



The  
Advocate  
of Truth



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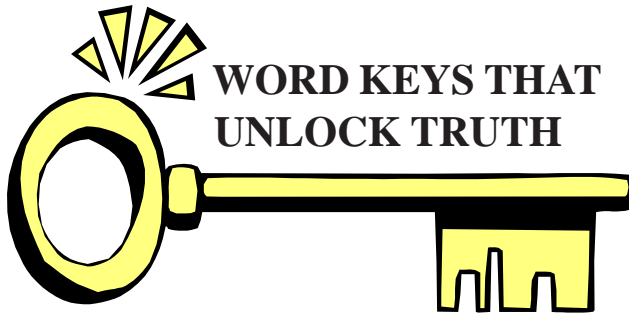
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## IMAGE

What do you see when you look into a mirror? You see an image. You see a likeness of yourself.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines the word "image" as: "1. a) an imitation or representation of a person or thing, drawn, painted, photographed, etc.; esp., a statue b) a sculptured figure used as an idol, 2. the visual impression of something produced by reflection from a mirror, refraction through a lens, etc. 3. a person or thing very much like another; copy; counterpart; likeness 4. a) a mental picture of something; conception; idea; impression.

In Genesis 1:26 (first part) we read, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." We read further in verse 27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and

female created he them." Genesis 5:3 states, "And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth."

From the above definition, we see that an image is a likeness of something that already exists. This likeness is not only physical, but also reveals unique characteristics.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29). God wants us to possess the same characteristics as Christ.

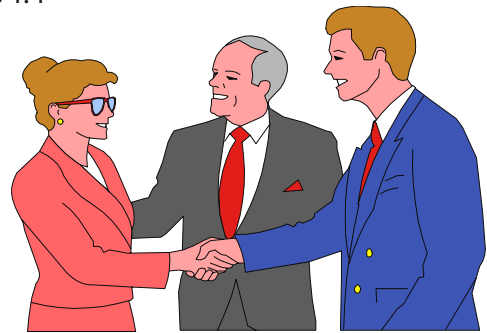
Our Heavenly Father desires us all to have the same image or likeness. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (II Corinthians 3:18).

Speaking of Jesus we read in Hebrews 1:3: "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Let us not be deceived by this world, but allow ourselves to be an image -or likeness) of Christ. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Corinthians 4:4

# *How Does One Lead A Christian Life?*

*By Ben DeLong*



## **The Teachings of Christ**

The very word "Christian" means follower of Christ. Therefore to lead a Christian life, we must follow the example and teachings of Christ. So what does Christ teach concerning how we are to treat our neighbors?

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy

cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you (Matthew 5:38-44).

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

We are to love everyone whether they be our closest friend or our bitterest enemy. We are to follow the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Jesus illustrates this "rule" in the parable of the good Samaritan.

"And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:30-37).

By Jesus's one command we are to follow the example of the Samaritan. We are to help our neighbors when they are in trouble.

### **Fruits of the Spirit**

Paul speaks of how to live a Christian life to the Galatians. He terms the attributes of a Christian life to be "Fruits of the Spirit."

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22).

Let us examine each of these attributes in detail.

#### **Love**

Love is caring for others. Love for our brethren is required to be a child of God.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35).

Adherence to this fruit of the Spirit requires that we truly care about the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of our fellow brethren. When we love our neighbor, we build a strong Christian environment.

#### **Joy**

Joy is happiness and a positive outlook on life. We should be joyful in our worship of God.

"Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD taketh pleasure in this people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds." (Psalms 149:3-5).

Joy is contagious. Try this experiment: smile at someone and watch their reaction. They will smile back. When we are truly happy in the Lord, others will wonder what is so good in our lives. They will want to be a part of what we are a part of.

#### **Peace**

Peace can best be described as the opposite of war, strife, or bickering. Peace is a calmness of the spirit in the face of tension and adversity. We are to seek peace.

"Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (I Peter 3:11).

In our lives, strife brings on strife and bickering brings on bickering. Only by following the path of peace are we able to break the path of this evil.

#### **Longsuffering**

Longsuffering, or patience, is not being quick to judge or rash.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" (James 5:7).

We are to demonstrate patience in our lives. When faced with problems or aggravations, we need to take a deep breath and count to ten. Only once we're calm are we able to address the issue at hand in Christian like manner.

#### **Gentleness**

Gentleness is demonstrated in Christian living through being soft spoken and not harsh with our words.

"Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great" (II Samuel 22:36).

When we are gentle toward our brethren and show them kindness, we build an atmosphere of trust and friendship. We must watch our words and speak things that

build other people up, not hurt their feelings.

### **Goodness**

Goodness in Christian life means being helpful and ordering good works for our fellow brethren. We are to be full of goodness.

"And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another" (Romans 15:14).

An example of goodness would be to help a neighbor carry groceries to their car or to help gather in vegetables from the garden before a storm blows in.

### **Faith**

Faith is putting our complete trust in God.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:7).

Faith is at the foundation of our belief. We have faith that God has a plan for our lives and faith that he has prepared eternal life for his saints. To lead a Christian life we must have faith in God.

### **Meekness**

Meekness is being humble and not boastful or full of pride. Pride is a powerful enemy that separates us from God.

"The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD (Obadiah 1:3-4).

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5).

In order to live a Christian life, we must humble ourselves before God and submit to His will in our lives. Remember our ways, thoughts, and abilities are insignificant when compared to those of God.

### **Temperance**

Temperance is moderation in all things. To our knowledge of God, we must add temperance.

"And beside this, giving diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience

godliness" (II Peter 1:5-6).

In our lives we must not go overboard with anything. Over indulgence in food will make us overweight. Too much recreation will make us lazy, while too much work will burn us out. We must strive to maintain balance in all things.

As Christians, we must follow the teachings and examples of Christ. We are to love all of our neighbors and help them when they are in trouble. We are to display the fruits of the spirit in all our world interactions. If we do these things, we will lead a positive, fulfilling life and bring others to God by our example.

# 7

## **Things You May Or May Not Know About**

### **SILVER**

**By Warren H. Randall Jr.**

1. Abram (later Abraham) was very rich. "And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold" (Genesis 13:1-2).
2. The Israelites were able to take valuables out of Egypt. "And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians" (Exodus 3:21-22).
3. What happened if an ox pushed a manservant or a maidservant? "If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned" (Exodus 21:32).

4. The words of the Lord are pure words.

"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" (Psalm 12:6).

5. Will he that loveth silver be satisfied?

"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity" (Ecclesiastics 5:10).

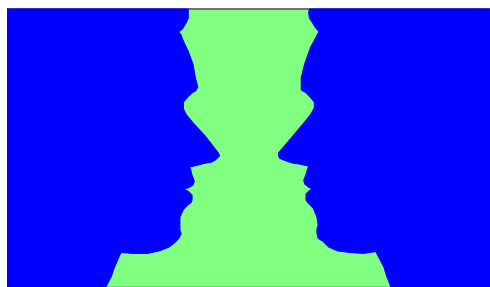
6. Jesus was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.

"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver" (Matthew 26:14-15).

7. The silversmiths at Ephesus were upset with Paul.

"And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith,

which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:23-28).



# WHY ARE YOU ALIVE?

BY CAROL BUECHNER

Have you ever stopped to consider why you are alive today and living on this earth? Is it an accident that you are here? Is there a special reason for you to exist? As always, you can go to the Bible to find out the answers to these questions. The scriptures will leave no doubt in your mind.

Isaiah clearly expresses why you are here on the earth. "Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself" (44:24). God made you and placed you on the earth. The fact that God made everything is proven in the first chapter of Genesis. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (1:1). God then made the light, creating day and night. Second, He "...made the firmament, and divided the water...and called the firmament Heaven...and let the dry land appear" (Earth and Seas) (verse 7-10). Third, God created the grass, the herb yielding seed and the fruit tree. The fourth thing God created was the sun and the moon. The

fifth creation of God was "the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth..." (verse 20). God finishes his work on the sixth day by creating cattle and many kinds of beasts. Now, God isn't finished. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 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" (verses 26-28). God made it all, and the culmination of His creation was to make man to have rule or power over what He had made. Don't ever forget how special God made you. He has created billions of people and no two have the same DNA nor the same fingerprints. Each person is unique, including you!

Stop now and think about it. Did God simply create all of this just to have something to do? A clue to His reasoning may be found in Genesis 3:8: "And they (Adam and Eve) heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." God came to spend time with them. Adam and Eve must have spent many enjoyable hours walking and talking with God in the Garden of Eden. Can you imagine how wonderful it must have been to relax and walk about discussing many things with God, enjoying the beautiful scenery and eating the lush fruit that grew in the garden? God had come to spend another evening with His friends in the garden but their last meeting in the garden was not so enjoyable. Adam and Eve had done just what God had instructed them NOT to do. They had eaten of the fruit of the tree that God told them not to touch. Sin had entered the lives of Adam and Eve, and they were banished from the garden. God no longer could anticipate His time of fellowship with the ones that He had created. God's heart must have been broken. Why would this be so? The Bible states that, "We love him, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US" (I John 4:19). "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:8). God is, without any doubt, a God of love. The above verses clearly state that He is love and that He first loved us. The conclusion can be stated that God created man out of love, and He sought the fellowship of man because of His love for them (Adam and Eve), and Adam and Eve reciprocated by loving God in return. God, therefore, created man to be loved and love Him in return. That love of God can not be denied when you contemplate John 3:16: "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." God's love for every human being is shown in the sacrifice He made of His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave up His son to come to the earth to live and be put through a horrible death that must have broken His heart to watch! Only through the death of Jesus, His Son, do you have access to the forgiveness of sins and the right to eternal life. It is yours for the asking!

Is there still doubt in your mind that God made you for a purpose? "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; THE WORLD, AND THEY THAT DWELL THEREIN" (Psalm 24:1). "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or

principalities, or powers: ALL THING WERE CREATED BY HIM, AND FOR HIM" (Colossians 3:16). "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love; Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:3-6). "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures" (James 1:18). From the very beginning, God created all of mankind FOR HIMSELF. It is an act of love and by His will. He predestinated that each and every human born would be able to receive salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, you were born for Him, too. You are not an accident for you were created to carry out His will and purpose in your life. But that doesn't necessarily mean that you are going to be God's servant. Man was made with the ability to make a choice so it is up to you to choose to belong to God. The other choice is to belong to Satan. This is where your will comes in. You can either follow your own will or the will of your heavenly Father. God can look at your life and have a choice of two things to say about you. One is, "My servant is doing my will." The other one is, "Alright, you have it your way." The decision you make on whose will to follow is of enormous consequences "not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN" (Matthew 7:21). There is no doubt that you MUST follow the will of God and seek to follow the purpose He has chosen for your life.

The big question now becomes, how do you know what your purpose is and what God's will is for you? Going back to the Old Testament, advice from David to Solomon can get you focused on the right way to go. As David was turning over the building of the temple of God to his son, Solomon, he didn't leave him without guidelines. First David said, "...KEEP AND SEE FOR ALL THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD...": (I Chronicles 28:8). This means to study God's commandments—all that is written in the Bible. KNOW them and KEEP them. This doesn't mean to simply memo-

rize them but to put them into action in your life. In verse nine, David's advice continues: "...KNOW THOU THE GOD OF THY FATHER..." As you study God's word and seek, Him you will learn all about Him. You will know what He expects of you and you will learn what things He likes and dislikes. He will become a part of you. Third, David instructed, "...SERVE HIM WITH A PERFECT HEART..." This means to give yourself completely to God in an attitude of obedience and honor. Do this with a heart that is pure and continuously cleansed. Fourth, David advises, "...SERVE HIM...WITH A WILLING MIND..." Your mind must be focused on God. It is absolutely necessary to be willing and open to renew or refresh your mind as you learn and change day by day. There are reasons for this. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). "And be not 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). If you are continuously renewing your mind, it will be focused on God and not the world, and you will have peace. David concludes these instructions by saying, "...for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever" (I Chronicles 28:9). Seek Him in your prayers and in your study of the word. Seek Him in everything that you do. It is up to you to do the seeking and to serve Him with all your heart.

As you go on your journey of purpose for God, remember the concluding remarks that David made to Solomon: "... be strong and of good courage, and do it:

fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee..." (verse 20). It will take courage and fortitude. There will be times of fear and doubt. But you can keep on going and fulfill your purpose in life with your complete focus on God.

### THE 11TH - 20TH COMMANDMENTS

11. Thou shalt **not worry**, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
  12. Thou shalt **not be fearful**, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
  13. Thou shalt **not cross bridges before you come to them**, for no one has yet succeeded in accomplishing this.
  14. Thou shalt **handle only one problem at a time**, and leave the others to the Lord until their turn comes up.
  15. Thou shalt **not take troubles to bed with you**, for they make very poor bedfellows.
  16. Thou shalt **not try to carry the problems of the world on your shoulders**, for nobody (except for One) has a back that is broad enough.
  17. Thou shalt **be a good listener**, for God often speaks to us through the mouths of others.
  18. Thou shalt **not try to relive yesterday**: for good or ill, it is forever gone. Live in the now and rejoice in it.
  19. Thou shalt **firmly dismiss feelings of frustrations**, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will interfere with positive action.
  20. Thou shalt **count thy blessings**, never overlooking the smallest, for our biggest blessings are composed of many small ones.
- Author Unknown

## THREATENING WAR DOES NOT BRING PEACE



By Siegfried Maywald

Since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, I have found myself reflecting more and more deeply upon the meaning of peace both during prayer time and in between.

In my understanding, and according to God's will, revenge is not the way to make peace. That is why some nations in the world are now involved in an ugly guerilla



war in Iraq and many soldiers have to pay with their lives for it. Here we find that the word of spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, reflect the truth. For he reminds us that what happens on a global level is in fact directly linked to what happens in our own hearts as individuals. We must come to the realization that what all those advocates for peace and nonviolence have in common is that they use their energy for the good of people. The same energy resides within their hearts as well as in the hearts of those who threaten violence. The difference is in how their energy is used. So we have to differentiate between the energy used for nonviolent ways with those whose attitude is to offend and destroy. A Christian has the challenge to choose to react in nonviolent ways against all those who offend his spirit whether it is at work, at home, amongst a circle of fiends or the world in general. To relate and act in the same fashion as the "aggressor" does, whether it is in a defensive or offensive way, would be received as a declaration of war against them. I know that this is definitely not the way Jesus Christ would react. His word tells us in Romans 12:19: "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourself, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." I know this saying is hard for "normal; people to understand.

We are admonished to live in peace and harmony with our fellow man. Jesus words tell us in Romans 12:20-21: "If thine enemy hunger feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing those shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with

good." This definitely is not the way "normal" or worldly people would react. They can not understand that aggressive behavior can be dampened with kindness, compassion and love. God's word instructs us to live a life in a truly caring, forgiving and meaningful existence. We are told to love one another and at the very least live in a nonviolent coexistence in relationship with one another.

Today, the world is again involved in another war. I would like to speak up and say that war works against the human spirit. It is not the way of Jesus Christ who came into this world without vengeance in His heart. And vengeance ought not to be the way of those who proclaim to be followers of Him. Jesus Christ came with love and compassion to save, so likewise we should show love and compassion and not take matters into our own hands and retaliate in violent ways. The way of vengeance does not lead to a peaceful solution, but only aggravates the situation. In I Peter 2:1; 2: 21-23 we read: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."

Let us ask God to constrain our might and give us the strength to resist the temptations of power to attack . May God lead us to make peace, not war, wherever we go. May He also lead us to the understanding that vengeance begets only more violence. May God help us to become more peaceful in all our ways.

## The Two Phases of Christ's Return



Jesus promised to return for His disciples. How will this be accomplished, and what else will occur? Let us look into the Scriptures to see what they say on this matter.



First, Jesus promised to return for His saints. "**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there**

ye may be also" [John 14:3]. The disciples are told of His return. Let us read this in Acts. **"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel" [Acts 1:9-10].**

Jesus will resurrect the righteous dead ("the dead in Christ"), and those in Christ, who are alive when He returns will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. **"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" [I Thessalonians 4:15-17].**

These individuals will be caught up into the New Jerusalem which is made of pure gold, clear as crystal. This is also known as "The Sea of Glass". **"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" [Revelation 15:2].**

Jesus's return will be in two parts or phases. First He will return to the clouds and "catch up" the saints to meet Him in the air. This is called the reaping phase. The saints will remain with the Lord while the seven last plagues are poured out on the wicked. The seven last plagues are called "the wrath of God". **"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" [Revelation 15:1].**

The Apostle Paul tells us that the "children of light" are not appointed to wrath. **"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep,**

**as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" [I Thessalonians 5:5-9].**

Isaiah tells us about being hidden "for a little moment, until the indignation be over past." **"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" [Isaiah 26:20-21].**

In Psalms we read, **"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" [Psalms 91:7-10].**

### The Reaping Phase

We see Jesus as a reaper in Revelation. **"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped" [Revelation 14:14-16].**

We see in Revelation where Jesus is called "King of Saints" at this time. **"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God**

**Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" [Revelation 15:3].**

### **The Warring Phase**

After the plagues are poured out, the saints return to the earth with the Lord "to judge and make war." This is called the warring phase of Jesus's second coming. **"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war" [(Revelation 19:11)].**

This next phase is described in Revelation 19. Jesus is depicted on a white horse, and on His head we see many crowns (not just one crown). **"His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself" [Revelation 19:12].**

The armies (saints) followed Him. They were clothed in fine linen. **"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" [Revelation 19:14].** Verse 8 says that **"fine linen is the righteousness of saints."** **"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" [Revelation 19:8].**

At this time the nations will be smitten and now Jesus is called "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (not King of Saints). **"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" [Revelation 19:15 -16].**

This battle is known as the battle of Armageddon, the Seventh Plague of the Seven Last Plagues. **"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices,**

**and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" [Revelation 16:16-21].**

Satan then will be bound for 1,000 years, and Jesus will set up His kingdom on the earth. The saints will reign with Him, during this period on the earth. **"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" [Revelation 20:1-6].**

Let us also read Revelation 5:10. **"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" [Revelation 5:10].**

# THREE ANGEL'S MESSAGES



BY DEL DELONG

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6).

In Revelation the 14th chapter, we find three angels' messages. They are delivered to them that dwell on the earth, and they are given to every nation, kindred, language and people. It is our duty to help spread these messages.

The first angel's message is found in the six and seventh verses. We can see that this angel presents the everlasting gospel. It is our job, as well, to spread the wonderful message of salvation that has come to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. The First Angel's message continues with this statement: "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:7).

We are told "with a loud voice" to fear God. This does not mean that we should be afraid of God but rather to give Him respect, honor and glory. He is the omnipotent or ever powerful.. We are told that the hour of His judgement is to come. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, will do the judging when He returns to catch up His saints at the first resurrection. We must prepare ourselves for Jesus's return. We are told to worship the Father who made the heaven, the earth, the sea and foundations of water. The second angel then comes onto the scene and cries that Babylon is fallen.

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all

nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8).

Babylon is found in the workings of Satan who makes God's truth into lies. He works through the Beast power that is found in the previous chapter, Revelation 13). Babylon is also represented by "That great city" which made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Satan has deceived many people, and the people then teach other peoples, nations and in all languages Satan's untruths. If a group is not teaching according to the truth of God's Word, then they are a part of this great city or Babylonian teachings. We read in Isaiah the following: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to their word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

The third angel follows the other two, and pronounces with a loud voice the following message: "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 in the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 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 with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:" (Revelation 14:9-10).

The mark of the Beast is blasphemy. The mark is received by blaspheming God. When a person teaches and

goes against God's Truth and performs it knowingly, that person receives the mark of the beast in his/her hand. When a person reasons against God's truth knowingly, he/she receives that mark in the forehead. The wrath of God that will come upon them is the seven last plagues.

"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. And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth" (Revelation 15:8-16:1).

The seven last plagues, will come upon the earth after the reaping phase of Christ's second coming, and will proceed until the second phase of His second coming, the battle of Armageddon. It remains our job to warn the people about his mark, so that they will not blaspheme God by going against His Word. We need to tell them to come out of Babylon.

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come" (Revelation 18:3-10).

## IT MAKES YOU THINK

This will certainly make you stop and think. You never know what a kind word, a phone call, or an impromptu visit will do for someone else.

It was a cold winter's day that Sabbath. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

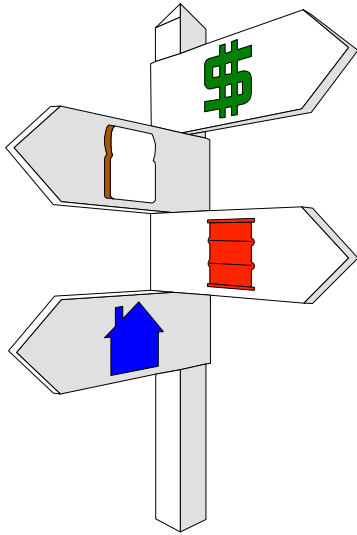
As I got closer, I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down as if he were asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all gathered for fellowship for a few minutes, as someone brought up the man lying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit. He took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today." Then he started singing the words to his song. "If I can help somebody as I pass along? I can cheer somebody with word or song. If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain."

From the Internet



# 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 articles were taken from the Houston Chronicle.

## **New generation of caregivers in crisis Millions struggling to raise grandchildren after parents lost to jail, drugs**

**by Genaro C. Armas  
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON - Millions of grandparents are acting as primary caregiver to their grandchildren often because their own sons and daughters are in jail or on drugs.

A Census Bureau report released Thursday found that more than one-third of the 2.4 million grandparents who are primary caregivers to a grandchild lived in a home without the grandchild's parents.

The report, which looked at data from the 2000 Census in greater detail, did not include reasons for that dynamic.

Some grandparents do it because the parents have died, while other parents may be ill, said Sandra Horton, 59, of Lockhart, Texas, who runs a grandparent support group and cares for her 12-year-old granddaughter.

But more often than not, it is because a parent is involved with drugs or alcohol, advocacy groups say. Horton called it the "primary, underlying, No. 1 reason."

These caregiving grandparents typically have not reached retirement age - 64 percent are between age 40 and 59 - so they often find themselves juggling parenting and work.

Data released last year by the bureau showed that

the 2.4 million grandparents were responsible for "most of the basic needs" of a grandchild in the home. That is 42 percent of the 5.8 million grandparents living with a grandchild.

In other homes, grandparents may not be the designated main caregiver, but may be helping a single, teenage mother, or may simply be baby-sitting the kids after school, said Amy Goyer of the Grandparents Information Center at AARP.

Horton said she took in granddaughter Marissa because the girl's parents have had drug problems and run-ins with the law. Horton works several part-time jobs to make ends meet.

Horton wants congress to change guidelines for many existing public assistance programs that make aid available to poor "traditional" families for foster parents, but not custodial grandparents.

According to Goyer, some public aid is available for caregiving grandparents, but it is limited to people 60 and older.

The new census report found that grandparents serving as primary caregivers for their grandchildren are more apt to need help - 19 percent live in poverty compared with 14 percent of all families with children.

Congress first took interest in the plight of grandparents as caregivers while reforming the nation's welfare system in 1996. But because little government data existed on the issue, lawmakers ordered the Census Bureau to ask about it for the first time in 2000.

Since then, legislation that would aid grandparents has been introduced in Congress.

## The dangers of "Coupling"

The most disagreeable thing about "Coupling", the sitcom that premiered on NBC last Thursday night, is the way it decouples coupling from, uh, "couplehood."

In this show, the sex is disassociated from relationships. Indeed, the sexual manner of the show's characters are so poor that a man in the midst of foreplay with one woman can feel comfortable making plans for a date with another, then return to the former to finish the business at hand.

They kiss-and-tell. They hit on their partner's best friend. And when all of this is discovered, no one seems to mind!

Only a prude would take any of this too seriously. Fifty years ago, the "I Love Lucy Show" was not allowed to use the word pregnant on the air, even though Lucy was plainly and hugely expectant. It was a decade more at least before any married couples could be shown sleeping in the same bed. And decades more before American viewers saw two gay men in bed together.

Now, such a scene is played for laughs on NBC's "Will & Grace", and hardly a sitcom passes the half-hour without the hapless parental until making some sly remark about the sexual congress they are missing, or about to enjoy, or recently concluded. Yet for all of that, the Republic still stands.

But as with violence, viewers invariably take some sexual cues from television. Some of these are not subtle. Shows such as "Coupling" encourage viewers to consider sexual desirability to be based on slender bodies with large chest (female form) and large shoulders (male form) and styled hair and smart clothes (both forms). Such unreasonable expectation invariably cause trouble - eating disorders are the classic example.

But the cues also are damaging. The idea that sexual relationships can be casual, shallow or is disrespectful without also being risky and harmful is bound to be reinforced by television's emerging set of standards.

In the old days, those standards were harmful because they were based on inhibition - the networks push for as much as they can.

In the process, sex is stripped of its mystery, magic, romance and inventiveness. It becomes like television violence, cartoonish and dishonest and dull.

This is a crying shame, because sex is too good for such a fate.

### Comment

"In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Corinthians 4:4). It is obvious that most people today are more concerned with the ways of the world than with the ways of God. Materialism and self pleasure are the main pursuits of the day! We must remember, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

### Actor seeks human side of Judas

The task given to **Johnathon Schaech** wasn't the easiest: Present a well balanced portrayal of one of the most demonized figures in religion.

Although Schaech said his lead role in the upcoming ABC biopic *Judas* has been a challenge, it has also taught him a thing or two.

"A lot of religious individuals won't accept him as anything more than just a betrayer of Christ," Schaceh told *TV Guide*. "When you give him a heart and say he's misunderstood, they don't want to hear that.

The television movie, scheduled to air March 8, tells the story of betrayal from Judas' point of view.

"We were trying to construct a psychological profile so you could see why he was doing what he was doing," said the Rev. Frank Desiderio, a Catholic priest who was the film's executive produce. "I hope it reveals Judas' humanity."

The movie also should benefit from being televised shortly after the release of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* in theaters.

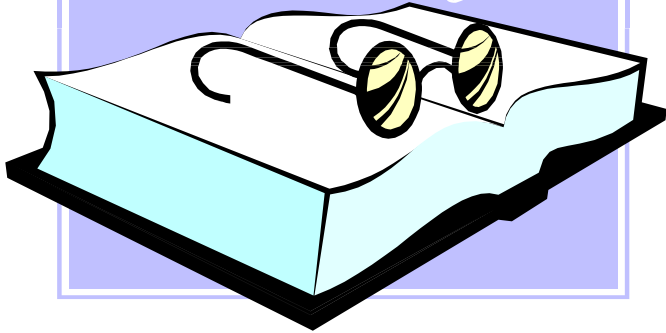
"They are riding its coattails," Schaech said.

### Comment

The claim that he is misunderstood is the cry of the sinner. The child of God understands sin for what it is-the transgression of the law!

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** What is the Bible and what does it contain?

**Answer:** The Bible is the inspired, unique word of God. It contains the commandments that we live by, examples we pattern our lives by, and stories we tell our children. It contains the teachings of our saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the explanation of our Christian faith. It is the unique expression of God's will toward man. It is the very foundation of the Church of God (7th Day)'s religious beliefs. Simply stated, it is the word of God.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for proof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:15-17).

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that

are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Being that we are Christians, following the teachings of Christ, are we to only follow the teachings and commandments contained in the New Testament, or writings that followed the death of Christ? Let us begin this study in the book of Hebrews, written by Paul well after Jesus died on the cross.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1).

It is clear from this passage that the writings of the prophets in the Old Testament were inspired by God. God used the prophets to communicate His will and commandments. Jesus Himself referenced these writings many times and used them in His teachings.

"And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book he found the place where it was written The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:17-189).

"And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand" (Luke



20:42).

"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44).

Therefore we must conclude from the writings of Paul and the words of Jesus that both the Old as well as New Testaments are the inspired words of God.

The Church of God (7th Day) uses the King James Version of the Bible, because we believe it to be the most accurate translation of Gods' word from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. All verses quoted within this magazine will be quotes from the King James Version of the Bible.

**Question:** Who is God?

**Answer:** God is the supreme being in the universe. He created the heavens and the earth and he also created man.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

"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).

God is the one true God with absolute power.

"But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion" (Jeremiah 10:10-12).

"The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare

his righteousness, and all the people see his glory" (Psalms 97:1-6).

The Lord God is our heavenly father. He set the plan for our salvation in effect.

"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).

When we pray, we pray to God. This is illustrated by the example Jesus gave us in how to pray.

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (Matthew 6:9-13).

The Lord God is the one true God of the universe. He created man and set the plan for His salvation into effect by sending His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to the earth. God is the all powerful, all knowing ruler of all creation.

**Question:** Who wrote the Book of Psalms?

**Answer:** The Book of Psalms is sometimes referred to as "the Psalms of David." But less than half of the individual psalms are associated with his name.

Of the 150 psalms collected in the Psalter, seventy-one are specifically associated with David in the text. The superscriptions were added after the original psalms, and their meaning is not always clear. "A Psalm of David" may mean "a psalm composed by David," but it may also mean "a psalm about David."

The psalms not associated with David seem to have been written by priestly musicians such as ten by "the son of Korah," and ten by "Assaph." Two psalms are associated with Solomon (72, 127), one with Moses (90), and one with Ethan (89). The fifteen psalms labeled "Sons of Ascent" may have been sung on pilgrimages to Jerusalem. The remaining psalms are untitled.

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## *Hawaii, USA*



### **Sister Brigidia P. Sanchez 1910 - 2004**

We are sad to inform you of the passing of our dear sister, Brigidia. She is the mother of Elder Daniel Sanchez,

Samson Sanchez, and the grandmother of Elder Tito Sanchez. She was born in Boljo-On, Cebu, The Philippines, on February 1, 1910. She came to Hawaii with her parents in 1919 as a sugar cane worker. She married Bonifacio Sanchez there. She returned to the Philippines in 1933, and she became a member of the Church in 1944. She was a very active member in the Church and she remained faithful until her death. She was instrumental in spreading God's Word, and her life exemplified the fruits of the spirit.

Her son and grandson are very active in the ministry in Hawaii. They are both members of the Seventy in the Church.

Sister Sanchez will be greatly missed by all those who knew her. She awaits the resurrection of the Lord, and it is her hope that she meets you there.

Well done thou good and faithful servant.

## *Mexico*

*The following report was submitted by Brother Moises Torres*

### **January - February 2004**

We had a good general ministers' meeting in the locality

of Jaral in the state of Guanajuato. Mexico on the last weekend of January, 2004. Brothers Ricky Herrera, Mario Cantu, and Pascacio Tavizon, were with us. We

had a good business meeting, and we also had a very good selection of Bible studies. Our minister's meeting was over on Monday February 2nd, 2004, and immediately, the very next day, Brother Esteban Tolentino and I left for Central America. We got back to Mexico from Honduras 7 days later on Monday February 9th, 2004, and we did not get any rest until three days later, because we had to attend two funeral services. One in Hidalgo, Mexico (2 hours drive) and the other in Jaral, Guanajuato, Mexico (4 hours drive). Our overseer in the state of Guanajuato, Brother Pablo Tolentino, passed away Tuesday night, February 11, 2004.

There is a lot of work ahead of us in the field for the church in Mexico. We already started the building of two other temples, one in the city of Zaniora, in the state of Michoacan, and the other in the northeast area of the state of Veracruz. We have invested 12,000 US Dollars in their construction in the past three months.

I stayed 4 days at the church in Mataredonda in the state of Veracruz near the Gulf of Mexico. Brother Isaias Lopez (one of the Mexican seven) went along with me to design and prepare to build a the new temple in this area. This place is 10 hours drive from Mexico city. We also baptized a young sister, Karen Martinez, on Sunday, February 22nd, in this locality. In this area of the Gulf of Mexico, we have four congregations in the following areas: Panuco, Mataredonda, El Jobo, and Tancovan. These are close to the Port of Tampico.

### **March - April, 2004**

During these months, I visited the church in Jaral to ordain a new overseer for this state. Brother Esteban Tolentino, a member of the 70, is our new overseer in this area. I also visited the church in the city of Guadalajara, where the brethren are working hard making funds to pay for the piece of land they purchased for the church. The total cost of the lot is 50,000 US Dollars. We have already

paid \$25,000.

All of the churches in our country celebrated the Lord's Supper at the appointed time, on Saturday evening, April 3rd, 2004, after sunset. The general Lord's Supper offering collected this year was \$2000.00. It will be sent to the financial board in Salem to help the foreign fields. This motion was made at our minister's meeting in Jaral in January, and it was unanimously accepted.

### **April**

I visited two more of our groups in the state of Guanajuato. One is located in Trejo where we have a congregation of around 40 baptized members. A sister was baptized during my visit. The other group is in Valle de Santiago.

### **May**

I came back to Guadalajara City where I met brother Paul. Our ministry board in this area of Mexico is mainly composed of young people, and we needed to train and watch over them. We also had to resolve some of the problems in this locality. I had to call brother Paul to help me.

Concerning the Spanish literature, I am still in charge, but I recently found a young brother who is now helping me to set up the pages for the Advocate and make the translations.

We thank the Lord for the physical energy and spiritual strength to continue working in this field. Thank you for your prayers and greetings to all the saints in your place. May the touch of His presence and Spirit be with you always.

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## LESSON I

## DEATH OF MOSES

**Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 34.**

**Golden Text: Deuteronomy 34:7 (first part).**

**"And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died..."**

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Deuteronomy 32:48-50.
2. Why was this to be? Deuteronomy 32:51-52.
3. When Moses went up into the mountains, what did the Lord show him? Deuteronomy 34:1-3.
4. What land was he able to see? Deuteronomy 34:4.
5. Did Moses die on the mountain as God had said? Deuteronomy 34:5.
6. Where was Moses buried, and was this burial site marked? Deuteronomy 34:6.
7. Was Moses still strong and well till his death? Deuteronomy 34:7.
8. How long did the children of Israel weep for Moses? Deuteronomy 34:8.
9. What new leader took over the work of Moses? Deuteronomy 34:9.
10. Was there ever again a prophet such as Moses? Deuteronomy 34:10.

**"Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).**

## LESSON II

## THE TWO SPIES AND RAHAB

**Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-11.**

**Golden Text: Joshua 2:1 (first part)**

**"And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, go view the land, even Jericho..."**

**NOTE:** Moses, the great leader of Israel, is now dead, and God has appointed Joshua to lead in his place. As our lesson starts today, Joshua sends two spies to Jericho to spy out the land.

1. Where did the two spies lodge for the night in Jericho? Joshua 2:1.
2. Did the king of Jericho find out the spies were in the city? Joshua 2:2.
3. What did the king say to Rahab? Joshua 2:3.
4. Did Rahab tell the king the men were there? What did she do? Joshua 2:4-6.
5. Did the king believe what Rahab said to him? Joshua 2:7.
6. Did Rahab tell the spies why she had hidden them from the king? Joshua 2:9-11.

**NOTE:** Rahab had heard of the miracles performed on behalf of Israel and was convinced Israel's God was the true God.

**Answers to Scrambled Bible Characters:**

**Old Testament:**

1. Ruth 2. Jacob 3. Esau 4. Adam 5. Noah
6. Joel 7. Jonah 8. Aaron 9. Moses 10. Caleb

LESSON III

THE TWO SPIES AND RAHAB  
(CONTINUED)

**Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:12-24.**

**Golden Text: Joshua 2:15**

**"Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall."**

NOTE: We last learned that Rahab hid the two spies from the king and his soldiers. We will now learn how the spies escape and the promises they make.

1. What promise did Rahab ask the spies to make? Joshua 2:12-13.
2. Did the men make her the promise? Joshua 2:14.
3. How did Rahab help the men escape? Joshua 2:15.
4. What did the spies tell Rahab to do so they would know her home and spare it? Joshua 2:18-19.
5. Where did the spies go after they left Rahab's house, and how long were they there? Joshua 2:22.
6. What did the spies tell Joshua on their return? Joshua 2:23-24.

NOTE: With Rahab's help, the spies were able to report back to Joshua. Rahab's faith also saved her life as we will learn in a future lesson. Rahab later married an Israelite and became an ancestress of Boaz, David and Christ.

**New Testament:**

1. John 2. Mark 3. Mary 4. Luke 5. Paul
6. Anna 7. Peter 8. Judas 9. Silas 10. James

LESSON IV

CROSSING THE JORDAN

**Scripture Reading: Joshua 3:1-17.**

**Golden Text: Joshua 3:17 (last part)**

**"...and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."**

NOTE: Remember in our last lesson the two spies came back with a good report that truly the Lord had delivered the land into their hands for the people of that country were all frightened of them. In our lesson today, another miracle happened.

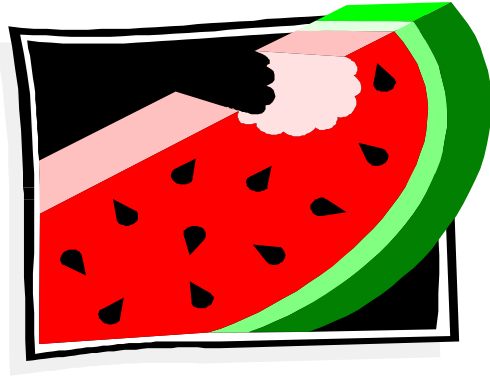
1. Beside what river did Joshua and all the children of Israel camp? Joshua 3:1.
2. After three days what happened? Joshua 3:2-3.
3. Why were the people told to sanctify or purify themselves? Joshua 3:5.
4. Who was to go before the people? Joshua 3:6.
5. What did the Lord tell Joshua? Joshua 3:7-8.
6. What did Joshua tell the children of Israel? Joshua 3:9-13.
7. What happened as the people moved forward to cross the Jordan? Joshua 3:14-17.

NOTE: When the ark stood at the water's edge, the river rose up in a great hap or wall at the city of Adam, which was 16 miles north of where they were to cross. Below, all the river bed was dry enough to walk on. This was the time of year when the Jordan overflowed all its banks so the miracle was all the more wonderful.

8. When the children of Israel first started on their journey from Israel, almost the same thing happened. Can you tell about it? Exodus 14:21-22.

## TOO MANY MELONS

By Moeita M. Burch



Bill whistled softly because he was happy. Jack and Melvin had told him to meet them at the bridge at two o'clock, and they would have a surprise for him.

Bill had lived in Happy Valley only a week, and Jack and Melvin were his nearest neighbors. They had taken him to their swimming hole in a nearby creek and into the woods to pick wild raspberries. He had much fun with his new friends.

Soon the bridge that crossed Cherry Creek came into view. Jack and Melvin were sitting under the bridge. They got up as Bill came near and went to meet him. "Hi!" They called "You're right on time."

"Yes," said Bill, "I like to be on time. If I tell someone I will meet him at a certain time, I don't want to be late."

"Well, most people are not so particular," said Melvin.

"What do you have to show me?" asked Bill.

"Come on, and you'll see," said Jack. Bill followed them across the bridge, under a wire fence, through a little meadow, and down a narrow trail to a big green field. The boys stopped at the fence.

Bill's mouth fell open.

"This is a surprise," he said. "I never saw so many watermelons in my life. Aren't they beautiful?" The boys grinned at him. "They taste better than they look" said Melvin. "Hold the wire down, Jack, and I'll crawl through." Jack held the wire, and soon Melvin was among the melons.

"What are you going to do?" asked Bill. "Is this your

father's garden?"

"No, it's Sam Barnes' patch," answered Melvin. "He won't miss a couple of melons. He has hundreds. I heard him say he would be in town at two o'clock. That's why we're here."

Bill was shocked. They were going to steal Mr. Barnes' melons. "Don't," he exclaimed. "Please don't pick any. That is stealing."

"Aw, it isn't either," growled Jack. "We'll only borrow a couple. He wouldn't miss them if we took a dozen."

"When you borrow things," said Bill, "you pay them back. I know you're not going to put two melons back where they were."

"Of course not, silly," said Jack. "We're going to take them to the creek and have all the melon we can eat for once." Melvin handed Jack a big green melon and went back for another.

Bill still protested. "You know it isn't right," he said. "You said it isn't stealing, and you know it isn't borrowing. What are you doing, then? What do you call it?"

"We're swiping them, if you like that better," said Jack. "It isn't bad to swipe watermelons. Everybody does it. Sam Barnes has too many. He never sells all of them."

"We are not mean, either," added Melvin. "Some people trample all over the fields and plug the melons to see if they are ripe. I walked carefully, and I thumped them to see if they were ready."

"I hope these are ripe," said Jack. "If they aren't, I will pick out the next ones."

"Come on, Bill," said Melvin. "Let's eat them."

Bill followed the boys slowly. He didn't feel right. "I wish we had waited and asked Mr. Barnes for the melons," he said.

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Jack and Melvin. "I can see him giving us any. He would probably sick the dog on us," added Jack.

"Well, then, he certainly wouldn't want us in his patch," said Bill. Perhaps Mr. Barnes was selfish with his melons. "Maybe he did have too many. Bill looked back. The fields reached as far as he could see. There must be melons enough for all of the towns nearby.

Bill was hot and thirsty, too. He had not had a watermelon for a long time. His throat was dry. He had not

helped steal the melons. Maybe it wouldn't be wrong to eat a little piece as long as it as given to him. But even at the thought of it his conscience bothered him.

One melon gave a loud pop as Melvin's knife cut into it. It was bright red and dripping juice. Bill's mouth watered.

"Look at that," said Jack,. "Isn't that a beauty?"

Melvin cut a big slice and handed it to Bill. Bill reached for it, and then dropped his hand to his side. "No, thank you," he said quietly. "I couldn't enjoy a melon that was stolen" "Well, if you aren't an odd fellow," said Jack.

"I may be odd," said Bill, "but I am honest."

He turned and made his way through the tall grass toward home. He was warmer than ever, but he felt good. His feet were as light as a feather, and he wasn't thirsty at all.

Bill found his mother on the porch mending. "Mom," he said, "I almost did something wrong, but I didn't."

"I am glad that you didn't," said Mother. "What was it?" Bill told her the whole story. When he had finished he said, "I wish Jesus wouldn't let Satan tempt us. I wanted a piece of that melon so badly that I almost took it."

"Yes, Satan is allowed to tempt us," said Mother, "But remember that Jesus can give us power to overcome every temptation."

"I am glad of that," said Bill.

"Now, I have a nice surprise," said Mother. "Mr. Barnes came by this afternoon with a truck load of watermelons and left two big ones for us. He said he had too many melons, so he was taking a load to the county hospital so the sick people there could have a treat."

**SCRAMBLED BIBLE CHARACTERS**

Unscramble these names found in the Old Testament.

- 1. HURT 2. JOBCA 3. SEAU 4. AMAD
- 5. HANO 6. LOJE 7. HANJO 8. ANROA
- 9. SEMOS 10. CABLE

Unscramble these named found in the New Testament.

- 1. HONJ 2. RKAM 3. ARMY 4. KULE
- 5. LUPA 6. NNAA 7. TREEP 8. SUJAD
- 9. LASIS 10. SAJEM

**CHANNEL 23 PSALM**

The TV is my shepherd, my spiritual growth shall want. It makes me sit down and do nothing for the cause of Christ, because it requireth all my spare time.

It keepeth me from doing my duty as a Christian, because it presenteth so many good programs that I must see.

It restoreth my knowledge of the things of the world; it keepeth me from studying God's Word.

It leadeth me in paths of failure to attend the worship services.

Yea, though I live to be a hundred, I shall keep on viewing my TV as long as it will work.

For my TV is my close companion; its sound and picture they comfort me.

It presenteth entertainment before me, and keepeth me from doing important things with my family.

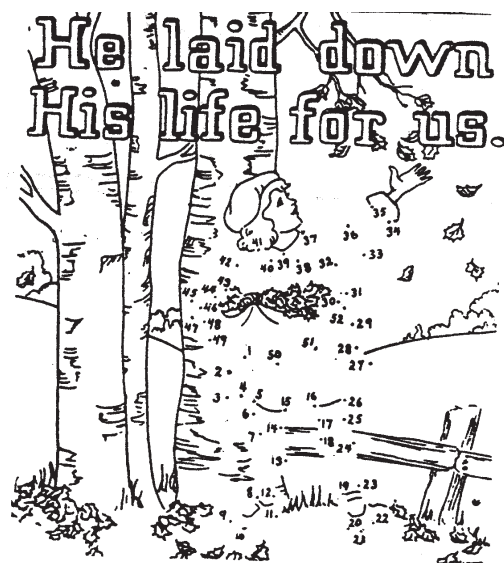
It filleth my head with ideas which differ from those set forth in the Word of God.

Surely no good thing will come of my life because of my TV, which offers me no time to do the Will of God.

And I will dwell in spiritual poverty forever.

**HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE**

Draw from dot 1 to 52. Color: leaves orange, yellow and brown; girl's tam and jacket, red; apron and hair, yellow; hills, dark green; girl's skirt and fence, brown; sky, blue; letter, orange.



**FATHER, I WAS MADE FOR YOU!**

By Carol Buechner

*Father, I was made just for You  
Your word tells me this is true.  
In Your image was I made  
And this from my memory will not fade.*

*Father, I was made for a reason  
You planned it from Creation.  
I know You have a purpose for my life  
and I will keep it always alive in my sight.*

*Father, as I strive to work and do  
Your will I will always pursue.  
I will surrender to You my heart and soul  
Waiting humbly for You to show me the goal.*

*Father, I come before You to confess  
All my sins that have held me in distress.  
I know that sin in all of my being  
Will separate me from Your every blessing.*

*Father, You are the focus of my heart  
And I'll continually strive to do my part.  
I lay aside my selfish path of destruction  
Looking always for your special instruction.*

*Father, I renew my mind every day  
Through prayer and study of Your way.  
May I be used for the salvation of others  
In love may I reach out to all sisters and brothers.*

*Father, I thank You for what You have done  
For You gave me life through Your dear Son.  
You made me as part of Your wonderful plan  
Giving me a chance at eternal life so grand.*