



**THE
ADVOCATE
OF TRUTH**



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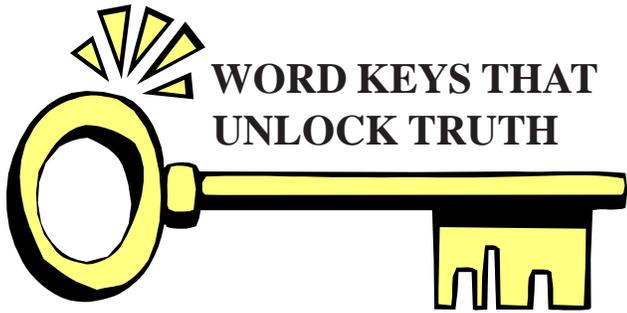
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**Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248
E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com**

Del DeLong
Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff
Gary Mills Managing Editor
Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor
Fred Hardman Printer

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WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

PROMISE

A promise is a declaration made by one person to another to do, or to refrain from doing, a thing, a declaration which gives the person receiving it the right to expect the performance of the thing or its nonperformance, according to the nature of the declaration.

The Bible, from cover to cover, is full of the promises

of God to man. The greatest of these is the promise of salvation through faith. We find it foretold in the Old Testament, and this promise runs down through the final chapters of Revelation. Salvation is only one of the many promises of God! God shows His goodness, wisdom, and love in all His promises.

If we love Him and keep His commandments, He has promised us certain rewards. If we display the virtues He loves in us, He promises us other rewards. If we believe in His Son, we have the promise of eternal life.

God's promises are not like those of men. He never breaks them. If we fail to win the fulfillment of the promise, we must search our hearts and lives to find the reason. "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

GOD IS ...

(PSALM 51)



Psalm 51 is David's Psalm of repentance. David recognized seven characteristics of God which brought him to repentance.

God is merciful. "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1-2). There is a difference between having mercy and excusing one's sin. God does not blindly overlook our sin and unrighteousness. His forgiveness is based upon His mercy!

God's mercy is giving us what we don't deserve, in spite of the fact He knows what we do. It is based solely on righteousness and righteous act of Christ in His life, and the cross, simply because He wanted to, not because

we deserve it. God's forgiveness is based on His mercy in spite of the fact we are totally guilty.

God is fair. "For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest" (Psalm 51:3-4). The Apostle Paul quoted from verse four talking about man trying to excuse himself from the justice and judgment of God. "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, THAT THOU MIGHTEST BE JUSTIFIED IN THY SAYINGS, AND MIGHTEST OVERCOME WHEN THOU ART JUDGED" (Romans 3:4).

What David was saying in these verses is that if God

were to be tried in court for His handling of the David and Bathsheba affair, God would be declared totally innocent. His acts were fair and administered truly, according to Israelites of the event. We too can come to God with repentant hearts, knowing that He will deal fairly with us and our situation.

God is trustworthy. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom" (Psalm 51:5-6). The word used for truth in this portion represents the letter which appears in the very center of the Hebrew alphabet. It implies the past in light of the future. God is able to deal with the inner man, maintaining equilibrium in the one who repents. Two things are kept in balance; the expectation of God and the provision of God.

When we place our trust in God, He brings forth or restores worth back into our lives. He is the stabilizing factor that brings fresh perspective and proper sense of value to us.

God is forgiving. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities" (Psalm 51:7-9). Within this portion of David's song, there is the reference to the ceremony for becoming clean, found in Numbers 19. First of all, there is declaration of cleanliness by the priest-the positional implication of a restored relationship with a just and pure God. Not only are our sins forgiven, but they are also forgotten!

God is present. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10-11). It is interesting to note that in the Old Testament, there are a few individuals who the Scriptures imply that the Holy Spirit dealt with them on a continual basis. David was one of them. While many experienced the Holy Spirit's presence on occasions, there was in the lives of only a few a permanency of the Lord's presence.

When we approach the Lord with a repentant heart, it is His desire to birth new life in us. In Romans 5:2-5, we

not only rejoice in the pronouncement of our favored position in Christ, but we also "glory" in the process through which we become servants of Christ. That process includes tribulation (suffering), which brings forth perseverance. In turn, that patient perseverance develops character. The final result mentioned is hope that will never disappoint us "because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." In simple terms, when God allows pressure or suffering to come into our lives it is to create new hope within us, not to destroy the hope we already have. As our hearts remain humble, our present sufferings are simply bringing us maturity and dominion over sin.

God is redemptive. "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee" (Psalm 51:12-13). God restores us, and He is generous to us. He uses us to teach others. This results in the conversion of sinners. Through which we have experiences, we will be readied to help others as they face the same challenges.

In any situation, though God may not have caused it, He is able to turn it around to work to the saving of others, and to the maturing of his people.

God is pleased with a contrite and broken spirit. "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shall thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar" (Psalm 51:14-19). The result of a humble and graceful spirit are freedom, worship, boldness in witness, service and ministry, and success and maturity. Let each child of God approach Him with a humble and grateful spirit!

Contributed



JEREMIAH, SPOKESMAN FOR GOD

(REPRINTED)

"THUS SAYS the Lord." ...The man who can speak these words with honesty and sincerity is worth listening to. Jeremiah was such a man, But what kind of person, under what kind of circumstances would have the nerve to make such a claim?

Jeremiah was born in Anathoth, a little Benjaminite village about two miles northeast of Jerusalem. Long before the time of Jeremiah it had gained notice for its distinguished residents. Also Abiathar, the last chief priest in the line of Eli was deposed by Solomon with these words: "Go to Anathoth, to your estate; for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death because you bore the ark of the Lord God before David my Father" (I Kings 2:26). Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, identified merely as "one of priests" (Jeremiah 1:1), may have been a descendant of Abiathar inasmuch as Anathoth was known as a village owned by the priests throughout many generations (Joshua 21:18-19).

But it is not to the place of his birth nor to his priestly heritage that we must turn to discover the source of this prophet's sense of authority. The first place to look is Jeremiah's own estimate of his call to be a prophet. At this point, it is fortunate for us that we know so much for Jeremiah is like no other man in the Old Testament. Let us see his struggles and feelings as he attempts to follow the path along which he knows God to be leading him.

No doubt the poetic account of Jeremiah's call as recorded in 1:4-19 should be read as containing the reflection of a man thinking in retrospect, contemplating after some years the fact that God had indeed led him into his life's word. As viewed in this way, Jeremiah felt that

events in his life indicated that his destiny had been determined even before he was born. At several points the prophet shows us his reaction for the call of God. He feels that he is too young for the task (1:6), that the Lord has forced him to the role of a prophet against his will (20:7), that the compulsion to preach was beyond his capacity to resist (20:9).

At many points in his reverie about his work, Jeremiah shows that he is an unwilling prophet, but in spite of his unwillingness and sense of inadequacy, he does not give in to his feelings. He resolutely fulfills his mission even though he has no confidence in the message accomplishing any good thing for his people in their immediate situation (11:10-14). As he obeyed God in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, he felt the sustaining power of God to help him through the difficulties. It was as though he had the strength of a reinforced wall made of bronze (15:20). Divine compulsion kept him working at this task. He was hated and despised, he was ostracized from his friends and family, he was denied the human sympathy of close associates, and he was even forbidden by the Lord to take a wife. No doubt there were many times when he ached for the approval and commendation of his associates. However, this personal need did not sway him from his task. He denounced the sin of king, priest, prophet, people, whenever it was observed because he was convinced that the calamity facing Judah was to be the judgement of God upon them because of their waywardness.

It is not difficult for us, with the benefit of our historic perspective, to see conditions in the era in which Jeremiah lived which made him the man of the hour. He knew well

the basic presupposition which underlies the relationship which exists between God and the nation exemplified by this summary of the covenant: "If you will be my people, I will be your God." Jeremiah remembered what had happened to the northern half of that kingdom in a preceding age. They had been rebellious, stiff necked, apostate. As a result God had used the armies of Assyria to chastise His people.

"They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they can not go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might." (Jeremiah 10:5-6).

Jeremiah knew that if it had happened once in the history of the nation it could happen again. As he observed the people of his day he saw no difference from that of Isaiah's time.

"Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not, me, saith the LORD. Take ye heed everyone of his neighbor, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with slanders. And they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people? Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit; one speaketh peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait. Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD; shall not my soul be avenged on such nation as this?

Jeremiah 9:2-9.

A part of the problem, as Jeremiah saw it, was the false, even treacherous, leadership being given to the people. Men who had the confidence of the people were unreliable. Manasseh, the king who reigned just prior to Jeremiah's time, had led the nation into gross idolatry (15:4), the priests who interpreted the law did not know

the Lord, and the prophets followed after the Baal (2:8). When Jeremiah began to warn the people of the impending judgment of God, the prophets claimed that they were safe, because the house of the Lord was in Jerusalem. Surely God would not destroy the Temple! But Jeremiah knew the history of God's dealings with this people well enough to know that such reasoning is false (7:9-15). In plain and direct words, he declared on behalf of God, "And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord; if ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened" (26:4-5). Such a bold declaration nearly cost Jeremiah his life, but he insisted that his words were true, that in deed he was only repeating that which God had instructed him to say (26:15).

Unfortunately for Judah, the leaders and the people did not take Jeremiah seriously. They continued in their sinfulness and relied upon the assistance they erroneously thought was available to them from Egypt to stave off the military aggression of the armies of Nebuchadnezzar. To their sorrow, they learned too late that Jeremiah was the true prophet, and all those who said, "It shall be well with you...No evil shall befall you" (23:7) were false prophets. In the end, many people lost their lives and many were sent into exile as the successful armies of Babylon sacked and plundered the nation. Those who remained behind lived in a land which was denuded of crops and vineyards and herds. They eked out their existence amid hardship and deprivation. Succeeding generations cannot help but say, "What a terrible price to pay for poor advice!" These unfortunate people learned, as all men should, that neither nation nor individual can disregard the laws of God with impunity.

As for Jeremiah, these trying and disappointing times gave him the opportunity to learn another lesson. He was already convinced that God was in control of history and that He had a specific purpose for the children of Israel. There was no doubt in his mind that the covenant which God had established at Sinai in Moses' day expressed the truth. It was God's plan to be the God of this people. How would it all turn out? Would God's plan be thwarted by a stubborn people? No. Amid the sorrow and turmoil of a Babylon victory, God was able to teach Jeremiah a new truth.

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the LORD; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD : for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Notice the dramatic change which Jeremiah envisions. A man's relationship with God will not depend upon someone else. He in his own rights and abilities will know God. Furthermore, there is to be no respect of persons. From the "least to the greatest" will have his opportunity.



WHAT ARE THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION?

By Bond Tennant

After the out pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter and John visited the temple in Jerusalem. There they came in contact with a man "lame from his mother's womb." Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked alms of them. "And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, excepting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leap-

It must also be noted that this relationship is not based upon externals for a guarantee of the presence of God - externals such as written tablets or a building such as the Temple. Rather, God's presence will be attested to by an inner conscience as well instruction for living the life which God requires. It will be a "law within them" written "upon their hearts."

This concept of a personal and inner new Covenant is Jeremiah's greatest contribution to our understanding of religion. This concept is so great that Jesus Himself in instituting that which we refer to as the Lord's Supper used Jeremiah's phrase when He said, "This cup is the new Testament in my blood" (I Corinthians 11:25).

Jeremiah saw the sin of his people and recognized that their only recourse was repentance. "Return to the Lord" is a phrase often upon his lips and found frequently in his book. This is the phrase which is so relevant for our own day. God's blessings are available for men today, but it is the repentant, humble person who is in a position to receive those blessings.

ing, and praising God" (Acts 3:4-8). Acts 3:11 tells us, "And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering." It is not surprising that the people wondered, for here was a man who they knew had been unable to walk from the time of his birth, but who was suddenly walking and leaping and praising God.

Peter observed the situation and said, "..., Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified

his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know; yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things which God before had shown by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" (Acts 3:12-18).

Continuing on, Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; 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" (Acts 3:19-21). No one can receive God's grace through Christ without repentance.

Restitution means restoration. Some translators state it, "Reconstitution." Something had been lost. One of the evidences of that loss was the conditions of the lame man who through faith in Jesus had been restored to health. Peter explained that following the second coming of Christ there would be times of restitution of all things. Jesus had healed a few of the sick in Israel during the short period of His ministry. Now Peter and John had restored another to health. But these blessings represented only tokens of the "times of restitution of all things" that will be instituted in the kingdom which will be established after the second coming of Jesus Christ.

What was lost because of sin? The answer to this question is revealed in the Genesis account of the creation and the fall of man. It was life that was lost through sin. The penalty, "Thou shalt surely die," fell upon our first parents and their children in tragic reality. Adam and Eve were driven out of Eden to die. Ever since, their descendants continue to die. Sickness and pain of every conceivable kind came with the dying process. Some have become blind; some deaf; some are not able to speak. Others have been unable to walk. Millions have finished their miserable lives in institutions for the insane. Even the healthiest of humans grow old and die!

Another thought is that in the loss of life man also lost his God-given dominion over the earth and lower earthly creatures. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28). David wrote, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the sons of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas" (Psalm 8:3-8).

The Apostle Paul quoted this prophecy in the second chapter of Hebrews, and then observed, "...But now we see not yet all things put under him (Man). 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" (Hebrews 2:8-9). David asked, "what is man...that thou visitest him?" This visit is the person of Jesus, who came at His first advent to redeem man from death. We see that Jesus has visited the earth and has given His life that man might be released from the penalty of death.

It is in the plan of God to send Jesus Christ to visit the earth a second time, not to die again, but to rule. Through His leadership, He will restore to man that which He provided through His death at His first advent. That is why Peter wrote concerning Christ, "Whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things." This blessed hope for mankind is based upon the sure foundation of God's promises. These promises have been ratified by the blood of Christ. Paul explained that the "times of restitution" had been spoken by the mouth of all God's prophets since the world began.

After making this sweeping statement concerning the "restitution" testimony of all God's holy prophets, Peter quoted an example of the prophecies. "For Moses truly said unto the father, A PROPHET SHALL THE LORD YOUR GOD RAISE UP UNTO YOU OF YOUR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; HIM SHALL YE HEAR IN ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER HE SHALL

SAY UNTO YOU. This is a quotation of Deuteronomy 18:15.

According to Peter's inspired explanation, this prophecy is to be fulfilled by Christ during "the times of restitution of ALL THINGS." Peter explained further that in the times of restitution those who do not "hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT EVERY SOUL,

WHICH WILL NOT HEAR THAT PROPHET, SHALL BE DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE" (Acts 3:23).

At no time in human history has anyone been able to escape death by believing and serving God. However, in "the times of restitution" only those who disbelieve and disobey will be "destroyed from among the people."

7 Things You May Or May

Not Know About PRAYER

By Warren H. Randall, Jr.

1. Abraham prayed for Abimelech.

"So Abraham prayed unto God; and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children" (Genesis 20:17).

2. Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife because she was barren.

"And Isaac intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived" (Genesis 25:21).

3. Elijah prayed for the widow's son.

"And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived" (I Kings 17:20-22).

NOTE: The soul referred to here is the breath of life.

4. Daniel prayed three times a day.

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10).

5. After being in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, Jonah prayed.

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly" (Jonah 2:1).

6. We should not be like the hypocrites.

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:5-6).

7. We should never stop praying.

"Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).

What Constitutes Maturity In A Christian's Life?

By Siegfried Maywald



Maturity in a Christian's life refers to a full understanding of what the will of God is. It means that the person has developed an excellent intellect, a perfect outlook on life and it's interrelationships with man. As a Christian person, he demonstrates a life in full understanding and development according to Jesus Christ's will. Now to further define maturity, we may distinguish seven behavioral attributes in people

Maturity is:

1. The ability to tolerate an injustice without wanting to get even or retaliate.
2. The patience and willingness to postpone immediate gratification in favor of a long term gain.
3. The perseverance or sweating out a project despite heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks. It is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat without complaint, collapse or attempting to find some one to blame.
4. The ability or art of living in peace with that which we cannot change and the courage to change that which can be changed and have the wisdom to know the difference.
5. The humility to be brave enough to admit and say: "I was wrong." And when you were right to forego the satisfaction of saying "I told you so."
6. The ability to evaluate a situation, make a decision

and then stick with it. The immature spend their lives exploring possibilities, change their minds often, and in the end accomplish nothing.

7. Maturity means dependability, of keeping one's word and coming through in a crisis. The immature on the other hand are masters of the ability to find excuses, to find alibis. They are confused, forgetful and disorganized. Their lives are a mass of broken promises to former friends, with unfinished business and good intentions that never materialize.

In our society today we are drowning in a sea of immorality, lies, crime and a road rage of wickedness. Everywhere we look we find deception and temptation to lead sinful lives which to a certain extent is encouraged and even promoted in our society. In Psalm 119:9, we read the question: "Where withal shall a man cleanse his way?" The answer is given in the last part of the verse; "by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

We must live in agreement with God's word in trust and faith. We must read His word and hide it in our hearts that we might not sin against him (Psalm 119:11). This is the best deterrent to sin. We have to acknowledge our sins out to God, and we must not hide our trespasses. When we confess our transgressions unto the Lord, He forgives our sins. For this to happen, we must put God's word first in our lives and use it as our guide daily. "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great

waters they shall not come nigh unto him" (Psalm 32:5-6). God is always ready to forgive sins. He told this to Moses in Exodus 34:7. God even showed it to us by sending Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

In II Timothy we read, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Timothy 2:21). "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness": (I Timothy 6:10-11).

The reach for monetary gain leads to all sorts of evil. It not only detracts from God's word, but also destroys marriages and separates friends. We on our own can not with stand this food of evil, but we must find council and strength with the help of God's Holy Spirit, which is more dynamic than all the tempting influence. The Apostle Paul tells us to flee, resist and take hold of God's advice. The Christian way of life is not passive, but an active way of life, which involves struggles courage and knowing what is right and wrong. It is a time of action and being led by the Holy Spirit. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit), whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrances, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17).

We are to meditate upon these things and give ourselves wholly to them. "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:15-16). Meditating means spending time, reading and thinking about God's word, and what you read. It means asking yourself how you should change your life so that you are living accord-

ing to God's will. Understanding and thinking about God's word become the first steps toward applying it to everyday life. If we want to follow God closely, we must also know and understand what He wants from us. Therefore, we read in I Timothy 4:13 the instruction "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil" (Proverbs 19:23). "The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him" (Proverbs 20:7). These two verses don't guarantee us that we will not have to face troubles in this life. Even the ocean is not always calm, but has days with strong winds and waves. And just like sunshine and rain alternates, so likewise will also change the everyday experiences in our lives. The scriptures give only an outline to what things would and will be in a sinless world which is yet to come upon the return of Jesus when He will rule as "King of Kings" over all the earth.

God's word continues to admonish us. "My son, if thou wilt receive my words and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding" (Proverbs 2:1-2). "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies; and all the kings that thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her" (Proverbs 3:13-18). "My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck,. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet" (Proverbs 3:21-24).

A mature person is a person who understands God's word and incorporates it with wisdom in his every day life. This man has purified his soul in obeying the truth. He believes and trusts in God's word and loves his brethren with a pure heart. Read I Peter 1:22-23. He does so because he is born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which now lives and

abides with him forever.

A mature person delights in the law of the Lord, and then meditates through day and night. By doing so, he becomes like a tree planted by the rivers of water, which bears his fruit in his season: whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever this person does shall prosper. Read Psalm 1:2-3.

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you for him hath God the Father sealed" (John 6:27). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit" (Romans 8:1). "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if thou by any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8-9). "And beside this, give all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:5-8).

In the Scriptures, we find many statements listing the benefits which are associated with obedience and understanding God's will. They include long life, peace as well as the necessities for life, but do not include certain trials and temptations which we may have to endure or withstand. We still live in a world of evil influences.

But the immature Christians, those who lack these things, who do not abide by God's word and disregard His advice, are blind and do not understand. "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" (I Peter 1:9). They are more interested in themselves, boastful and proud. They portray a form of godliness and outwardly appear to be religious, but bridle not their tongue and thereby continue to deceive their own heart. The religion of these people is vain! Read II Timothy 3:1 and James 1:26.

100 Simple Ways To Brighten Someone's Day

1. Call an old friend, just to say "Hi."
2. Hold a door open for a stranger.
3. Invite someone to lunch.
4. Compliment someone on his or her appearance.
5. Ask a coworker for their opinion on a project.
6. Bring cookies to work.
7. Let someone cut in during rush hour traffic.
8. Leave a waitress or waiter a big tip.
9. Tell a cashier to "have a nice day."
10. Call your parents.
11. Let someone know you miss them.
12. Treat someone to a movie.
13. Let a person know you really appreciate them.
14. Visit a retirement center.
15. Take a child to the zoo.
16. Fill up your spouse's car with gas.
17. Surprise someone with a small gift.
18. Leave a "thank you" note for the cleaning staff at work.
19. Write a letter to a distant relative.
20. Tell someone you thought about them the other day.
21. Put a dime in a stranger's parking meter before the time expires.
22. Bake a cake for a neighbor.
23. Send someone flowers to where they work.
24. Invite a friend to tea.
25. Recommend a good book to someone.
26. Donate clothing to a charity.
27. Offer an elderly person a ride to where they need to go.
28. Bag your own groceries at the check out counter.
29. Give blood.
30. Offer free baby-sitting to a friend who's really busy or just needs a break.
31. Help your neighbor rake leaves or shovel snow.
32. Offer your seat to someone when there aren't any left.
33. Help someone with a heavy load.
34. Ask to see a store's manager and comment on the great service.
35. Give your place in line at the grocery store to someone who has only a few items.

36. Hug someone in your family for no reason.
37. Wave to a child in the car next to you.
38. Send a "thank-you" note to your doctor.
39. Repeat something nice you heard about someone else.
40. Leave a joke on someone's answering machine.
41. Be a mentor or coach to someone.
42. Forgive a loan.
43. Fill up the copier machine with paper after you're done using it.
44. Tell someone you believe in them.
45. Share your umbrella on a rainy day.
46. Welcome new neighbors with flowers or a plant.
47. Offer to watch a friend's home while they're away.
48. Ask someone if they need you to pick up anything while you're out shopping.
49. Ask a child to play a board game, and let them win.
50. Ask an elderly person to tell you about "the good old days."
51. During bad weather, plan an indoor picnic with the family.
52. Buy someone a goldfish and bowl.
53. Compliment someone on their cooking and politely ask for a second helping.
54. Dance with someone who hasn't been asked.
55. Tell someone you mentioned them in your prayers.
56. Give children's clothes to another family when your kids outgrow them.
57. Deliver extra vegetables from your garden to the whole neighborhood..
58. Call your spouse just to say, "I Love you."
59. Call someone's attention to a rainbow or beautiful sunset.
60. Invite someone to go bowling.
61. Figure out someone's "half-birthday" by adding 182 days, and surprise them with a cake.
62. Ask someone about their children.
63. Tell someone which quality you like most about them.
64. Brush the snow off of the car next to yours.
65. Return your shopping cart to the front of the store.
66. Encourage someone to follow their dream, no matter how big or small it is.
67. Pay for a person's cup of coffee without them knowing it.
68. Leave a love letter where your partner will find it.
69. Ask an old person for their advice.
70. Offer to take care of someone's pet while they're away.
71. Tell a child you're proud of them.
72. Visit a sick person, or send them a care package.
73. Join a Big Brother or Sister program.
74. Leave a piece of candy on a coworker's desk.
75. Bring your child to work with you for the afternoon.
76. Give someone a recording of their favorite music.
77. Email a friend some information about a topic they are especially interested in.
78. Give someone a homemade gift.
79. Write a poem for someone.
80. Bake some cookies for your local fire or police department.
81. Organize a neighborhood cleanup and have a barbecue afterwards.
82. Help a child build a birdhouse or similar project.
83. Check on an old person, just to see if they're okay.
84. Ask for the recipe after you eat over at someone's house.
85. Personally welcome a new employee to work and offer to take them out for lunch.
86. While in a car, ask everyone to buckle up because they are important to you.
87. Let someone else eat the last slice of cake or pizza.
88. Stop and buy a drink from a kid's lemonade stand.
89. Forgive someone when they apologize.
90. Wave to someone looking for a parking space when you're about to leave a shopping center.
91. Leave a pint of your spouse's favorite flavor of ice cream in the freezer with a bow on it.
93. Do a household chore that is usually done by someone else in the family.
94. Be especially happy for someone when they tell you their good news.
95. Compliment a coworker on their role in a successful project.
96. Give your spouse a spontaneous back rub at the end of the day.
97. Serve someone in your family breakfast in bed.
98. Ask someone if they've lost weight.
99. Make a donation to a charity in someone's honor.
100. Take a child to a ball game.



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.

Crime wave keeps D.C. on edge. Violence, arson, gangs lead police chief to declare emergency

**by Derrill Holly
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON - The long, hot summer is growing more uncomfortable for residents of the nation's capital because of a rise in violence, an increasing threat from street gangs and an unsolved serial arson case.

Some of the crimes have been brazen, others especially tragic.

Last week, five women and three men ages 17 to 24, were shot outside a nightclub where police already had increased patrols. Last month, a city employee, 60-year-old Shirley Pugh, was driving home when she was struck and killed by a stolen vehicle. Authorities say a 13-year-old was behind the wheel.

The situation led Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey to declare a crime emergency Thursday, allowing commanders to change officer's hours and duties without the 14-day notice required under the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police. He did not immediately cancel vacations or other leave but said some scheduling flexibility would be necessary to deal with what he termed "a crisis."

Police are appealing to Washingtonians for help. Community activists even went to the city jail and met with inmates to ask them to persuade fellow gang members to call a truce. At least one official wants strict enforcement

of the city's summer curfew of midnight for children younger than 17.

Washington's crime level is not approaching that the early 1990s, when the city earned the moniker "murder capital."

But there are troubling signs.

This year, there have been 166 homicides, an increase of 5.1 percent from a year ago. The most recent victim was a transgender male, the third such person to be killed in the city in a week. Two years ago the city recorded a 30-year low of 233 homicides.

Since mid-July, police have averaged 851 arrests per week.

That is about 120 more per week than in March. Spread over an entire year, that would be more than 44,000 arrests, an astonishing number for a city of 572,000 people. Police have made more than 32,000 arrests this year. By comparison, Charlotte, N.C., with a population of just under 541,000 averaged 513 arrests per week last year, according to Keith Bridges, a spokesman for the Charlotte -Mecklenburg Police Department.

An arsonist believed responsible for 14 fires in the city and 10 more in neighboring Maryland has yet to be caught. One woman died in a June 5 blaze in the district, and seven people suffered minor injuries in other fires.

The jump in crime is the latest problem to befall an area still recovering from two difficult years that saw a terrorist strike, an anthrax attack and deadly sniper shootings.

Ramsey, Mayor Anthony A. Williams and U.S. Attorney Rescue C. Howard Jr. said the public needs to help law enforcement.

"We cannot prosecute these cases alone," Howard said.

The city's deputy mayor for public safety, Margaret Kellems, said gang turf wars led community activists to visit the city jail last weekend. At meetings lasting several hours, inmates with ties to the groups were persuaded to call for a truce.

"They're trying to contact some of the people they know are driving some of his violence," Kellems said.

Residents weary of the violence, vandalism and other crimes say much of the problem is caused by youths who have too much time on their hands and too little supervision. They want police to crack down on crime and, if necessary, their parents.

"Make the parents serve some time or levy a heavy fine against them," said Constance Woody, 69, who has lived in the crime-plagued Benning Ridge neighborhood for 46 years.

The mayor's public safety and human services experts are working to come up with solutions, including possibly removing young offenders awaiting trial from homes where they are not properly supervised.

"These are hard-core kids, and after-school programs ain't going to do it. We need different measures to reach these kids," Williams said.

Councilman Harold Brail wants stricter enforcement of the district's curfew. It requires those under 17 not accompanied by an adult to be off the streets after midnight during the summer and after 11 p.m. during the school year. Parents or guardians are subject to fines of up to \$500 for violations.

"They're trying to enforce it, but a stronger effort needs to be made," Brail said.

Comment

Washington, D.C. is not the only city that has a crime wave! Crimes are spreading in the suburbs also. Just cracking down on children by their parents is not the solution. Crime begins in the heart of a person.

II Timothy 3:1-5 gives us some of the basic characteristics of many people which lead them to commit crimes. These characteristics are widespread in the world today just as God's Word prophesied. "This know also, but that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud,

blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, hardy, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

If everyone would turn away from these things, there would be no crime.

Facts One Must Consider When Studying Prophecy

First, one has to differentiate between the church and Israel. Each has a unique relationship to God and Christ. Failure to discern which of these two entities a prophecy pertained to leads to great confusion in one's understanding of prophecy. With proper understanding, prophecy sheds the true light on the present and future prophecies already fulfilled, when recognized as such provides irrefutable evidence that the Bible is God's Word.

Secondly, one must distinguish between the reaping phase and the warring phase of Christ's coming. The reaping phase is when Christ comes to take His church to the New Jerusalem. The warring phase is when He comes with the saints to war against the nations and rescue Israel.

Israel

Israel is back in her land not because of her own merit, but because God is fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as he said He would do in the later days. We may be certain that the God who brought her back to her land in fulfillment of His promises, though they continue to reject Christ, will not allow Israel to be uprooted again. Read Jeremiah, chapters 30-32. The importance of Israel in the last days cannot be overstated.

Nothing else in history depends on modern Israel and its impact upon today's world. This is all in fulfillment of specific prophecies.

"I am too blessed to be stressed!" The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. Love and peace be with you forever.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: I have heard some ministers say that the Seven Last Plagues are not literal. Others say that they are past. I believe that they are both literal and future. Am I correct?

Answer: Yes, you are correct! Let us consider seven reasons why they are both literal and future:

1. The Seven last Plagues, also called the Wrath of God, are for the purpose of bringing all heathen nations on earth to realize that God is God, and that He is ruling this world. The plagues of Egypt were for the same purpose. "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them" (Exodus 7:5). As a consequence of these judgments, Israel was let go. Revelation 15:4 tells us, "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgements are made manifest." The Lord here is plainly speaking of the plagues. If they were figurative, the nations would not even know when they came or what they were, for the wicked will not understand Bible prophecy.

2. When the seven angels come forth to pour out the plagues of God's wrath upon the earth, the heavenly temple is filled with smoke so that NO MAN can enter until the plagues are poured out. "And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till

the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (Revelation 15:8). Jesus is now our mediator between us and God. He is in the most holy place of the heavenly temple just as was the high priest under the old dispensations. He went into the Most Holy place and interceded for the people. If He could not have done this because of the earthly temple being filled with smoke, then the people during that time could not have had their sins forgiven. If the plagues are in the past, then the door of mercy has closed. Jesus is no longer our mediator because, when the angels come forth to pour out these plagues, we are told that no man can enter the temple till the plagues are past. No man can enter the temple while the plagues are in the process of being poured out. This is what God tells us!

3. It was the Russelites who first advocated that the plagues are in the past. They thought Jesus was coming in 1914. When He did not come, they said that He came in secret and is here now. This error led them to others just as wrong. One of these is that the Third Angel's Message is in the past, and the plagues are in the past because they are events preceding the return of Christ. They claim that He is already here, therefore the plagues are past.

4. These plagues are called the LAST PLAGUES. Hence, none can come later or follow them because they are the last plagues. We all know there have been nu-

merous plagues such as the Spanish Influenza, the Bubonic plague, the Black Death, etc., that have come taking the lives of millions. If some of these seven plagues are past, they were not the last plagues. Therefore the Lord was mistaken and gave us the wrong information.

5. Revelation 15:4 reads, "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." These judgments referred to are the seven last plagues, and because of their reality and service punishment upon the nations, they will know and recognize God. The word "Manifest" means to be made known, clear and plain. See Webster's definition of the word. There will be no figurative symbolism about them. The nations knew they are here. If they were not literal, and not in the past, they have failed of third purpose because the world is still ignorant of their presence.

6. Three of these same plagues fell upon the Egyptians, and all of the Egyptians knew about it. One of them was boils breaking forth. "And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast" (Exodus 9:8-10). Note that the first of the Seven Last Plagues is a noisome and grievous sore "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (Revelation 16:2). The first plague falling upon Egypt was the waters turning to blood and the fish all dying. "Thus saith the Lord, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river. And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt" (Exodus 7:17-21). This really occurred, and the people knew it. IT was not figurative, so none of the wicked knew anything particular was wrong. In Revelation 16:3-5, the same thing occurs again, but this time it will be upon the whole world. It will be literal the next time because the nations know and realize it.

7. The angel Gabriel told Daniel to close up and seal the prophecies of that book till the time of the end, and then knowledge would be increased, and the wise would understand. Remember the the Third Angel's message is a warning to the world against worshipping the beast, etc. Hence, this late message could not have been intelligently received or accomplished any time before the book of Daniel was unsealed, because Daniel is the one that introduced the beasts into prophecy, and told us what they meant. Read Daniel 7:16-23. This book concerning the beast was not to be unsealed until "the Time of the end". Therefore, the Third Angel's message which warns the world against worshipping the beast, and the consequence of doing so would be the seven last plagues, could not have gone forth until the book of Daniel was unlocked. They cannot be in the past.

The Lord has never brought his judgments upon any city, or vain upon the world without first having warned the poet of its approach and of the way to escape. He warned Sodom and Gomorrah. He warned Tyre and Sidon. He warned Nineveh and Babylon, and he warns the world today of His pending judgments, which are in particular the Seven Last Plagues, known as The Wrath of God, which He says will go to every nation on earth. "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented for with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:9-10).



Youth Retreat Will Be Held in San Antonio, Texas This Year

Greetings in the name of Jesus from all of us here in San Antonio, Texas. Our youth retreat was held this past June at Singing Hills. It takes a lot of planning and preparing for this retreat. We would like to thank everyone who helped, from the speakers to the camp counselors and all the youth who participated. The Lord moved in so many ways. I was truly touched by the pre-teens. Their enthusiasm and sincere hearts that they had, blessed me more than I can say. The time spent here is planned to help your teen with his or her walk with the Lord. Prayer was our theme this year, and we had many speakers who spoke on that topic.

There are other fun activities also. The afternoon at the river is always fun for everyone. The teens enjoyed a ropes course, which taught them to trust in one another. The pre-teens had a blast riding horses, and, for some, it was the first time. Both groups enjoyed the praise and worship time and worship band. I believe that lives were changed, and your kids moved a little closer to the Lord in this time.

I want the parents to know that our primary goal at this camp is to help your youth to know the Lord more intimately, and to take what they have learned and experienced back to their home and church. The young people are our future, and the church of tomorrow. What are we teaching them? "Let us not be conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). We will continue to support and help them all we can in their walk with the Lord. Please pray for our youth retreat next summer. Satan is angry and continues to try and knock us down, but in the name of Jesus and with all of your prayers, we will not be defeated by the enemy; because we know the Lord has much more power than Satan. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this retreat possible, and I hope to see you this Summer 2004.

For information please contact Cindy Buechner at (210) 622-3191.

Boys - June 27-28

Co-ed June 29th

Girls - June 30-July 1

An application may be copied from the back cover.

Preteens



Teens



LESSON I

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-26.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:2.

"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

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

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

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

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

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

The darkness of the night cannot extinguish the smallest candle.

LESSON II

THE GOLDEN CALF

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:7.

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

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

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

Answer to Who is it? --Aaron.

LESSON III

MOSES BREAKS THE TABLES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:17-35.

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

"...and Moses' anger waxed hot and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount."

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

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

LESSON IV

GOD TALKS WITH MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:1-11.

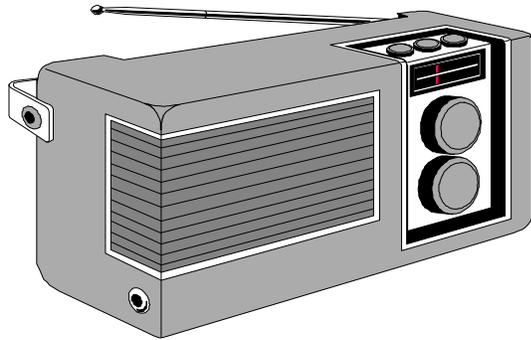
Golden Text: Exodus 33:11 (first part).

"And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face as a man speaketh unto his friend.."

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

WHO IS IT?

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



GOD IS TUNED IN

by Herbert Wendell Austin

Mother dropped her dishcloth as a singing voice floated in from the back yard, and peeped through the window. Her little Jane was playing with Sally, the doll, and the child was singing for all she was worth. But she was singing a rather unwholesome song, which she had evidently picked up from the streets. That is what made Mother drop her dishcloth and rush to the window.

Another familiar little voice babbled and fussed. Again Mother started. Her little Ralph had dropped a stone on his toe and was using bad language-another unhappy pickup from the world outside.

Mrs. Carson stood there by the kitchen window, thinking as she had never thought before. She had a battle to fight and she knew it. But how was she to fight it? How was she to do more toward clean language and clean song than merely to exclude bad language from the home? Out of her anxious mind, the radical plan was formed.

Getting the song book, she went out into the yard and called Jane and Ralph to her. "God is tuned in and we are going to broadcast for Him," she said, turning to "Jesus Loves Me." "Now, since God is tuned in, we must sing good songs and say sweet words. We must make it our very best."

Mother began to sing, and the boy and girl joined in quickly. Mrs. Carson looked Heavenward to further put over the idea that they were broadcasting for God. When the song was finished, Mother remarked: "That was sweet. I know God loved it!"

"Where is God?" asked Jane.

"We have no broadcasting station," observed Ralph. "God is everywhere," Mother responded. "He is very near us all the time, and He is always tuned in to hear what we say and sing. We don't have to have a station and a microphone to broadcast over for God to hear us. All we have to do is just to sing or speak, and if we sing ugly songs and speak bad words God hears them, too, and is disappointed. He loves sweet words and sweet songs, and He is tuned in all the time."

"Then, I'll always try to sing good songs to Him," said Jane.

"And I'll try to say good words to Him," said Ralph.

Mother drew her boy and girl into her arms. "I know you will, and you'll remember God hears all the time!"

A LESSON EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW

How many people would change their acts,
If they were aware of these true facts?

That

The eyes of the Lord are in every place,
Beholding the evil and the good (Proverbs 15:3).

Wherever you go, wherever you be,
Whether in city, country, or on the sea,
Whether riding a train or up into skies,
Remember the all-seeing eyes!

He sees every deed both good and bad,
He sees many deeds that make Him sad,
Oh, we must be careful, you and I,
And remember the all-seeing eye!

His eye takes note of what we do,
and we will get paid when our life is through,
Our works are known beyond the skies,
So remember the all-seeing eyes.

Answers to Questions on page twenty three

1. Abraham 2. Moses 3. David 4. Jeremiah
5. Jonah 6. Daniel 7. John the Baptist
8. Mary 9. Jesus

Answers to questions on page twenty two

1. God told this man that he would have a great family that would become a great nation and through his family all families would be blessed. His son's name was Isaac.
2. God called this man to lead the people out of exile and he made a great promise or covenant with him on Mount Sinai.
3. As a boy, he showed his courage and trust in God by defeating a giant named Goliath. As king, he united his country.
4. The people thought this prophet was out of his mind because he warned that the kingdom would be destroyed by the Babylonians. He smashed a vase to try to make his message clear.
5. God called this man to help save the people who lived in Nineveh. Instead of obeying, he ran away. Later, he returned to do God's will.
6. This prophet was thrown into the lion's den for praying to God. His faith in God saved him.
7. This man baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. His mother's name was Elizabeth.
8. This woman said yes to God and the Angel Gabriel.
9. A beautiful Savior, Son of God and Son of Man.

To solve the questions below find the answer to the first question and remove the first letter to get the answer of the second question.

1. The name of the Gospel after Matthew.
Noah's famous boat.
2. A famous Bible tower. (Genesis 11:9)
The first shepherd. (Genesis 4:2)
3. A stone worn by a priest (Exodus 28:19)
A door in a city wall. (Genesis 23:10)
4. A place where fire is laid. (Jeremiah 36:22)
Something which is the Lord's. (Psalms 24:1)
5. The place where Moses saw the burning bush (Exodus 3:1)

- A prince of that country (Judges 7:25)
6. A man who wrote a book (Joshua 10:13)
One of Jacob's sons (Genesis 30:13)
 7. Belshazzar's famous dinner. (Daniel 5:1)
The place where the Wise Men saw the star.
 8. The father of Jahdo. (I Chronicles 5:14)
A Land mentioned in Job 1:1.
 9. A friend of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 17:10)
A city where Abraham lived. (Genesis 15:7)
 10. A Bible battle ground. (Numbers 21:23)
A Bible King. (II Chronicles 28:22)

FIND ELEVEN MOUNTAINS OF THE BIBLE

Unscramble the words below to make eleven mountains found in the Bible. Each answer is one word and all names are found in this list.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Sinai | Gilead | Moriah |
| Nebo | Gerizim | Tabor |
| Lebanon | Seir | Carmel |
| Ephraim | Pisgah | Ararat |
| Hermon | Bashan | Zion |
| Gilboa | | Olivet |

- ELMCAR _____
 HASPIG _____
 MORHEN _____
 OHMIRA _____
 BONE _____
 TARARA _____
 NOZI _____
 VIOLET _____
 ORBAT _____
 RISE _____
 ANOBLN _____

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are excited to inform you of the 2004 summer retreat in our beautiful Texas hill country. **2004** retreat will be a *moment made for worshipping* and it will bring in some new changes. The Lord's retreat will be June 27th- July 1st. Registration fee is \$35 and due with signed form. If you would like a camp shirt please send an additional \$10. We *will* not be excepting registration forms after **June 13th**. The schedule is below.

Jun 27th 1 P.M.-Registration for all young men, ages 11-19 years
Jun 28th -Various activities and speakers for each group, 11-14 yrs and 15-19 yrs.
Jun 29th 12 P.M-Registration for all young women, ages 11-19 years
Activities and speakers for all
Young men leave after dinner and before dark, No Exceptions
Jun 30th -Various activities and speakers for each groups, 11-14 yrs and 15-19 yrs.
July 1st -Young women leave before 4 P.M.

Camper's Name _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Address _____

Age as of 6/04 _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

If ordering a shirt, specify shirt size _____ Adult/Child _____

Name and Telephone of nearest relative if parent/guardian cannot be reached

Name _____ Phone # _____

Heart trouble, diabetes, asthma, or other condition we should be aware of:

Serious ivy, oak, or sumac poisoning reaction:

Insect sting reaction:

Reactions to Penicillin or other drugs:

Any other allergies:

Any restrictions to Swimming or Horseback riding:

Is camper under any medication or dietary regimen at this time?

Any medication brought/sent to camp **must** be in its original container and labeled for the individual for whom it is intended.

My child, named above on this form, has permission to take part in all camp activities, including offsite activities under proper supervision. I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents arising there from. I understand that attempts will be made to contact me if my child requires emergency medical/surgical treatment, but if it is impractical to do so and/or until I can arrive at the scene, I hereby give my permission to the physician selected to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order infections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery for my child as named above. Any financial obligation incurred will be covered by me personally, or by the insurance policy listed below.

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

INSURANCE CO. & POLICY # _____