

A desert landscape with a prominent rock formation in the foreground and a river in the distance. The sky is clear blue, and the ground is a mix of red and green. The rock formation is light-colored with some darker, layered sections. The river is a muddy brown color, flowing through the valley. The overall scene is a vast, open desert.

The Advocate of Truth

Remembering Jesus' Death

When I See the Blood

Fruit of the Spirit



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Remembering Jesus' Death

By Bond Tennant

Jesus died in the springtime. His followers are instructed to assemble together to observe the Memorial of His sacrificial death. "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). It is a very simple, but solemn feast.

Jesus gave His life as the antitypical Lamb of God. He invited His footstep followers to share with Him in partaking of the emblems, and sharing His death. This was addressed by the Apostle Paul when writing to the brethren at Corinth. He said, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" (I Corinthians 10:16-17).

The significance of participation in Jesus' "cup" and "loaf" points to the faithful members of His body (church) who will share with Him in the blessing of becoming kings and priests in His future kingdom. Paul rejoiced over this privilege as he referred to his own part in it. He explained, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24).

An important aspect in the preparation before we partake of the emblems includes the searching of our hearts in order to rid ourselves of all thoughts and actions of unrighteousness and sin.

When the Jews prepared to observe their annual Passover and to partake of the slain lamb, God

commanded them to eat unleavened bread, and they were also to search their homes for any leaven that might be hidden. Leaven represents corruption and sin. This is a very appropriate lesson for all children of God to heed. God instructed the people of Israel, "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel" (Exodus 12:15). There were serious consequences for those who were careless and disobedient to this commandment from God! In verse 19, we read: "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land."

The Apostle Paul spoke of the deeper and spiritual meaning of leaven, and he explained that it represents sin in his first letter to the brethren at Corinth. He also related it to Jesus' instructions to His disciples to remember His death. Paul said, "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Corinthians 5:6-8).

As we partake of the emblems this year, let us do so with desire and determination to make our calling and election sure!



Echoes From The Past

The following article is reprinted from the editorial page (page 2) of the February 28, 1983 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*.

“When I See The Blood”

Redemption by blood occupies a prominent place in the mind of every child of God. The Father in heaven’s many mercies to His people are seen in the display of His power, the patience of His love, and the riches of His grace. The question of Israel’s relationship to God is settled by the blood of the animal lamb. The question of the believer’s relationship is settled by Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. It changes Israel’s and the believer’s life completely. Israel, within the blood-sprinkled doorposts, was God’s redeemed, blood-bought people. The child of God today knows that “...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the PRECIOUS BLOOD of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (I Peter 1:18-19).

God, the Father in heaven, being holy and Israel guilty, no happy relationship could exist between them till judgment had been accomplished. Sin must be judged. A happy friendship once existed between God and Adam, on the ground of innocence. But sin having entered and snapped the link asunder, there can be no reconciliation but through the full expression of the moral judgment of God against sin. We can only have “life through death.” God is the God of holiness, and He must judge sin. In saving the sinner, He condemns his sin. The cross of Christ is full and perfect expression of this.

Typically, this was the great question on “the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month,” namely, how can God exempt from judgment and receive into His favor those whom His holiness condemns? To this most solemn

question, there was but one answer that would satisfy the demand of our Father in heaven, and that was the blood of the Lamb of His own providing. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This settles the all important question. It was one of life or death, of deliverance or judgment. This blood-sprinkled doorpost was a perfect answer to all the claims of holiness and to all the needs of the people of God. All was settled now. God was glorified, sin judged and put away, and Israel saved through the blood of the lamb.

A wonderful blessed truth, Israel was at peace with God. They were sheltered and happy, though still in Egypt – the land of death and judgment. God was now pledged to deliver Israel. Precious type of the perfect security of all who are trusting to the blood of Christ. They were securely and peacefully saved in the land of Egypt. But we find, “And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead” (Exodus 12:30). “But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel” (Exodus 11:7). But why, some may ask, is there a difference between the Egyptians and the Israelites? Were they not all sinners? True, on this plane of thinking there was no difference, but in type, the judgment of God against death had been expressed in the death of the lamb. The blood “on the lintel and the two side posts” was proof of this. It proclaimed, with a loud voice, that the lamb was slain,

the ransom paid, the captive freed, justice was satisfied and the hour of deliverance had fully come. It was the blood that made the difference and nothing else. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

But what a difference! The one, divinely shielded from the sword of judgment and the other defenseless and slain by the sword. The one, feasting on the rich provisions of grace, the other compelled to taste the bitterness of the cup of wrath. The destroying angel entered every house throughout the land of Egypt that was not sprinkled with blood. The firstborn of Pharaoh on the throne, and the firstborn of the captive in the dungeon fell together.

No rank, age, or character escaped. The day of God's longsuffering was ended, and the hour of His judgment was come. One thing, and one thing alone, guided the angel of death that dreadful night, and that was **WHERE THERE IS NO BLOOD, THERE WAS NO SALVATION**. Reader, we too are at the threshold of the angels letting go the wrath of God. Seven angels will sound their trumpets, and as each angel will sound, a different plague will let go upon the enemies of God. Seven angels will pour out their vials. Each one will contain a punishment from God. This is as true now as it was then. Where there is no blood, there is no salvation. "...without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). Can any question be of such importance to you as this one: Am I protected from the plagues, the wrath of God? Am I shielded by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus? When the Son of Man shall come in glory, and all the holy angels with Him, He shall separate the wicked from the good (see Matthew 25:31-32). The angels of the Lamb will separate the sheep from the goats. They will separate the wheat from the tares. They will bind the tares into bundles to burn them, but the wheat they gather to the Lamb of God's barn (Matthew 13:27-30, 40-42).

The angels will bear up the saints to meet the Lamb of God in the air (see I Thessalonians 4:13-18). They will be invited to the marriage of the Lamb. They will eat at the Lamb's table as the children of Israel ate the Passover lamb and were safe in their homes. The saints soon will be safe in the mansions of the Lord (see John 14:1-3). It will be the sea of glass in the air. It will be where they will banquet with the Lamb of God and His bride, for she had made herself ready (see Revelation 22:17; 21:9-10; 19:7-9). The saints who have applied the precious blood of

Christ (see I Peter 1:19) will be reaped by the angels. The angels take us up to the refuge of the blood of the Lamb, "Christ our passover." He was sacrificed for us. His blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat. There, God's eye ever sees the blood of our true paschal Lamb. Have you faith in the precious blood? Though deeply sensible of your guilt, can you say in truth, "This is my only hiding place? I do depend on the blood?" Then rest assured that you will be safely protected on that sea of glass. You will receive eternity. You have God's Word for it: "...when I see the blood, I will pass over you..." "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood..." (Exodus 12:13; Ephesians 1:7; 2:13; Romans 3:25). Happy are they who trust in Jesus. Sweet their portion is, and sure.

On the other hand, if the blood of Jesus is neglected or despised, there can be no security, no peace, and no salvation. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" (Hebrews 2:3). "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6). These three verses tell us how precious the blood of Jesus is for it is only to be shed once and He entered into the most holy place once and made atonement for us once. Unless the destroying angel sees the blood, he enters as the judge of sin. Every sin must be punished, either in the person of the sinner, or the sinner's substitute. This is a deeply solemn truth. But how blessed to know that "For Christ also hath **ONCE** suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..." (I Peter 3:18). To neglect this divine substitute, and the shelter (the tabernacle of God), which He has provided, is to expose the precious blood of Jesus, and that person will have to meet with the wrath of God, His indignation for calling the blood of His only begotten Son an unholy thing (see II Corinthians 12:21; Hebrews 12:29).

Redemption now being accomplished, Israel is ready

to enter the journey to the promised land. Notice step by step they now begin their journey. They are forgiven, they are justified, they are accepted in God's sight. Therefore we read: "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt" (Hosea 11:1). This again is the type of the real condition in which every true child of God begins his course. The believer may not see this blessed analogy, he may be weak like Israel was, but that does not alter the fact. God acts according to His own knowledge of the relationship and the affections which belong to it. We see this in the way God delivered Israel at the Red Sea, in the manna that was provided, in the water coming out of the flinty rock, and in the presence

and guidance of the pillar of fire. God ever acts according to the purposes of His love and the value of the blood of Jesus.

Once more, reader, allow me to ask, Are you sure that you will be safe and secure in the tabernacle above, the mother of us all? (see Isaiah 26:20; Psalm 61:4; Isaiah 4:6; Revelation 21:2; Galatians 4:25:26).

Those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb will be safe and secure in that blessed city of God, the blessed hiding place from the Seven Last Plagues. It will be the place of safety in the Redeemer's blood.



The Times and the Seasons

By F.C. Robinson

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you" (I Thessalonians 5:1). What is meant by "times and seasons"? We often speak of the signs of the times. Christ was a prophet of renown. When He told of the signs that would lead up to His second coming He said, emphatically, "WATCH". What must we watch? The signs.

He upbraided the Pharisees for their lack of knowledge concerning His first advent. We read, "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matthew 16:1-3).

The Lord referred to the prophets many times. In Matthew the 24th, Mark the 13th, and Luke the 21st chapters are found the prophetic words of Christ. In these chapters He tells of conditions that would exist through the ages. One of the outstanding signs of the coming kingdom reads as follows: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye

shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:32-33). "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

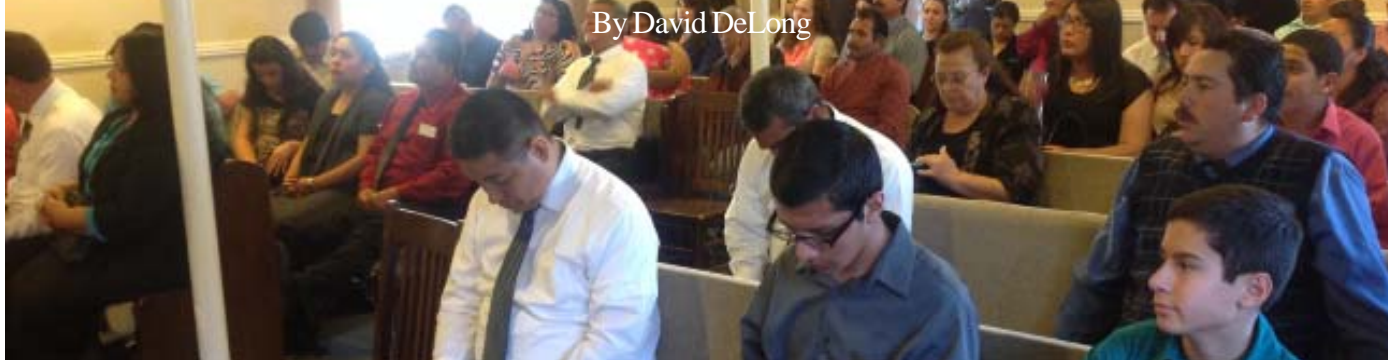
The Apostle Paul said, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (I Thessalonians 5:1-5). A great portion of the Bible is prophecy. It is a very interesting part and the more we study the prophecies the greater will be our faith.

Christ was the greatest prophet. He came through the prophetic door. The prophets told how He would come, where He would be born, and what His purpose was in coming. When He stood before Pilate, the Roman governor, Pilate asked Jesus, "...Art thou a king...?" Jesus answered him, "...Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth..." (John 18:37).

Fruit of the Spirit--Part III

(Faith, Meekness, Temperance)

By David DeLong



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). In last month's article we studied Part II of the fruit of the Spirit: longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness. In this article we will study faith, meekness, and temperance. This will conclude our three part series on the fruit of the Spirit.

FAITH

According to Strong's Concordance the Greek word for faith, as used in Galatians 5:22, is "pistis" and it refers to "persuasion, credence, moral conviction of...the truthfulness of God...;especially reliance upon Christ for salvation...; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself..." Though not as great as charity (or love, see I Corinthians 13:1-3,13), faith plays an absolutely essential role to our gaining salvation or to even having a relationship with God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Hebrews 11:1-3 gives us more of what faith consists: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." We

learn here that faith is "evidence of things not seen." It is believing and acting upon the Word of God through all situations in our life. II Corinthians 5:7 tells us: "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)". Faith is trusting the Lord to lead our lives, even when we don't understand where He is leading us. Proverbs 3:5-6 informs us: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

The starting point for faith in God is first hearing the Word of God. We learn of this from Romans 10:13-15,17: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So, after hearing the Word of God and calling upon Him in faith, we are able to receive salvation from our sins. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9; see also Romans 5:1-2).

Many people stop at this point, sit back and relax, and believe there is nothing more for them to do. However, the same Scriptures which tell us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith", also instructs us: "Now the just

shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:38-39). This living by faith was a condition for salvation even in Old Testament times (see Habakkuk 2:4). Furthermore, going back to Ephesians 2, we find one of the reasons that we are to be saved by grace. In verse 10 we read: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." There it is! We are saved so that we can produce good works. This involves obeying God through His Word. Anything less is not having faith, but is drawing back unto perdition!

In fact the Book of James implies that without works of obedience (which is what constitutes true faith), we should question our salvation experience. Chapter 2, verses 14-26 are very revealing. "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Going one step further, we find that a lack of obedience proves that one does not have the Spirit of God. In Acts 5:32 the Apostle Peter said: "And we are his wit-

nesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Obedience to God, therefore, is a requirement for receiving the Holy Spirit, and having the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of faith according to Galatians 5:22. But more on this later.

Not having faith was the great tragedy of some of the children of Israel. They forsook the Lord and served idols, of which the Lord spoke: "And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith" (Deuteronomy 32:20). This very lack of faith is what kept them out of the Promised Land. "But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:17-19).

If a person has little faith the Lord can still work with him or her. When a father brought to Jesus his demon-possessed son, the Lord told him, "...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." The Apostle Paul instructed the Roman brethren: "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations" (Romans 14:1). However, Paul knew that no faith condemns a person. "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (verse 23; see also Mark 16:16).

The Lord rewards a person's faith. When a certain ruler came to Jesus to raise his dead daughter, his faith helped produce the miracle. When a woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Jesus' garment we find: "But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour" (see Matthew 9:18-26). When two blind men came to the Lord, Jesus said: "...Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you" (verses 28-29).

On the other hand, unbelief actually hinders the Lord's work. When Jesus came into his own country, the people there were offended at Him. We are told in Matthew 13:58: "And he did not many mighty works there because

of their unbelief." It is only the prayer of faith that gets results from the Lord. We are reminded in James 5:14-15: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." However, James also reminds us: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (James 1:5-7).

In summary, a person needs to hear the Word of God to receive faith. Faith in the Lord is what saves a person, but it must be accompanied by works of obedience for it to be real. And faith is also a fruit of the Spirit to be used in the work of the Lord for His honor and glory. God gives His people various gifts and the faith to use them. Romans 12:3,6-8 informs us: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith...Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness."

Faith, itself, is even given to some as a gift of the Spirit. We learn of this gift, along with others, that is given by the Lord's Spirit. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (I Corinthians 12:7-11).

Not only are individuals to be established in the faith, but whole churches are to be established as well. As we

"Fight the good fight of faith" we must take the "shield of faith" to protect us against the "fiery darts" of the enemy (see Acts 16:5; I Timothy 6:12; and Ephesians 6:16). All believers must understand, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:)" (I Peter 1:7).

Finally, we need to have this assurance in our lives: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). And may we never forget that the faith which will allow us to overcome the world is the same faith and obedience that Jesus had. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

MEEKNESS

The Greek word for "meekness", in Galatians 5:23, includes gentleness and humility. We are told of Moses that he was very meek, more so than the men which were upon the earth (see Numbers 12:3). All good leaders have this quality of meekness in their lives. So do all good followers. Jesus said of Himself: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:29). This meekness of the Lord Jesus must be displayed in all of God's people. Psalm 149:4 reads: "For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation." (See also James 1:21).

Only the meek person can understand the will of God. The proud and arrogant person can never know it. Psalm 25:9 testifies: "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." The Psalmist further testifies: "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace" (Psalm 37:11). Jesus Himself testified the same thing (see Matthew 5:5). What a tremendous privilege the Lord extends to the meek.

Meekness must be displayed in a child of God every day of her or his life. This is even true concerning another who has been involved in sin. Galatians 6:1 informs us: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are

spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). Sometimes we are prone to be judgmental concerning a person who has done wrong, especially if the wrong is against us. But we must always remember that we could be tempted to do the same wrong. The Apostle Paul gives us the remedy in Colossians 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Indeed, Paul wrote to Titus to instruct others: "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men" (Titus 3:2). He taught Timothy: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;" (II Timothy 2:24-25). Furthermore, Paul told Timothy that, as a man of God, he must be different from those who were seeking riches. "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 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 6:8-11).

The Apostle Peter wrote to believing wives: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:3-4). Finally, to all believers he instructed: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (verse 15).

TEMPERANCE

Temperance, as used in Galatians 5:23, means "self-

control, especially continence". Another good Scripture for temperance is found in the Book of Proverbs chapter 25, verse 28: "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Ruling over one's spirit is the subject of Proverbs 16:32: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

It is very interesting that when the Apostle Paul witnessed to Governor Felix "concerning the faith in Christ", Paul spoke to the Governor about temperance. "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). This makes a lot of sense, however. When Paul spoke of righteousness he would have been describing God's standard of righteousness, the Ten Commandments. When he spoke of temperance it was probably about Felix's lack thereof, regarding his breaking of God's law. And when Paul spoke about judgment to come, this was the punishment which Felix would receive if he didn't repent. Paul gave him the answer to his dilemma: "the faith in Christ". Felix trembled. We can use this "blueprint", if you will, for witnessing to the lost.

The Apostle Peter taught that a person must add to the Christian values, one of them being temperance. II Peter 1:5-7 admonishes us: "And beside this, giving 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." We know that a part of the fruit of the Spirit is temperance. However, we must allow the Lord to build (add) this quality, as well as other qualities, into our lives as we cooperate with Him.

Titus 1:8 lists being temperate as a qualification for a man to be an elder in the church: "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate". Actually, being temperate is a doctrine for the whole church. In Titus 2:1-2 we learn: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." Paul shows the results of being temperate: "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (I Corinthians 9:25).

The Signs of the Times for our Lord's Return



"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. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, 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. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people" (Acts 3:19-23).

Truly all signs throughout the world today are pointing to the coming of this Prophet, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Jesus left this world almost two-thousand years ago by ascending to His Father in heaven, He said He would come again. But many events would transpire as foretold by the prophets, and also wars and rumors of wars would continue until He returned. After the fulness of time was accomplished, He said He would come with clouds and every eye would see Him (see Revelation 1:7). Luke 21: 25-31 reads: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power

and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."

In Nahum 2:4 the Lord also tells us that in the day of His preparation the chariots would "rage in the streets" and "jostle one against another in the broad ways", that they would "seem like torches" and "run like the lightnings". We are now in the age of His preparation, when God is preparing a people for His name, and the automobiles are raging in the streets. A statement was made saying: "The past century or so stands apart from all previous history by reason of the sudden increase of knowledge in science, general learning, and invention. If George Washington should rise from the grave he would be almost bewildered as would be the Patriarch Abraham, who lived 4,000 years ago."

The Lord said through Daniel, chapter 12 verse 4, that in the time of the end knowledge would be increased and many would run to and fro. It is plainly seen today that knowledge has increased and wonderful machinery has been invented to do all kinds of labor, people ride without horses, talk without wires, travel under water and fly like birds. Man has also invented terrible machines of destruction. If all the atom bombs could be loosed at one

time, one-third of the earth could be destroyed and all forms of life on the entire globe could be annihilated. Now, with the hydrogen bomb, the world can be obliterated with a very few bombs placed at strategic points. But the Lord said that "...the meek shall inherit the earth..." (Psalm 37:11), so we know that this will not happen. But we do know that the Lord will destroy them that destroy the earth (see Revelation 11:18). Daniel's prophecy was sealed to the time of the end, and now people are studying and understanding the prophecies of this book.

Signs in the social world, as foretold in Luke 17:26-30, are surely being fulfilled today. Is not the social world intoxicated with pleasure, revelry, and fashion? The minds of the people of the world are almost wholly absorbed with material things, buying and selling, eating and drinking, and having a good time. They are like the people before the Flood and at the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, and they have to a great extent forgotten God. "This know also, 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, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (II Timothy 3:1-5). With exactness the Holy Writ has pictured the condition of mankind today.

In the religious world we have signs also. People do not want to listen to the truth as presented in the Scriptures, including God's plan of salvation and the way of life. They would rather hear blind guides tell something that sounds pleasant. They want to compromise on the Holy Writings and turn them to suit themselves. Very few, however, are religiously inclined. There are scoffers of the Word of God (see II Peter 3:3-4). Modernistic, so-called Christians, do not believe in the virgin birth of Christ nor in His Sonship. They do not believe in His miracles, neither do they believe that the Bible is an inspired book. Then, we find that there is a great lack of faith and love (see Luke 18:18; Matthew 24:12).

We are admonished of our Lord's soon coming in Joel 1:15; 2:1-2: "Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it

come...Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations."

The foregoing is only a taste to the reader of the great things that God will reveal to those who love His appearing. The prophets tell us that when Israel is gathered to Palestine, then God is preparing the nations for judgment and His coming. May the reader seek God, while He may be found, and be willing and obedient that he may soon enter into the joy of our Lord.

And it shall come to pass that in the last days: "...the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:26-27). Daniel saw this Kingdom being established after the world powers had run their courses. And he saw the little horn's power broken as it made war against the saints (see verses 19-25).

Many prophets, other than those who have been mentioned in this article, wrote about the conditions of governments of the nations just prior to the taking over of earth rule by the Lord Jesus Christ. These conditions are so filled with misery and distress that it becomes necessary for the powers of heaven to take over. When God and the Lamb intervene, both wrath and power will be exhibited causing fear to come upon the kings of the earth, as well as upon great men, rich men, and mighty men. In the opening of the book sealed with the seven seals is shown the progressive way by which the earth will be subdued.

It is our hope and prayer that the material in this article will have an effect upon everyone, so that he or she will realize that the coming of Christ is near at hand, and that everyone who reads this will prepare for this great and blessed event.



"Behold, Now is the Day of Salvation"

"...I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).

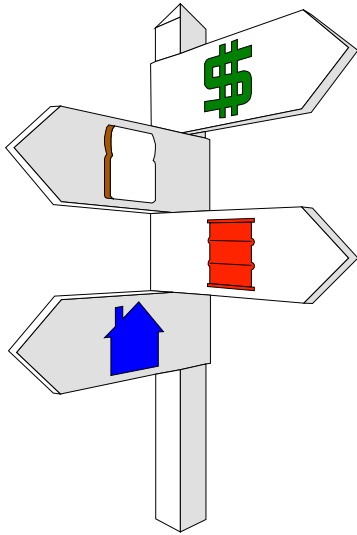
Yes, now is the time to bring the message to those who are in darkness (ignorance). God is mightily working through His people, the church of the living God, bringing the messages found in the book of Revelation as a warning to the world of what shall soon come to pass. No one can deny that the more sure word of prophecy is shining as a light in a dark place to make known unto the "wise" the meaning of present day events. Without a knowledge of God's Word (the Bible) we would be hopelessly engrossed in this world of darkness and sin without one ray of light.

We are so thankful that God has foretold the end from the beginning through His holy prophets and apostles by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has been written aforetime for our learning and admonition. Also God has given the opportunity to do good unto all men. This opportunity is still available to preach the messages as found in the fourteenth chapter of Revelation by being obedient unto God with tithes and offerings.

"And I (John) 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, 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. 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. 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 with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:6-10). These are the three angel's messages which are all live messages even unto the end.

We wish to thank each and everyone who has been faithful in paying tithes and giving offerings, making it possible to sustain our ministers and workers while they labor in the Lord's vineyard to convert precious souls to the Word of God. We are hoping and praying that many more people will be enlisted on the Lord's side to help us in this important work with their prayers. May God bless in this way.



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.

Bigger Meteor Risk

The following is an article from the Tuesday, November 12, 2013 *Houston Chronicle*:

Russian fireball shows meteor risk may be bigger

--Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Scientists studying the terrifying meteor that exploded without warning over a Russian city last winter say the threat of space rocks smashing into Earth is bigger than they thought.

Meteors about the size of the one that streaked through the sky at 412,000 mph and burst over Chelyabinsk in February – and ones even larger – are probably four to five times more likely to hit the planet than scientists believed before the fireball, according to three studies published Wednesday in the journals *Nature* and *Science*.

Until Chelyabinsk, NASA had looked only for space rocks about 100 feet wide and bigger, figuring there was little danger below that. This meteor was only 62 feet across but burst with the force of about 40 Hiroshima-type atom bombs, scientists say. Its shock wave shattered windows, and its flash temporarily blinded 70 people. More than 1,600 people in all were injured.

Up until then, scientists had figured a meteor causing an airburst like that was a once-in-150 years-event, based on how many space rocks have been identified in orbit. But one of the studies now says it is likely to happen once every 30 years or so, based on how often these things are actually hitting.

This week, NASA got a wake up call on those bigger space rocks that astronomers thought they had a handle

on, discovering two 12-mile-wide space rocks and a 1.2-mile-wide one that had escaped their notice until this month. The three objects won't hit Earth, but their discovery raises the question of why they weren't seen until now.

Comment

We have commented on meteors hitting Earth before in this column. This article reinforces this possibility. Jesus said, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26).

Yes, it is possible that the forecast of falling meteors may be just one of the events which cause men's hearts to fail as the time of the rapture draws closer.

Subtle Fear

A former president of the United States said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Of course, he was speaking of the era of the Great Depression and World War II.

From the news reports, there seems to be a more subtle fear experienced by many people in our time. In a sense, this type of fear is worse than the kind of open fear that people experienced during the Great Depression, in that it seems to be lasting longer. Many are fearful that their livelihood will be taken from them by ruthless governmental authorities.

Only complete trust in God can erase this fear. Those who are in the world make it very hard for children of God. Hebrews 13:5-6 offers good advice to those who wish to overcome this subtle fear, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

They Paid No Attention

There was a news item aired by CNN that told of several teenagers, riding on a train, who had their noses buried in their cell phones and other kinds of high-tech equipment. They did see not a man standing in front of them who was pointing a gun. The man fired the gun. The bullet killed a man.

Comment

What do you think would have happened if all the teenagers were not so wrapped up in their technical gadgets? One of the signs of the last days is recorded in the first part of II Timothy 3:2, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves." One might ask--what does that have to do with the teenagers. The constant use of any object can easily become a habit, and that is only one sign of one's love for only himself. He has no time for helping others.

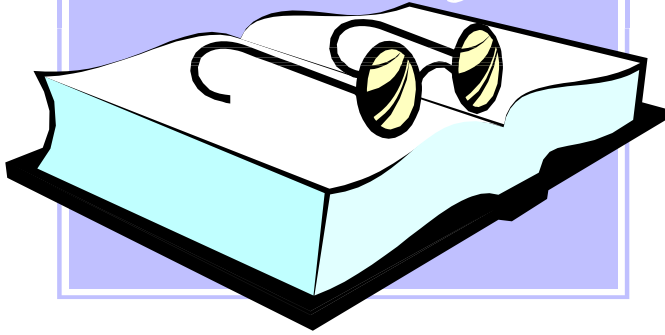
DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

**Daniel gained King Darius' favor,
He was chief over all of his men;
And all of the princes and presidents
Gave all their reports to him.
This, of course, really irked them,
The king's treasures they dared not rob;
For each of the princes and presidents
Really wanted his job.
But no fault could be found in Daniel,**

**He was honest and true to the king;
So they hatched up this scheme together,
And it to King Darius did bring.
No one was to ask a petition,
Or be tossed into a lions' den;
Darius then signed the writing,
Sealing their fate there and then.
When Daniel heard of this petition,
It bothered him not in the least;
To God three times he prayed every day,
And he had no intention to cease!
So he went to his room at noon time,
And by his window kneeled down to pray;
The evil men all were watching,
And to witness this just made their day!
So off to the king they hurried,
The petition held firm in their hand;
For there was no doubt now about it,
One of them would soon rule the land.
So poor Daniel would have to be offered
As lunch for one lucky lion;
So into the den they tossed him,
Rejoicing all of the time.
The next day the king came slowly,
Feeling sure he had sealed Daniel's fate;
He rolled the huge stone from the den,
And timidly peeked over the gates.
The king was greatly astonished,
There was Daniel, not hurt in the least;
For God had sent His angel
To shut the mouths of all of the beasts.
The wicked men were all gathered,
Along with their family and kin;
And they were all tossed to the lions,
They would never be scheming again!
King Darius was greatly rejoicing,
And Daniel was ruling from then!
(From Daniel, Chapter 6)
--Betty Whetstone**

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Will you please name a few errors taught by the Roman Catholic Church?

ANSWER: Listed below are a few errors taught by the Roman Catholic Church:

1. The papal supremacy 2. The papal infallibility 3. Tradition 4. Distinction of sin, venial and mortal 5. The seven sacraments 6. Saint and angel worship 7. Use and adoration of images 8. False views of justification 9. Celibacy 10. Transubstantiation 11. Sacrifice of the mass, etc.

QUESTION: For what was the city of Capernaum noted?

ANSWER: The city of Capernaum was a city on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus lived for a considerable time and where many of His important works were done. Matthew was chosen there and Simon, Peter and Andrew were natives of the neighborhood. It is now little more than a heap of ruins, fulfilling the doom pronounced upon it for its impenitence.

QUESTION: Will you please write a short paragraph on how Jesus taught the way of salvation?

ANSWER: He painted a picture of our helplessness.

However He did not leave us hopelessly in our sins. Because sin can be removed, He joyfully showed us that a way of removal was provided through Him. Except for this hope, His message was fearful. He taught that sin which is covered up by His blood will not be attached to our record.

QUESTION: What does the death of Christ really mean?

ANSWER: We will give you six things that the death of Christ means:

1. The death of Christ means **Forgiveness**. His forgiveness is unbounded. Forgiveness passes into love. "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little" (Luke 7:47). Love passes into life; the forgiven becomes the forgiving.

2. The death of Christ means **Salvation**. "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). This is everlasting mercy. The thief had no title to anything but doom. He was given hope to be in paradise with Jesus. It is only by the mercy of God that any sinner can receive eternal life.

3. The death of Christ means **Lovingkindness**. "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother,

Woman, behold thy son!” (John 19:26). The creative love of God is manifested in a human relationship. Are we not all sons and daughters of God? Are we not all brethren? Are we not all in a family relationship? Let the lovingkindness of the cross prevail in our homes.

4. The death of Christ means **Suffering**. “After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst” (John 19:28). We need to give some thoughts to the physical suffering of our Lord. This is the entrance of eternal love into the mystery of human suffering. When we bring in our hands a cup of cold water to the least of His brethren, we bring it unto Him.

5. The death of Christ means **Victory**. “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30). This was a shout of triumph. All that God had set out to do was not partly done. It was done! This was not almost a victory. It was a total victory. It was completed. Sin and death are conquered. On the day of resurrection, the banner of victory will fly in the breeze. “**...Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (I Corinthians 15:57).

6. The death of Christ means **Consecration**. “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost” (Luke 23:46). This is not resignation. This is dedication. As someone put it, “Although the act of redemption was now complete in itself, the actualization of redemption in the world of men still had to be carried through.” The meaning of Christ’s death for us is our entering into the fellowship of His sufferings. We consecrate our lives to the gospel of redemption, and by this we become channels of His grace to our fellow men.

QUESTION: What is the value of hope?

ANSWER: We sometimes hear people say, “As long as there is life, there is hope.” The words have meaning we do not always think of when they are used. The meaning is that life and hope are inseparable. Any person without hope would be, to all practical purposes and intents, dead. Hope is the last thing that dies in man.

As long as we have possession of our normal powers we are hopeful. Most miserable is the person who lives with little hope. As a rule, even in the deepest gloom, we cling to the thought that, somehow or other, things will eventually be better. Through all the nights of dark despair, men are not disposed to give up hope which “springs eternal in the human breast.”

Hope is the anchor of the soul, the stimulant of life, the preventative of despair, the incentive to achievement, the magnetic force that preserves integrity, the gleam that inspires us to press forward to surmount the obstacles that impede progress.

QUESTION: I Timothy 4:8 tells us, “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” How is godliness profitable in this life?

ANSWER: There are at least three areas in which godliness is profitable in our lives:

1. Godliness is profitable in our civilization. Whenever godliness is the order of the day in a civilization, progress will be made and the social order will be uplifted.

2. Godliness is profitable in our business. It is far better for both the customer and merchant if our business is transacted on the basis established for it by God. Honesty and good will make for good business.

3. Godliness is profitable in our homes. All members of the family must be true and show love to each other. In a home which practices godliness, there is peace and complete understanding.

QUESTION: I have been told by friends that there is no confirmation of Christianity as found in the New Testament by any non-Christian contemporaries. Is this true?

ANSWER: No, that is not true! On the contrary, there is much corroboration of the New Testament in the surviving non-Christian writings of that period, including even those of some of Christianity’s sworn enemies. This false claim of no evidence of Christianity’s existence in contemporary writings outside of the New Testament is a favorite cry of atheists who even boast that this charge has never been answered.



Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

A Church service being conducted in the Los Angeles Church.





LESSON I

JOASH FALLS INTO IDOLATRY

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 24:17-27.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 24:18 (first part).

“And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols:...”

NOTE: While Jehoiada lived, Joash reigned well. Now we are going to study about his turning to idolatry and how he is slain by his servants.

1. What has happened to the princes of Judah? II Chronicles 24:17-18.
2. Who was sent to bring them again unto the Lord? Did they hear? II Chronicles 24:19.
3. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Zechariah. What did he say to the people? II Chronicles 24:20.
4. What did they do to Zechariah? II Chronicles 24:21.
5. What did Joash do in II Chronicles 24:22?
6. Who came against Judah and Jerusalem? Whom did they destroy and why? II Chronicles 24:23-24.
7. Who slew Joash? II Chronicles 24:25.
8. Who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 24:27.

LESSON II

UZZIAH'S REIGN

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 26:1-12.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 26:3 (first part).

“Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem...”

NOTE: After the death of Joash, Amaziah began to reign

at the age of twenty-five years. He reigned well for about fifteen years, but he finally turned from following the Lord. He was slain, and now his son is going to reign in his stead.

1. Whom did the people of Judah make king after the death of Amaziah? II Chronicles 26:1.
2. How long did Uzziah reign, and who was his mother? II Chronicles 26:3.
3. Did he do that which was right in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 26:4-5.
4. With whom did Uzziah war against? II Chronicles 26:6.
5. Did God help Uzziah with this war? II Chronicles 26:7.
6. Who gave gifts to Uzziah? Was he exceedingly strong? II Chronicles 26:8.
7. Name some of the things he built in II Chronicles 26:9-10.

LESSON III

UZZIAH'S ARMY AND HIS DEATH

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 26:11-23.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 26:21 (first part).

“And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper;...”

NOTE: We last learned about Uzziah becoming king at the age of sixteen, and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. We will now learn about his army and what he does to transgress against the Lord.

1. Uzziah had a host of fighting men. How many mighty men of valor did he have? II Chronicles 26:11-12.
2. How many were in the army under the chiefs? II

Chronicles 26:13.

3. What did he prepare for them to use in battle? II Chronicles 26:14-15.
4. He was now very strong. Did he still rely on God, or did he transgress against Him? II Chronicles 26:16.
5. When Uzziah went into the temple to burn incense, who went with him? II Chronicles 26:17.
6. What did the priests say to him? II Chronicles 26:18.
7. Uzziah was wroth with the priests. What disease did the Lord bring upon him? II Chronicles 26:19-20.
8. How long did he have this disease? Who reigned in his place? II Chronicles 26:21-23.

LESSON IV

THE REIGN OF AHAZ

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 28:1-27.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 28:22 (first part).

“And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord:...”

NOTE: We have just finished studying about the reign of Uzziah who reigned well during the days of Zechariah. After his death, his son Jotham was a good king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. After his death, Ahaz, the son of Jotham, began his reign. We shall study now about his reign to see if he continued in the steps of his father Jotham.

1. How old was Ahaz when he began to reign? Did he do that which was right in the sight of the LORD? II Chronicles 28:1-4.
2. Into whose hands was Ahaz delivered because he had forsaken the Lord? II Chronicles 28:5.

3. How many were slain at this time, and how many were taken captive? II Chronicles 28:6-8.
4. Who was Oded, and what did he tell the host which came to Samaria? II Chronicles 28:9-11.
5. Azariah and others stood up against those who came from the war, and what did they demand them to do? Did they obey? II Chronicles 28:12-15.
6. King Ahaz sent unto the king of Assyria for help. What had happened to Judah that the king needed help? II Chronicles 28:16-19.
7. Did any of the kings of Assyria help Ahaz? What did he give the king to try to get their help? II Chronicles 28:20-22.
8. Read II Chronicles 28:23-25, and then tell some of the things he did which only further provoked the anger of the Lord God.

9. Who reigned in his stead after his death? II Chronicles 28:27.

GOD KEEPS US

Find the Bible verses and fill in the blanks.

1. **"Fear thou...; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will...thee; yea, I will ...thee with the right hand of my..." (Isaiah 41:10).**
2. **"And the Lord shall deliver me from every...work, and will...me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (II Timothy 4:18).**
3. **"O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the..., and plentifully rewardeth the proud..." (Psalm 31:23).**



THE BIBLE ZOO

By Mabel D. Cowie

There are a number of animals spoken of in the Bible from which we can learn many valuable lessons. I could not mention them all, but there are a few which are particularly interesting.

The Bible speaks about "A cunning fox." Have you ever seen a fox? I never did, but they say they live in holes under the ground. Foxes make big holes in the ground, and they often spoil the roots of the vines. These animals are very cunning and sly and usually come out at night when no one is around.

A certain farmer had been missing a number of chickens. Often into the night he would hear loud noises down in the chicken yard. He decided to watch for the one what was stealing his chickens. He got up just before dawn one morning and went out to the chicken house. He saw a beautiful fox. It was going in after another chicken.

Mr. Farmer was ready for him this time. He had his gun with him, and he aimed it in the right direction and pulled the trigger. The fox went rolling on the ground. Soon he was dead.

A few days later, some folks that were visiting on the farm walked through the woods. When they came near the creek, they found a lot of chicken feathers scattered all over the ground. It was here where Mr. Fox had his last chicken dinner.

We read in Song of Solomon 2:15, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes."

Foxes have little value except for their fur. They are very cunning and crafty and often hide under the vine leaves spoiling the vines and often eating the grapes.

Our sins, we often call them little sins, are like little foxes. They are cunning. We are often successful in hiding them for awhile, but sooner or later they are found out. The fox at the barn got away with the chickens for a few nights, but finally he got caught.

The sin one tries to hide may not be found out right away. Then it begins to grow, and one sin leads to another. Unless it is confessed to Jesus, one will get into a lot of trouble.

The little foxes may be lies, or stealing, or jealousy. Could such things be found in the hearts of nice people? Do not try to hide your sins, but ask Jesus to come into your hearts and take those things away. Then you will be happy.

The Bible also tells us about a mighty lion. In Proverbs 30:30 it says, "A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any." A lion is a very great beast. In fact, the Bible says it is the strongest of beasts. We do not see many lions in our country, only in a zoo or circus. Most of us have seen pictures of them, but I dare say none would choose one for a pet. I Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." There is no lion in God's way. Isaiah 35:9 says, "No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon..."

When we get away from God, we put ourselves in the lion's or devil's way. When we do right, God promises to deliver us out of the lion's mouth. Let us keep out of the lion's way or he might open his mouth and swallow us. If we walk in God's way, He will protect us.

We also read about a patient ox in the Bible. The ox is a very strong animal. It is not a fast runner like the horse, but it can pull very heavy loads. The ox is a very patient animal and never complains of the hard work it has to do. It either stands and waits or goes ahead without showing any signs of not liking it. It is a dumb animal, but it does whatever its master tells it to do. God accepted this animal for His service and sacrifice. This shows us that God can use those who are not afraid to work. He is glad when we enjoy our work and are not always complaining that it is

too hard. Do you desire to be like the patient ox? How do you perform those duties which are given you? Do you always think it is too hard or it takes too long, or you would rather do something else? The ox is not like that. It is obedient. It does whatever it is told to do and never talks back.

Last of all, we have a gentle lamb. A lamb is a very common animal and is often seen on the hillsides as you travel through the country. A lamb is very meek. It never has to be driven. It always follows where it is led.

When storms arise, the little lambs usually find protection under trees. They go there for a hiding place during the storm. God's people also have a place of protection, a hiding place in time of storms. Our shelter is the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ--in Him we hide.

NAMES OF JESUS

In the Bible, Jesus is given many beautiful names and titles. Let us see how many we can find.

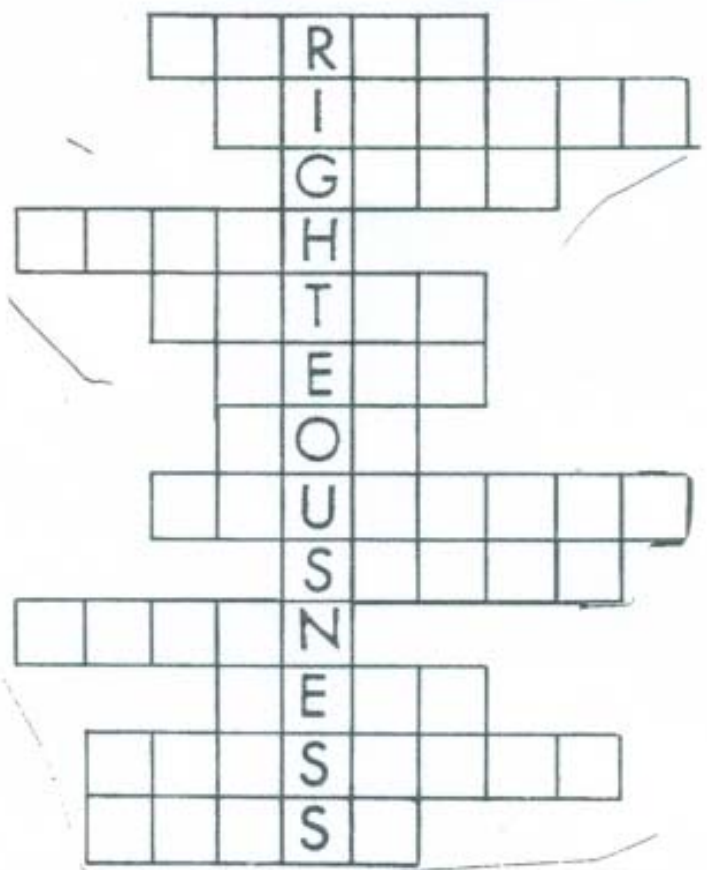
Here are the places in the Bible where the name may be found:

1. What two names did the angels give Jesus i speaking to the shepherds on the night of His birth Luke 2:11.
2. What did God call Jesus at His baptism? Matthe 3:17.
3. What did Jesus often call Himself? Matthew 8:20
4. What name did the two blind men give Him Matthew 9:27.
5. What names did the Prophet Isaiah give Him Isaiah 9:6.
6. What names did He, Jesus, give Himself in Joh 14:6?
7. To what did Jesus liken Himself in John 6:35? I John 10:11?
8. To what two flowers is He likened sometimes i hymns? Song of Solomon 2:1.
9. To what heavenly bodies is He likened in Malact 4:2 and Revelation 22:16?
10. What title of Jesus is made up of the first an last letters of the Greek alphabet? Revelation 22:1:

BIBLE STORY ACROSTIC

GENESIS 12:1-9

- R. God asked ____ to move to a new land (v. 1).**
- I. Another name for relatives (v. 1).**
- G. Opposite of receive (v. 7).**
- H. Direction opposite of north (v. 9).**
- T. Place where sacrifices are offered in worship (v. 8).**
- E. "Unto thy ____ will I give this land" (v. 7).**
- O. Abraham's brother's son (v. 5).**
- U. Higher than a hill (v. 8).**
- S. Wife of Abram (v. 5).**
- N. Abraham was 75 years old when he left this place (v. 4).**
- E. Abraham lived in a ____ (v. 8).**
- S. "thou shalt be a ____" (v. 2).**
- S. Opposite of bless (v. 3).**



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"For in the time of
trouble he shall hide me
in his pavilion: in the
secret of his tabernacle
shall he hide me; he shall
set me up upon a rock"
(Psalm 27:5).

