESSON I

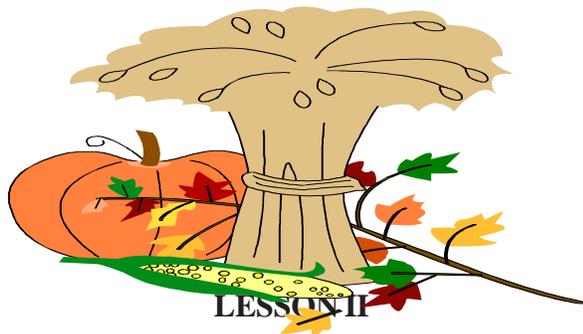
THE CALL OF ABRAM

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1-9.

Golden Text: Genesis 12:2.

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

1. Who was the father of Abram? What were Abram's brothers names? Genesis 11:27.
 2. Where did Terah move with his family? Genesis 11:31.
- NOTE: These men will be talked about and named in future lessons as we study about Abram.
3. What did the Lord tell Abram to do? Genesis 12:1.
 4. What reward would he have if he obeyed? Genesis 12:2.
 5. What was to happen to those that were against him? Genesis 12:3.
 6. Who did Abram take with him? Genesis 12:5.
 7. Where was the place that Abram went? Genesis 12:6.
 8. What did the Lord say to Abram and what did Abram do while he was here? Genesis 12:7.



ABRAM IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:10-20.

Golden Text: Genesis 12:17.

"And the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife."

1. Where did Abram go because of the plague? Genesis 12:10.
2. Who did he tell Sarai to say she was when they got to Egypt? Genesis 12:13.
3. Why did he want her to say that she was his sister? Genesis 12:11-12.
4. What did they do with Sarai when she got to Egypt? Genesis 12:14-15.
5. What did God do to Pharaoh and his house? Genesis 12:17.
6. When Pharaoh found out that Sarai was Abram's wife, what did he say? Genesis 12:18-19.
7. What did Pharaoh do to them? Genesis 12:20.

LESSON III

ABRAM AND LOT DEPART

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13:1-12.

Golden Text: Genesis 13:2.

"And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

1. When Abram left Egypt, where did he go? Genesis 13:1-2.
2. Who went with Abram, and what did he have? Genesis 13:5.

NOTE: We had learned from lesson I that Lot was

Abram's nephew.

3. Why did Abram know that they could not live together any longer? Genesis 13:6-7.
4. What plan did Abram tell Lot would help them? Genesis 13:8-9.
5. What part did Lot choose and why? Genesis 13:10-11.
6. Where did Abram dwell? Genesis 13:12.
7. After Lot had gone, what did God tell Abram? Genesis 13:14-16.
8. What was wrong with the city of Sodom where Lot would dwell? Genesis 13:13.

LESSON IV

ABRAM AND MELCHIZEDEC

Scripture Reading: Genesis 14:13-24.

Golden Text: Hebrews 7:17.

"For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

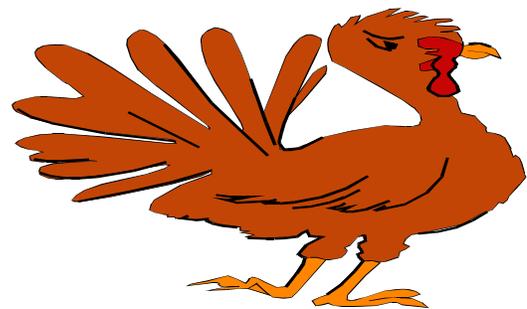
1. Some heathen kings went toward against the cities of Sodom and Gomorah. What happened to Lot who was living near Sodom? Genesis 14:11-12.
2. What did Abram do when he heard that Lot had been captured? Genesis 14:14-16.
3. After Abram won the battle and came back with Lot, to whom did he give credit for winning the battle? Genesis 14:21-23.
4. Who is Melchizedec? Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1.
5. What did Melchizedec do to Abram? Genesis 14:19.
6. What did Abram give to king Melchizedec, the high

priest? Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:2.

NOTE: There are two priesthoods mentioned in the Bible. The priesthood of Melchizedec and of Levi. Today we are living in the priesthood of Melchizedec. Jesus is also a priest of this order and we are part of this priesthood too. The Levitical priesthood began with the children of Israel coming out of Egypt and lasted until Christ died.

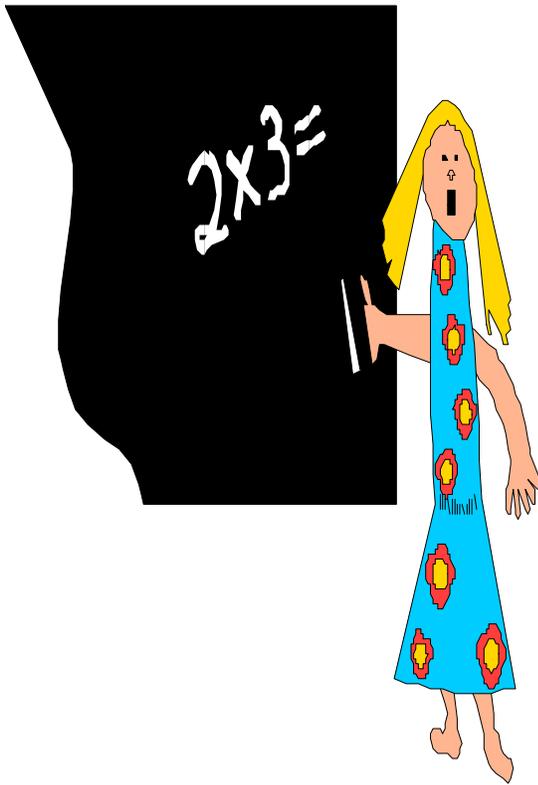
7. Of whom is it testified that He will be a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedec? Hebrews 7:17.

8. Where is Jesus performing his duty as a priest today? Hebrews 8:1-2.



THANKSGIVING

For the grasses and the grains,
 For the joys and for the gains,
 For the orchard's mellow fruit,
 And the frost's sturdier root,
 For the bloom beside the path,
 For the meadow's aftermath,
 And the winter time's delay,
 We will keep Thanksgiving Day.
 For the sunshine and the rain,
 Frost and dew and frost again-
 For the wind, the storm, the tide,
 Nature's life our own beside,
 For the deed to which she spurs,
 And the thought her beauty stirs,
 For the bird song and the star,
 Thankful all, and glad, we are!
 -Selected.



BOTH WISHES CAME TRUE

by Elizabeth D. Spaulding

Payson picked up the wishbone that lay on the edge of his plate. "Come on, Dan," he said to his cousin who had eaten dinner with him, "Let's go outside and make a wish." Payson's sister Marian followed to join in the fun. The boys grasped the ends of the wishbone, screwed up their faces, and pulled.

Crack! It broke, and Payson held the larger piece. Dan's face fell for a moment. Then he shrugged his shoulders and said: "What's the difference? My wish wouldn't come true anyway."

Payson asked, "Do you mind telling us your wish?"

"Might as well, since I've lost. I wished I would pass

in arithmetic."

Payson and Marian knew of Dan's difficulty in arithmetic and had that very morning wondered what they could do to help him.

"You and I can't be in the same room together if I don't pass to the next grade," said Dan regretfully.

"You mustn't give up," Marian replied. "Anyway, I don't think the wishbone could help. You should take your troubles to God in prayer."

"Don't you believe in wishing?" asked Dan.

"Of course, I do. Wish all you like, but you'll have to help your wish along by doing something about it, and my idea is to ask God's help."

"Yes," Payson said, "Marian has the right idea. Just wishing is a lazy way. If you really want something you have to work for it, too. When the going gets tough," he went on, "take it to Jesus and ask His help."

"That's the way to talk," Marian said with a gentle punch of approval. "Now we've ironed out the wrinkled up problem, and it will be clear sailing for you, Dan."

"Marian always knows the answers, and she's only a year older than we are," Dan said with great admiration for his cousin.

"Only a year," Marian teased. "That is 365 days. What do you suppose I've been doing all that time? Learning things, of course." With thumbs thrust into her jumper, she strutted in front of the boys. They laughed at her funny actions.

Payson pulled out his lower lip as he often did when he figured out a problem. "One thing about just wishing is that it's usually for something for oneself, and I believe that a good wish for somebody else is the most likely to come true."

He didn't want Dan to fall behind in school, so he decided to change his own wish for hockey skates in favor of Dan's wish for a passing grade in arithmetic. He would do as Marian suggested, help the wish along by helping Dan.

"Let's study our arithmetic together, Dan," Payson suggested.

"Swell, if you're willing," Dan replied with a happy grin.

"Maybe you could help me in grammar. And do I need it!" Payson said.

-Children's Friend.

Thank You, Lord

By Del DeLong

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
The message of your will.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
The beauty of a hill.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
A loving family,

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
The beauty of the sea.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
Your one and only Son.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
Rest when day is done.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
Forgiveness of my sin.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
A victory I can win.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
The way that I must go.

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
The chance for me to grow.