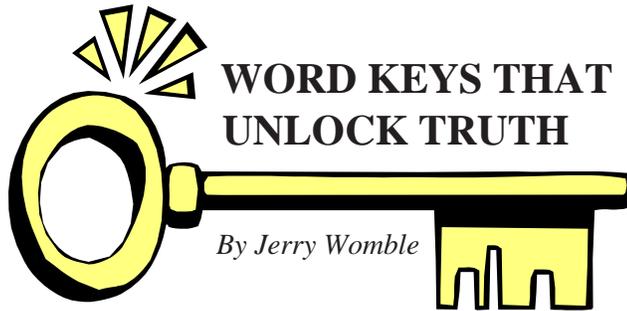


The Advocate of Truth



WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

By Jerry Womble

DILIGENCE

7

Things You May Or May Not Know About

JEREMIAH

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

It is a long steady effort to whatever is set before us. When we are thinking of the spiritual side of diligence, we are being consistent in following Christ's example as a way of life. Proverbs 4:23 says "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." The word diligence here is defined as to guard something. That thing is our heart; that is, our thoughts, words, actions and our every being. In that day and time, a person that was set as a guard over prisoners had the charge that if the prisoners escaped it would cost him his life. This is the diligence that we should guard our heart with because our future life does depend on it.

I notice that the old English word for diligence is "speedily with love". This makes good sense because we are to not to slack off or be lax in any way; but, to act quickly with love to the calling of our Lord.

This can help our understanding of James 2:18, "... and I will shew thee my faith by my works." James must be diligent in his words for them to show his faith.

In II Peter chapter 1, Peter is instructing us about the divine nature that we are to have and to display in our life. In verse 5 he says "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge". When we develop these characteristics then we are making our calling and elections sure. Verse 10. This diligence must not be spasmodic but must abound in order to show our fruitfulness. Peter was a diligent man whether in teaching the word of God or defending Jesus in the garden with the sword. Becoming a Christian is difficult and staying one is equally hard. Being diligent is showing our faithfulness. Follow Peter's example and be consistent in your way of life.

1. He was known of the Lord before he was born. "Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:4-5).

2. He condemns heathen practices? "Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven: for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good" (Jeremiah 10:1-5).

3. Jeremiah cautions us about false prophets? "Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart" (Jeremiah 14:14).

4. The prophet also cautions us about the heart. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

5. God reveals to Jeremiah that the captivity will last seventy years. "And it shall come to pass, when seventy

years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations" (Jeremiah 25:12-13).

6. He tells us of the future regathering of Israel? "Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul" (Jeremiah 32:37-41).

7. He was imprisoned under terrible conditions. "Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of

Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison; and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire" (Jeremiah 38:6).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

With many people, life is a business routine, or a dream. But as children of God, we desire to have every day full of Christian experiences and intelligent thought, directed and moulded by the divine Word of God. Bible reading and meditation are vital, but our growth in grace depends not only upon what we read, but also upon the exercise of our mind, heart and will, in combination with what we learn from God's Word.

The child of God is not to be all head and no heart, nor all heart and no head. The "spirit of a sound mind" directs us to cultivate all the fruits and graces which go to round out and complete a perfect character. The child of God must "make straight paths for his feet" lest, while cultivating one element of grace, he fall into danger through the lack of the proper exercise of another God-given faculty or privilege.



OUR DAY

By Bond Tennant

The Prophet Isaiah makes reference to our day. He says that instead of obeying the voice of God's servant, some who run well for a time fail to continue in the light of the Word, and "compass yourselves (themselves) about with sparks." They also "walk in the light of your (their own) fire," (Human theories and perversions of God's truth) leading into disappointing results; "Ye shall lie down in sorrow." Read Isaiah 50:10-11.

It should be remembered that while there are Satanic deceptions that deceive the world, leading them away from

God and the Bible, there are also deceptions of a still more subtle character, likely to deceive the Lord's people. As a protection against these, "the whole armour of God" is necessary that we "may be able to with stand" and not fall in this day of trial. Read Ephesian 6:11-14.

One of the theories which has deluded many in the past, and has even attacked some who have understood much of the truth found in God's word, is the theory regarding the identity of the so-called lost ten tribes of Israel. This theory is that the Anglo-Saxon peoples of Eu-

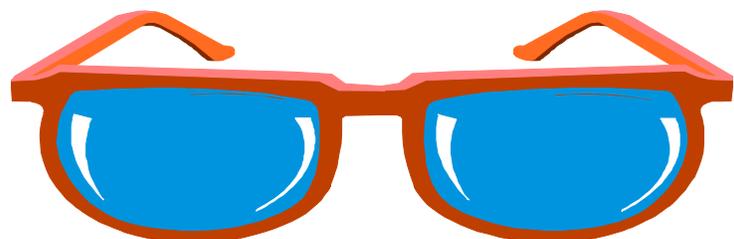
rope and America are the descendants of these ten tribes, and they - on this account - inherit the rich polices made to natural Israel.

Many scriptural arguments have been brought forth to refute this theory which are very conclusive. But to any who may still be in doubt upon the subject we would ask this question; Understanding that God, through the preaching of the Gospel, is calling out the church-the body of Christ-from the world, where would we say that the great number of the true church have been found, especially during the past four hundred years? Most would probably reply: From among the English speaking peoples of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. Since the scriptures tell us that in this Gospel age God is taking out from "The Gentiles,...a people for his name" (Acts 15:14), this would be strong evidence that the English speaking peoples of the world are Gentiles, and not Israelites!

Not only this, but every other false theory is disapproved when brought to the spotlight of the Word of God

- that Word leading and "powerful" (Hebrews 4:12) and "mighty" "to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Corinthians 10:4) - the creeds and systems which support them - and every high sounding of modernism "that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" (verse 5).

Instead of accepting supposed 'new light', produced by the Adversary, and compassing ourselves about with 'sparks' - theories which endure but for a moment - let us confine ourselves to that which is written; ordering our steps in God's Word; and walking as 'children of light' (I Thessalonians 5:5; Ephesians 5:8). "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:5-7).



LOOK AND LIVE

By Bibi Shimon Allicock

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, and anyone that looks sincerely upon Him and is baptized in His name and also does His Father's will shall live eternally. "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things. And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." "Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light

into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (Ephesians 4:10-13; John 12:44-50).

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith,

one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:4-9; 14-16).

Look unto Jesus now and live, for as in the days of old when the Israelites were in the wilderness, their clothes waxed not old, neither did their feet swell, because they traveled forty years in the wilderness without a change of raiment or shoes. "All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chastened thee. Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgements, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied. And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:1-13,17). Even as king Nebuchadnezzar exalted himself above God, and said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O, king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times (seven years) shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagle's feathers, and his nails like bird's claws. And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most high, and I praised and honored him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgement: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase" (Daniel 4:30-37).

Let us now look continually to Jesus and live, for He said in His words: "I am the way, the truth, and the life:

no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake, Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater work than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be

glorified in the Son. If ye love me keep my commandments" (John 14:6 last part; 11-13;15). "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments." (I John 5:3,2).



STRIVE!

By Pascacio Tavizon



One way we can surely please God is by having a behavior which shows our willingness to serve Him! In Luke 13:24, we find a teaching presented by our Lord Jesus Christ wherein He advises us of a way that will help us in our quest for success in our lives. "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." The word, strive, as used in the New Testament, is of Greek original and conveys the thought of "competing for a prize", "contending with effort or eagerness" or "fervently working in order to please someone." That is how we must understand our dedication in wishing to please our Creator. Our attempts to do what God expects from us must not be just a few. On the contrary, we must use all of our effort and capabilities in this undertaking. This is the most important thing to do.

There is a fable about a dog who used to boast about his ability to run. No one could defeat him at running. However, one day, a rabbit that he was chasing escaped from him. This event made him look ridiculous before the other dogs to whom he had been boasting. In order to save his dignity, this dog gave an answer that has some truth in it: "You must remember that the rabbit was running to save his life while I did so just to have a good lunch." We must pay a lot of attention toward our efforts to serve God. This is very important in our lives. If this does not make us run and strive, we do not care much about it!

Do we get something out of striving. We most certainly do! The following verses tell us this is so:

"He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the Lord was my stay. He brought me forth also in a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me" (Psalm 18:17-19). God is pleased with us and frees us from all of our enemies, no matter how powerful they may be. Even in the day of hardship, He is our stay and takes us to a place of safety.

"If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us; their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not" (Numbers 14:8-9). In these verses, we find indisputable proof of the benefits derived from striving. The hindrances and obstacles we may face will be easier to bear. Nothing can defeat us if God is on our side.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe in the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask many thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (I John 5:13-15). We must strive to please God in order to obtain eternal life.

THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

The value of love is beyond estimation. No gift or possession is profitable without it. "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way" (I Corinthians 12:31). In these verses, Paul compares the superiority of love to the gift of languages, the gift of prophecy, miraculous faith, and the doing of sacrifices and good deeds. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing" (I Corinthians 13:1-13). We must recognize the value of love also, for God's love enables us to do His work effectively. God is love, and the more like Him we become, the more love we will possess.

The virtues of love include kindness, humility, selflessness, patience, compassion and faith. Many people

are trying to express the virtues of love without possessing love itself, but that is impossible! "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (I Corinthians 13:4-7). We must possess the Spirit of Christ if we are to succeed in performing the work of Christ. Being filled with the Holy Spirit enables us to practice the virtues of love.

Family, friends, pleasures and possessions can and do fail, but love never fails! Love is eternal, and it will unfold in greater beauty and glory as time rolls on. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (I Corinthians 13:13). Faith pleases God, but faith serves its purpose only in this life. We cannot live without hope, but hope will not be needed in the coming kingdom. Victory is assured to those who are filled with God's love!

-Contributed

JESUS SAYS CONTROL YOUR ANGER



By Buddy Scott
PASS IT ON - THE FACTS
Clute, Texas



After many years of counseling, I have observed that there is a surprising amount of insulting going on in the privacy of many homes.

More families than most are no less than verbally bludgeoning each other day after day.

Do we not know that Jesus preached in no uncertain terms against the snobbery of selfish anger, contempt and verbal abuse? Here is an excerpt from His Sermon on the Mount:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time,

Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgement. But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matthew 5:21-22).

The Apostle Paul followed up on Jesus' words with his own mandate; "But now ye also put off these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your

mouth" (Colossians 3:8).

We especially should control and resolve our tempers since the words we reach for in name-calling are most often used inconsistently with their origins.

The word fool comes from Latin and literally meant "bellows." Later, "windbag." A fool is one who says what he or she should not say. Anyone who calls another a fool is also a fool by definition.

According to the "Dictionary of Word origins' (@1945, Philosophical Library Inc.) a person who has received a strike to the head and is in a stupor is stupid. He or she is stupid only while he or she remains in the stupor.

Therefore, ignorance is differentiated from stupidity by the fact that a stupid person is one who is temporarily incapacitated by a physical blow to his or her body. An ignorant person is one who is not in the know on a particular subject. We actually misapply both words today.

Dumb likewise is not used in harmony without original meaning, "speechless' or "soundless' as in deaf and dumb). A dummy is the ventriloquist's prop that has no ability to speak. A dumbfounded person is one who is so surprised or shocked that he or she can't speak. Dumbbells were the soundless mock-up of church bells used to

teach people how to strike and play the church bells without disturbing towns or villages. (Church bells were rung to alert for emergencies as well as for indicating times of day and for worship.)

An imbecile originally identified a person who needed the assistance of a cane or staff to stand or walk who didn't have one.

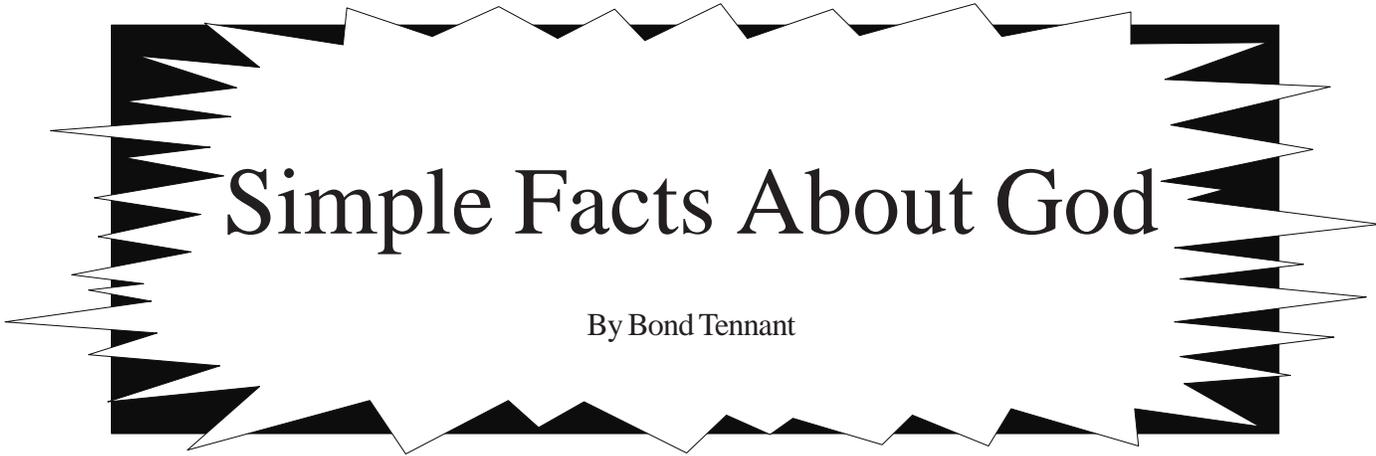
An idiot was a person who was so private that he or she was peculiar enough not to want to serve in public office.

A moron was one whose feeble-mindedness caused him or her to talk unintelligently without being able to help it.

There is an old saying which holds that "the family that prays together, stays together." What saying would describe the present and future of a family embroiled in name-calling and fighting? Jesus answered that question many years ago, and we have seen the wisdom of his words in modern times.

He said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25).

Family members, please be nice to each other.



Simple Facts About God

By Bond Tennant

The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God. It assures us of His existence! The Bible informs us that there is sufficient evidence for faith in God by observing the things that are made. Only a fool doubts His existence. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1). "For the invisible

things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

There are many reasons for belief in God. Most have an awareness of a Supreme Being. Men everywhere worship something. Even those who claim that they do not worship any deity really do worship themselves! Some worship and know not what, and others worship igno-

rantly. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you" (Acts 17:23). There is a religious instinct in the human race which is really an evidence that God exists.

Many things can be learned by observing His creation. The orderly function of the universe, the precise arrangement and movement of the planet in space, and the habits and instincts of the animal world are things that did not just "happen" or "evolve." The deviate structure of the human body abounds with evidence which can be accounted for only by faith in the Creator. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul kneweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

Men have spent many years of research endeavoring to explain the origin of life and man, and the existence of the universe apart from a Supreme Being. Such reasoning is mere theory, and is based upon vain human speculation! The statements found in the Bible are refreshing and satisfying. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

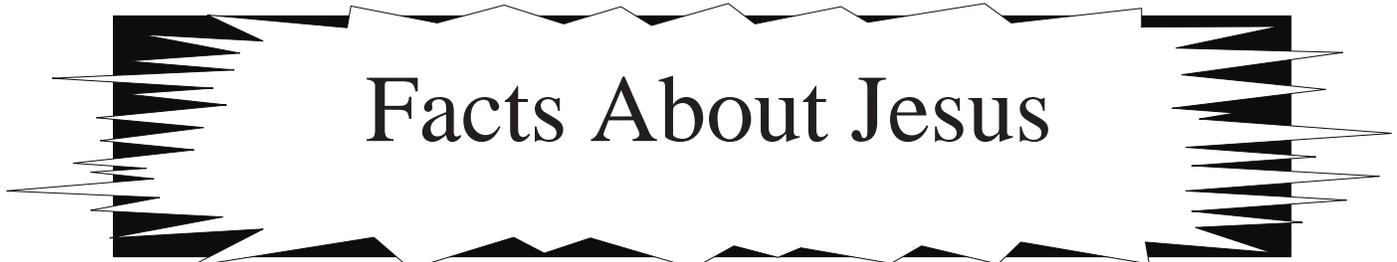
We have a great and wonderful God. He is righteous, faithful, holy, loving and merciful. He is the God of justice! Unlike His human creations, He has no time limitation. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from ever-

lasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). His infinite power was manifested in the creation. He spoke, and things came into existence. He is omnipotent. He has unlimited power and authority. "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God": for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

God has provided for the existence of his creation. He knows their destiny. When He puts forth His mighty arm, the earth trembles in earthquakes, storms and other manifestations of His power!

God is omniscient! He is complete in wisdom and knowledge. "And the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and saith unto me, Speak; Thus saith the Lord; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them" (Ezekiel 11:5). He knows the things that are past, the things now present, and the things of the future. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out" (Romans 11:33).

The Bible also presents God as being omnipresent. Read Psalm 139:6-12. This is really beyond human comprehension. "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:24). "From where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. A-men" (Matthew 28:19-20). The omnipresence of God is both a warning and a comfort. It is a warning for us not to partake of any evil. It is a comfort to know that wherever we are, He is there with us.



Facts About Jesus

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Revelation 22:13).

Someone has said that Jesus is the center of history.

We know that He is the center of the divine plan of His Father which is found in God's Word, the Bible. Jesus told the Jews, "... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before

Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). Even before Abraham was created, Jesus was participating with His Heavenly Father in the works of creation. He was the beginning of the creation of God. "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14). John testifies, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3).

Jesus did not personally write any of the Bible. However, the book of Revelation is introduced as the revelation of Jesus Christ. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John" (Revelation 1:1). In the next to the last verse of the Bible, Jesus speaks through John saying, "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen" (Revelation 22:20). Realizing that this statement was true, John responded, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

The name of Jesus signifies Savior. It is the Greek form of Jehoshua (Joshua). This is very appropriate when we realize that Jesus came to be the Savior of all mankind. He is the Savior from sin and from its penalty, death. The word, Christ, as in Jesus Christ, signifies "anointed." Applied to Jesus, it denotes that He is the one sent and authorized by His Father to fulfill all the wonderful promises recorded by the Old Testament prophets pertaining to the redemption and restoration of the world from sin and death.

It was prophetically stated that the name of the anointed of God would be "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." This is proper because Jesus will continue to be God's representative among mankind. John expressed this thought when he wrote, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18). Concerning his heavenly Father, Jesus said, "...Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape" (John 5:37). This proves that the only way the people of Jesus's day heard and saw God the Father was through the example and teachings of Jesus. Jesus did the works and spoke the words of His Heavenly Father so properly the title Emmanuel belonged to Him. "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak"

(John 12:49).

Jesus was born of the virgin, Mary. God was His Father, in the sense that it was by divine power that the life principle of the Logos—one of Jesus's titles, particularly during His prehuman existence was transferred to the womb of Mary, and in due time, Jesus was born as a human babe and became a man. Paul wrote concerning this that Jesus was "made in the likeness of men" and was "found in fashion as a man" (Philippians 2:7-8).

Jesus's birth marked a division in the reckoning of time. We now have the B.C. and A.D. dates. These mean before and after Christ. This division of time was not used until several years after Christ. Learned men believe that, seen now, this turning point in time is not wholly correct. According to accurate reckoning, the birth of Jesus occurred about one year and three months prior to the generally accepted date.

Jesus was born in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. One of the most important reads, "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" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Another prophecy which identifies Jesus's birthplace, reads, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall be come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2). These prophecies clearly reveal that the one who was to be born was destined to be a king, a ruler, and that he would set up a government which ultimately would be worldwide in its control over mankind. When announcing his presence, John the Baptist said, "...The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). More properly translated this verse reads, "The Royal majesty of the heavens has approached" (Emphatic Diaglott).

Much of Jesus's own teachings were associated with the hope of the kingdom. Many of His parables were introduced by the statement, "...The kingdom of heaven is likened unto" His disciples thoroughly believed that He

would establish a kingdom and that they would rule with Him in that kingdom.

When near the close of Jesus's ministry, the disciples became disturbed over the fact that He intended to surrender to His enemies and allow them to put Him to death. Jesus related a parable to them concerning a noble man who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and return. This parable was told to help the disciples understand that the kingdom they expected Jesus to establish must await His return at His second advent.

It is said that no other life has so profoundly influenced the course of the world. This is yet to be still more true! Over the years, much has been said and done in the name of Jesus. Many of these things have been a discredit to Him and contrary to the principles of righteousness which He taught and exemplified. Perhaps it could be said that the life and teachings of Jesus have been more misrepresented and distorted than those of any other person.

The fact that Jesus came to be a king has been used by ambitious and misguided men to establish themselves in power in His name. Contrary to Jesus's teaching, this was done through the church-state government of Europe. It was claimed that these governments were in reality the kingdom of Christ and that He was ruling through the civil and established heads of these government.

Throughout the many centuries when their corrupt system flourished, there was continual strife between various factions. Therefore, on the page of history, there is a bloody record of crime, war, persecution, inquisition, and other evils which are utterly contrary to the spirit and teachings of Jesus, although they were perpetuated in His name.

Satan attempted to obtain Jesus's support for a similar scheme. He told the Master that if He would fall down and worship him, he would give him all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus knew that in His heavenly Father's due time and way all the nations of the earth would be brought under His control, and He did not propose to accept them on Satan's terms.

Losing sight of God's plan for setting up a world government, some yielded to Satan's temptation. They joined hands with the state and called the union Christ's kingdom.

In contrast with the cruelties practiced in Jesus's name

during the Dark Ages, we find the Master Himself a man of tender sympathy and self-sacrificing love. In Acts 10:38, we read of Jesus that He "went about doing good" and that He healed all who "were oppressed of the Devil." His heart went out in loving sympathy to those who suffered. Jesus wept as He stood beside the tomb of Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary. He realized that these two sisters were brokenhearted over the death of their brother. The way of life taught and exemplified by Jesus is one of kindness, of nobility and of love. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the real blessedness of meekness, humility, purity of heart, and mercifulness.

To the extent that men and women have been influenced by those precepts, they have been ennobled Communities and nations have been happier places in which to live when these principles have been adopted and sincerely practiced. To whatever extent that world has been influenced by them, it has been a better world.

Our first parents were created in the image of God. In their original perfection, they must have been virtuous and noble. Even now, in the noble and upright of the world, we can see traces of the original divine likeness still remaining. But in what rich abundance they must have been exemplified in Jesus, the perfect counterpart of the "first man Adam"! Of Jesus, it is written that he was "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners." Read Hebrews 7:26.

Toward the close of his ministry, Jesus said to his disciples; "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John 14:7-9).

Like Adam, Jesus was the image of God, and with Him that image was unmarred, unsullied, radiant and full. Every lovely trait of character seen in Jesus was just that much of a reflection of the Heavenly Father. It was this image of God in Jesus that caused Him to be the noble character that he was. His every thought, word, and act reflected the characteristics of His father. This was so completely true that Jesus could say, "He that hath seen

me hath seen the Father." This was not only true with respect to Jesus's personal purity and nobility, but it was exemplified also in His teachings. He said, "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (John 12:49). "...the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me" (John 14:24).

Jesus stands separate from above all others who are mentioned in the Bible. In a straightforward manner of presenting the truth, the Bible records both the virtues and the failings of its heroes. Jesus had no failings. Because of the miraculous manner in which His life as the Word was transferred to earth, He was born into the world untainted with the imperfections of men.

Jesus stands wholeheartedly in harmony with His Father's purpose in sending Him into the world. So completely was this true that He could say, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

Hebrews 2:9 reads, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Jesus knew that His ministry would be crowned with victory only through his faithfulness in laying down His life in sacrifice for the sins of the world. This great object of His being "made flesh" governed His whole course of action. For us, it serves as a background which helps to understand much of what He did and said.

Jesus said, "..., I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). When saying this, Jesus knew that He would be the lifegiver of mankind only because He would give him human life as the redemptive price for the lost world. Thus, on another occasion, He said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51). However, Jesus realized that there was a "due time" in His Father's plan for Him to die. Until that time, He did not recklessly expose Himself to danger.

When Jesus knew that the time was nearing for Him to die, He did not hesitate to turn to a location where He was sure His enemies were lying in wait to find occasion against Him and kill Him. His disciples knew of this dan-

ger. Thomas said to the others, "..., Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16).

After this arrest, Jesus said or did nothing to interfere with the wicked purpose of His jealous enemies to have Him hung upon a cross and killed. When asked by the high priest if He claimed to be the Son of God, Jesus replied, "..Thou hast said;..." (Matthew 26:64). He knew that this reply would be misconstrued as blasphemy and that as a result the religious leaders of Israel would judge him worthy of death. When brought before Pilate and accused of being a king, He affirmed the charge, saying to the Roman ruler, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37). When hanging upon the cross and hearing the crowd cry out, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matthew 27:40), He did nothing about it.

Jesus had come into the world to die as man's Redeemer. It was on the cross that this sacrifice was consummated. He took the sinner's place so completely that for one brief moment the smile of His Father's approval was hidden from Him. In agony, He said, "..., MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" (Matthew 27:46). A few moments later, He cried out, "..., it is finished..." (John 19:30). Finally He said, "..., INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT:..." (Luke 23:46).

On the third day, the Heavenly Father raised His beloved Son from the dead. Read Luke 24:5-7 and I Peter 1:21. He had given His life as a ransom, a corresponding price for Adam and his race, and now all power was given unto Him. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

The fact was established that He had been raised from the dead. Concerning this, Peter later said, "Him (Jesus) God raised up the third day, and showed him openly; Not to all the people but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead" (Acts 10:40-42).



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 is taken from
The Harrison County Value Guide.

Some are spooked by Halloween roots

by Tom Tiede

GEORGETOWN, Del. (NEA) - Every year at Halloween the people of this Currier & Ives community hold a small parade to celebrate the traditions of the autumn observance. They gather the children on a Sunday afternoon and let them strut and posture around the traffic rotary in the center of town.

It's meant to be a soap-and-water occasion. The idea is to have well scrubbed and innocent fun. The kids dress up like werewolf and goblins, the parents turn out with Cokes and cameras, and, after the last foot has fallen, the whole lot goes into the neighborhoods for harmless tricks and treats.

But is it harmless, at that? There are those who say the All-American ritual is an affront to decency and even to God. At a time when Christian fundamentalists are questioning many of the nation's habits and predilections, the festivities of Halloween are coming in for a share of the scrutiny.

The complaint here in Georgetown is that the invocation of spooks is purely and simply sacrilegious. And Mallory Derby, for one, thinks it should be forbidden. She is an evangelical housewife who last year petitioned the town council to cancel the Halloween parade in the

name of Jesus Christ.

She says the ceremony is wicked at its core. She says it's "satanic and evil." She claims Halloween originated as a pagan rite, which means it has its roots in decidedly pre-Christian principles; irreverence, for example, human sacrifice and the public glorification of disembodied spirits.

And she's right about that. The origin of the commemoration was not a Sunday parade. It was started by the Celts, probably before the birth of Christ, and it was initially intended as a festival of death to close out the calendar year; the Celtic year ended with the last harvests of October.

The Celts were barbarians, of course. And they were organized by priests who were called Druids. The Druids believed that specters and demons had to be pacified with attention, and the initial Halloweens were characterized by burning people for appeasement in large wicker baskets.

The barbecues were abandoned when the Christians of early Europe co-opted the celebration. And the name All Hallows Eve, or Halloween, was adopted to suggest a pious and saintly flavor. The glory of the disembodied spirits, however, the things that go bump in the night, has been maintained to this day.

That's why Derby and others complain in Georgetown. And they are joined by similar religious conservatives around the nation. The Amish, for example, do not celebrate Halloween because they believe the tra-

dition continues to dwell in superstition, and no Christian purpose is involved.

The Jehovah's Witness organization concurs. So do some elements of the Southern Baptists, the Church of God and broadcasting evangelists. The Rev. Pat Roberston has reportedly condemned Halloween on his Christian Broadcasting Network, saying that witches are not compatible with the Holy Ghost.

And yet that's about the extent of the serious opposition. The protest is passionate, but thin. None of the million churches object, and even most of the hardcore Christians, the fire and brimstone adherents, say the complaints about skeleton costumes are exaggerated and misplaced.

Dr. Herbert Carter is one of the later. He is a third-generation Bible thumper, the past president of the Pentecostal Free Will Baptist, and he says the origin of Halloween has nothing to do with the modern observation. He says it's merely a day for children now and is satanically insignificant.

He says the tots with their painted faces are cute. And the collection of treats can be a wholesome family affair. He says many churches in the nation hold parties on Halloween, to add measure of order and security, and "who can object to boys and girls bobbing for apples or scaring one another?"

Besides, Carter continues, Halloween is not the only national moment with a suspicious past. Easter can also be said to have started as a pagan rite, in some respects, and the Puritans wondered some about Christmas that they banned it in some parts of new England until the 19th century.

And that's the argument that carried here in Georgetown last year. When Mallory Derby tried to get the Halloween parade canceled. The town council decided the Druid influence is long gone, and there was no overriding reason to deny the children of the community the right to whoop and holler.

The parade was held as scheduled, on Sunday. That is the only day of the week when the streets are clear of traffic. Derby was chagrined. She says she still is. The people of Georgetown are going to hold the Sunday Halloween parade again this year, and to devil with the fits and grumbles.

Comment

You have just read the origin of Halloween. The observance of Halloween is displeasing to God.

Jeremiah 10:2 reads, "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them." II Corinthians 6:14-18 sums up the matter, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, AND WALK IN THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU, AND WILL BE A FATHER UNTO YOU, AND YE SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, saith the Lord Almighty."

Need we say more?

EU to assume peace duties in Macedonia

The Houston Chronicle

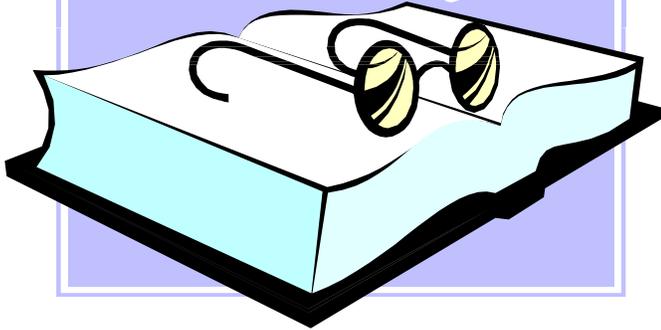
SKOPJE, Macedonia - The European Union took over peacekeeping duties in ethnically divided Macedonia on Monday, a first military mission that will test the EU's ability to handle trouble spots without help from NATO or the United States. As a brass band played at a military base just outside the capital of Skopje, the 400 member mission replaced the NATO-led force that kept the peace in the Balkan nation since a rebel insurgency ended in 2001.

Comment

It behooves us to watch the progress of the European Union. It is fast becoming a world power both in a military and economic sense.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: According to the Bible, what is wrong with the theory of evolution?

Answer: The Bible emphasizes that man is a direct creation of God, and not a creation of evolution! "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). Man was perfect in physique and capable of exercising those qualities of kindness, sympathy, and love which by right we attribute to God and which the Scriptures assure us actually belong to Him.

From the days of Darwin, the theory has come that man is not the direct creation of God but through millions of years has evolved from protoplasm through the lower forms of life, finally attaining his present state. This is a tradition. A tradition is a concept or idea which is not substantiated as truth by any reliable authority, particularly written authority, but is believed simply because it is supposed to be true. Evolution is one of the modern traditions, supposedly true, which today is widely accepted and taught, although it is without proof!

Many even suppose that the idea of evolution is quite in harmony with the Word of God and that both can be believed without doing violence to the Bible. This is not so! If the theory of evolution is true, then the Bible is false, and its story of creation is a gigantic hoax. If the Bible account of creation is true, then the teaching of evo-

lution should be recognized as only a theory, which must not destroy our faith in the Bible.

There is no basis for the dignity of man if man is a mere creature of evolution. There is no moral law that man is obligated to obey if he is a creature of evolution. The Bible sets forth the code of ethics the Creator imposed upon His human creations. If the God of the Bible is a myth, then the moral laws set forth in the Bible are unsubstantiated by divine authority. Therefore, the "evolution man" may flout them without disobeying any higher power.

The Bible sets forth the creation of man in a straightforward manner. We read, "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" (Genesis 2:7). We know that this is scientifically correct. Man's body is composed of elements found in "Mother Earth."

Man was told that he would return to the earth when he was sentenced to death for disobeying divine law. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19). A dead body does eventually return to "dust," to the earth, and in relatively short time, unless it is embalmed.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "The first Adam was made a living soul." Paul also wrote, "The first man is of the earth, earthy." Read I Corinthians 15:45-58. Compare these verses with Genesis 2:7. We find the Apostle Paul

virtually quoting from the Genesis record of creation and agreeing with it. The first man, Adam, is a myth if the theory of human evolution is true. If the theory of evolution is true, the Apostle Paul was laboring under a delusion which blinded him to the real facts concerning the origin of man.

If Paul was wrong with respect to "the first man Adam," then his whole philosophy of salvation from sin and death through Christ, whom he speaks of as the "second" or "last" Adam is false. The Christian religion has no foundation if Paul's reasoning on the subject of salvation through Christ is based upon a false premise.

Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus all the way back through the Old Testament records to the first man, Adam, which he affirms to be the "Son of God." If the theory of human evolution is true, then Luke was wrong. If the theory of human evolution is so, he should have said that Adam was the son of a "missing link," a creature slightly higher on the evolutionary theory ladder than an antropoid ape.

However, Luke has confidence in the Genesis account of creation and in the Old Testament records. We quote Luke 2:10-11, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Man needs no Saviour if the theory of evolution is true, for he is not a fallen creature but an evolving one. This would mean that Jesus did not come to earth to save mankind from sin and death.

Even some scholars who claim to believe the theory of evolution seem to have a great deal of confidence in Jesus and His teachings. However, if the views of the evolutionists are true that man is not fallen it would prove that even Jesus must be considered a very unreliable teacher!

Why do we not see the process of evolution going on today? Why do we not see creatures that are half fish and half bird? No, we do not see the many "missing links" between all the various species of fish, birds, and animals, which evolutionists tell us once existed in the evolutionarily climb! Apes have survived. Do you not think that a "missing link" supposedly more developed than the ape should have done as well.

We know that certain animals have become extinct. The existence of certain birds and animals is threatened today, but this does not prove the theory of evolution. This only proves that changing conditions and circum-

stances make it impossible for certain species to continue their existence. For example, when the existence of the buffalo was threatened, it did not mean that the buffalo was about to evolve into another species of animal!

In Genesis, we are told that the species are fixed. "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind; and God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:21). "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every living thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind; and God saw that it was good" (verse 25). The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 15:39 records, "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds."

In his "Origin of Species" Darwin made this frank admission: "In spite of all the efforts of trained observers, not one change of species into another is on record." Species are fixed! Only by divine revelation could the writers of the Bible have known this fact and been able to state it so plainly.

No satisfactory explanation of the origin of life is found in the theory of evolution. Life did not just happen as evolutionists say. The theory of evolution rests on supposition alone. It is most unscientific to claim that life was spontaneously generated. Evolutionists cannot prove it or demonstrate how it was done. They cannot explain how a plant germ evolved into an animal cell, nor can they prove that it has ever occurred.

The theory of evolution is nothing more than thousands of guesses strung together. It starts with nothing, explains nothing, and leads nowhere. Despite the fact that man has an intelligent longing for life and its perpetuation, it leads him into the grave. The only hope that the evolutionists have is that his life chromosomes and genes will continue on representatively in his offspring.

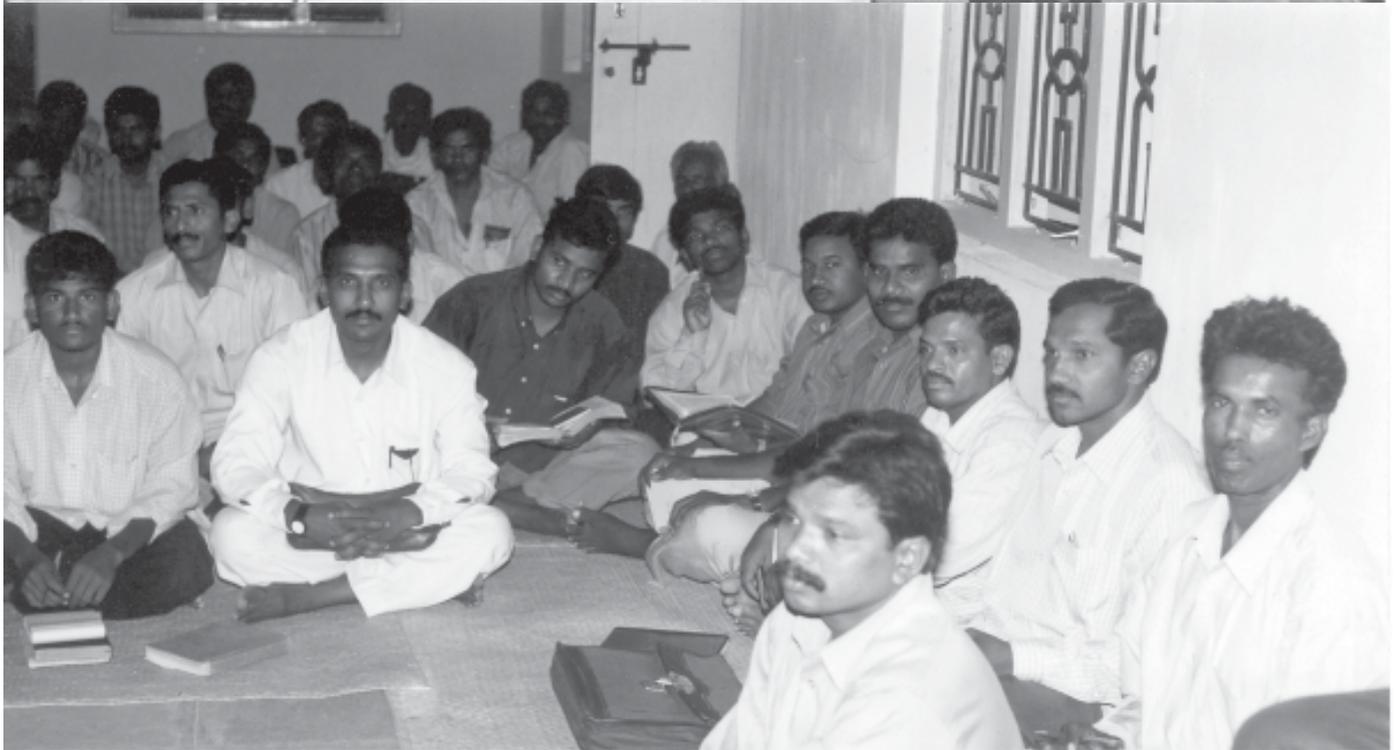
We acknowledge that we must accept by faith the Genesis account of creation. However, faith has a sure foundation when we accept the evidence of our reason that there must be an intelligent and powerful creator. Nature tells us that this is so!



INDIA

Below, is a photograph of the meeting for the Lord's Supper in Brahmanapally taken on April 15, 2003. At the top of the next page, we see Elder M. Kanakarathnam saying a blessing over the unleavened bread at the Lord's Supper service. On the right of that photograph, we see an ordination service for some of the workers in the vineyard. Below those, we see a worker's meeting taking place in Brahmanapally.





LESSON I

**THE MURRAIN OF BEASTS
AND PLAGUE OF BOILS**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9:1-12.

Golden Text: Exodus 9:6 (last part).

"...and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one."

1. The Lord has again told Moses to go unto Pharaoh and tell him to let his people go. What will the Lord do to the cattle of the land if Pharaoh refuses to obey? Exodus 9:1-3.

NOTE: Murrain means plague.

2. Would the cattle of the children of Israel die also? Exodus 9:4.

3. What time did the Lord set for this thing to happen, and did the children of Israel lose any cattle? Exodus 9:5-6.

4. Pharaoh's heart still was hardened. What did the Lord instruct Moses and Aaron to do? Exodus 9:8-9.

5. Did Moses sprinkle the ashes as the Lord told him to? What happened to man and beast? Exodus 9:10.

6. Was the boil upon the magicians? Exodus 9:11.

7. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go after this plague? Exodus 9:12.

LESSON II

THE PLAGUE OF HAIL

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9:13-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 9:24.

"So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all

the land of Egypt since it became a nation."

1. Some of the Egyptians feared God. What did they do, and what did the Egyptians that did not listen to God, do? Exodus 9:20-21.

2. What did the Lord tell Moses to do, and what was to happen when he did this? Exodus 9:22.

3. What did God send with the hail? Exodus 9:23-24.

4. Where did the hail fall, and did it affect the children of Israel? Exodus 9:25-26.

5. Pharaoh sends for Moses and Aaron. What did he tell them? Exodus 9:27-28.

6. What then did Moses tell Pharaoh he would do about the hail? Did it stop? Exodus 9:29-30,33.

7. What crops did the hail destroy, and which ones were not hurt? Exodus 9:31-32.

8. When the rain, hail and thunder stopped, what did Pharaoh do? Exodus 9:34-35.

LESSON III

THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 10:1-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 10:4.

"Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:"

1. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart, and what was Moses to tell his sons? Exodus 10:1-2.

2. What did Moses and Aaron say unto Pharaoh? Exodus 10:3-4.

3. Describe what the next plague would be like. Exodus 10:5-6.

4. What did Pharaoh's servants say unto him? Exodus 10:7.

NOTE: Pharaoh talks to Moses and Aaron about letting the men go. But when they discuss that young and old, sons and daughters are to also go, Pharaoh refuses to let them go. Exodus 10:8-11.

5. Did the Lord cause the locusts to come upon the land of Egypt? Exodus 10:12-14. From what direction did they come?

6. What did the locusts do to the land? Exodus 10:15.

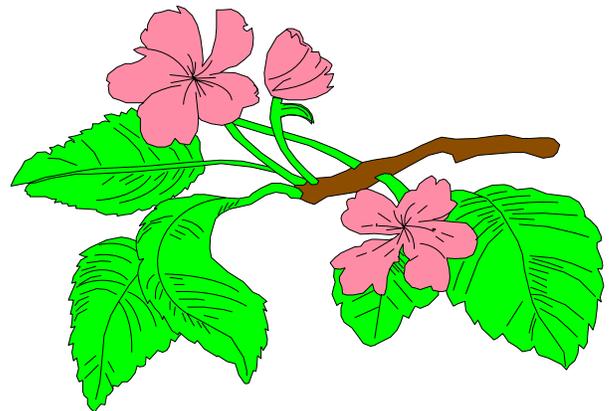
7. What did Pharaoh say to Moses and Aaron when the locusts were in Egypt? Exodus 10:16-17.

8. Did the Lord take the locusts away? What did He do to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:19-20.

5. Did Pharaoh agree to let the children of Israel go? Exodus 10:27.

6. What did Pharaoh finally tell Moses to do? Exodus 10:28.

7. What was Moses's response to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:29.



LESSON IV

THE PLAGUE OF DARKNESS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 10:21-29.

Golden Text: Exodus 10:22 (last part).

"and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days."

1. Why did the Lord tell Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven? Exodus 10:21.

2. How long did the darkness last, and could the Egyptians do anything during this time? Exodus 10:22-23.

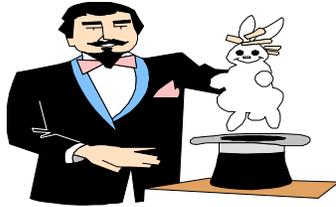
NOTE: The children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

3. What did Pharaoh tell Moses he could do and not do? Exodus 10:24.

4. What did Moses tell Pharaoh that they had to take with them, and what were these things to be used for? Exodus 10:25-26.

YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY

- For doing your best.
- For telling the truth.
- For living a pure life.
- For your faith in Christ.
- For confessing your sins.
- For thinking before acting.
- For hearing before judging.
- For forgiving your enemies.
- For being candid and frank.
- For helping a fallen brother.
- For being honest in business.
- For thinking before speaking.
- For being loyal to your church.
- For standing by your principles.
- For stopping your ears to gossip.
- For bridling a slanderous tongue.
- For harboring only pure thoughts.
- For sympathizing with the afflicted.
- For being courteous and kind to all.
- For money given to the Lord's cause.



THE MAGIC WORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



GOLDEN KEYS

"Everyone likes Ned," said Bob. "It must be nice to have people feel that way about you."

"Do you know why everybody likes him?" asked Roland.

"Well, no, not exactly. Do you?"

"Yes," said Roland. "It's because of his golden keys."

"His golden keys? I never see him have any golden keys. What do you mean?"

"He has a whole bunch of golden keys which unlock people's hearts and let them walk right in," explain Roland. "And he keeps them on a wonderful key ring."

"Oh, do tell me more about them!" exclaimed Bob.

"One of his golden keys is, 'Good morning.' He uses it to start the day right. When he wants something, or is asking a favor, he uses the golden key, 'Please'. When anything is done for him, he uses the 'Thank you' key. Even a fine boy like Ned sometimes makes mistakes, but again he has a key to help him; it is called 'Excuse me'. 'He always closes the day with the golden key of 'Good night'."

"And how about his wonderful key ring?" asked Bob.

"It is called 'kindness,' and it binds all the golden keys together."

"How wonderful it would be if all of us had golden keys like Ned," said Bob very thoughtfully.

"And how fine it is that all of us who want these golden keys can have them," added Roland.

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Pass It On

By Charles Goins, Sr.

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going,
And soon the roads of life,
Shall warm my feet - it's snowing.
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it.
You spread His love to everyone -
You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring,
When all the plants are budding.
The birds begin to sing,
The flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it.
You want to sing - it's fresh like spring -
You want to pass it on.

My wish for you my friend
Is this happiness I've found.
You can depend on Him,
No matter where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top -
I want my world to know,
The Lord of life has come to me -
I want to pass it on.