

The Advocate of Truth

A blue peacock is the central focus of the image, shown in profile facing left. Its vibrant blue feathers are the dominant color, with a white patch on its face and a crest of blue and white feathers on its head. The background is a soft-focus garden with green ferns and other foliage.

*Strength, Courage,
and Victory*

Independence Day

Kindness

The Sabbath

Full Coverage

Angels

Marriage



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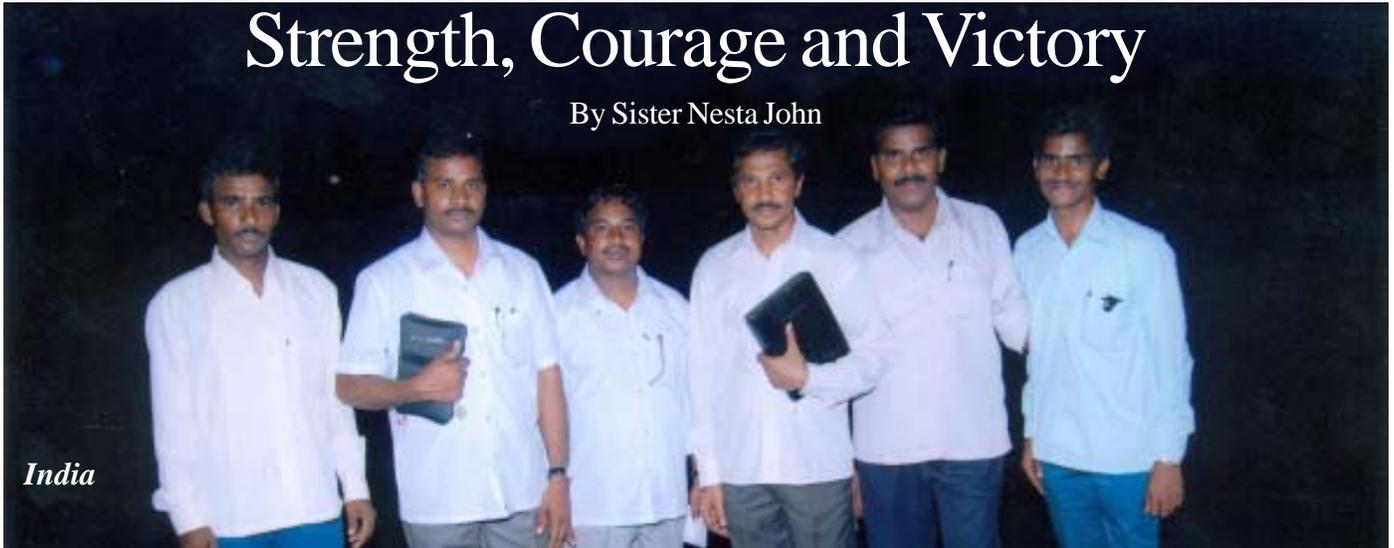
July 25 , 2011

The Advocate of Truth

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Strength, Courage and Victory

By Sister Nesta John



India

Never quit, but have the courage to fight. Strength can be defined as the property of being physically and mentally strong. There are times when it feels easy to quit because encouragement is not present. Let us remember Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). Courage can be defined as a quality of spirit that enables you to be brave and deal with danger without fear. “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:6). Prayer is of vital importance in one’s Christian life. It will give us strength and courage to continue the Christian journey. Victory is a successful ending of a struggle because of the strength and courage that we possess. The victory is thereby successful and sweet.

The devil comes in many different ways. He knows our weakness and targets us directly on the spot. There are some individuals that are stronger than others. They can help the weak with prayers. We do commit sins and fail God at times, but He will have mercy upon us. No one in this life is perfect, and the Christian road is a straight and narrow road with potholes along the way. We might fall on many occasions, but we cannot stay down. We have to get up and dust ourselves off to continue the journey. Some might fall harder than others, but we must never stay down. Discouraging words may cause us to remain down longer than we want, but we have to dust off those discouraging words and actions with prayers and get back on our knees and be even stronger than at the beginning.

The end of someone’s life is much more important than the beginning. God knows the life of every man, and He knows if our heart is sincere or if it is a pretense. Let us be in contact with the Lord often, and the narrow road with potholes will be much easier to walk. “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber” (Psalm 121:1-3). Giving one another encouragement can help in standing taller and stronger. Let us read the Word of God at all times because it is our guide which will make us wise and instruct and correct us in righteousness.

The race is for those who can endure unto the end. “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (I Corinthians 9:24). In that Christian race, we must try our best to avoid disqualification. Let us run the race cleanly and fairly. We may feel tired, thirsty and sweaty along the way which may be the result of the trials and tribulations that we go through, but the Holy Spirit within us will quench that thirst and revive us and make us stronger towards the end. The potholes filled with dirty water can be known as the temptation the devil brings across to us in our lives, but praying without ceasing can represent the sunshine that will vaporize the dirty water in the potholes. Without faith, we cannot endure. “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).

Facts About Independence Day



On July 4, America's independence will be celebrated in grand fashion with parades, fireworks and backyard BBQ's. This year, Americans will commemorate the anniversary of the approval of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress – the act that set the 13 American colonies on their road to national sovereignty. Here are some facts about Independence Day which you may not know:

1. Independence Day is one of ten federal holidays. The other federal holidays are New Years Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

2. Of the original thirteen colonies that attended the Continental Congress and voted on the Declaration of Independence, only nine voted in favor of it. Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted against the Declaration, while New York abstained.

3. On the first Independence Day, commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the US had consisted of 13 colonies under the rule of King George III. At that time, there were approximately 2.5 million people living in those 13 colonies.

4. The first American flag was sewn by seamstress Betsy Ross in May 1777, at the request of the Continental Congress. The original version of the flag had thirteen

stripes and thirteen stars, representing the original thirteen colonies that signed the Declaration of Independence.

5. Americans spent more than \$4.7 million on American flags in 2007. The vast majority of those flags - \$4.3 million worth – were made in China.

6. There are 31 cities in America with the word "eagle" – a national symbol of the United States – in their name, including Eagle Pass, Texas. Twelve places are named for Independence, including Independence, Missouri. There are nine places named "freedom," including Freedom, California. There is one city named Patriot in America. It is in Indiana.

7. The original Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Christian socialist, Francis Bellamy.

The original version did not include the words "under God". They were added in the 1950's after the Knights of Columbus successfully campaigned to Congress. Bellamy's granddaughter said he would have resented the change.

8. More than 270 million Americans visit a national park every year.

The first national park was Yellowstone, designated as such in 1872 by President Ulysses S. Grant. Today there are over 400 national parks, covering more than 84 million acres from Maine to California. Visiting one of these 400 parks is a great way to experience a true taste of America's vast beauty and bounty.

9. America's second president, John Adams, was the

first to light the fireworks spark for Independence Day when he said the holiday ought to be celebrated by pomp and parade – and illuminations from one end of this

continent to the other.

NOTE: Facts taken from **THE BULLETIN**, Angleton, Texas

Contributed by Bond Tennant

Treating others with kindness reaps benefits for both people

By Buddy Scott
Excerpted from *The Facts*
Angleton, Texas

I've always warned parents who hover, blame and insult their children that if their kids have any spunk at all, they will rebel in adolescence to flee from the pointing finger. Even a kindergartner exclaimed to her mother in my office, "Mom! You always get mean when things go wrong! I've known you for five years!" By 15, a child could be pretty sure that there is no hope things can be different. Even good kids rebel to escape verbal violence.

What hurt me the most when I was a slow-learning child was people judging me to be bad. With anger-drenched voices they yelled over me, "You don't even care! You don't even try!" I knew different. I did care! I did try! And I was ashamed of myself.

I learned to avoid education. Education re-created and repeated the same horrific scenes. I dreaded the next day of school. I dreaded being called on to give an answer in front of my classmates. I dreaded going to the chalkboard and trying to solve problems in front of my teacher and friends.

One day at His Love Counseling Services, I had a late cancellation. My office staff called in an 8-year-old boy and his mom. I used the hour to work with him on

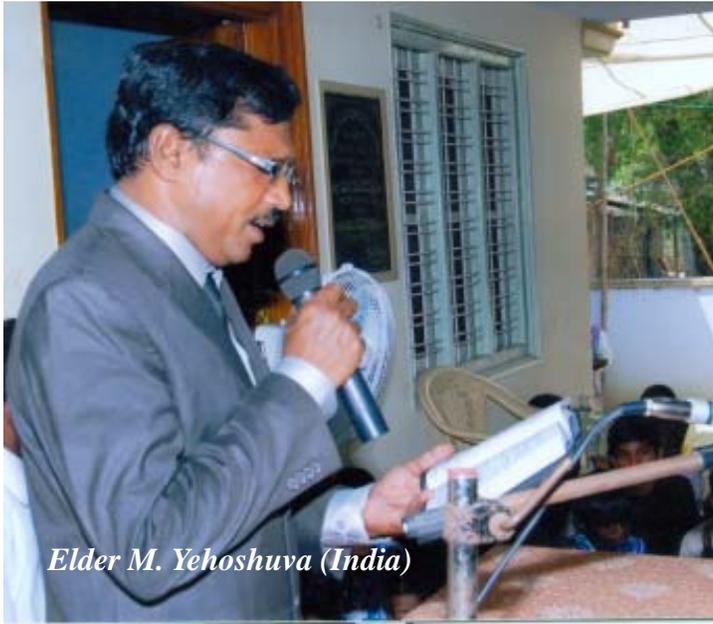
reading and writing skills. Mom looked on.

After the hour, Mom said to me on the side, "So that's how you do it. You never get upset with him. You didn't raise your voice. You didn't blame him when he made mistakes. You were patient and kind ... and he cooperated! I've learned so much about how to work with my child."

Whether it's mentoring a child, communicating in marriage or relating to friends, I have found in life and in the counseling office that those who find a bit of humor in what goes wrong, who don't take things too personally and who don't blame and scold are rewarded with healthier relationships.

Those who behave opposite of those traits often experience a trail of tears. They hurt others, and the pain boomerangs back to them. Jesus warned us if we sow to the wind, we'll reap the whirlwind. All of us need to do better.

As I say in my office, "If we don't improve, our lives stay the same. To correct old habitual patterns, we must upgrade our personalities on purpose. We must pause and choose new attitudes and words."



Elder M. Yehoshuva (India)

Hearken, My Beloved Brethren

By Bibi S. Allicock
Guyana, South America

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" (James 2:5) "For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" (verses 2-4).

These verses show us that everyone of true faith, no matter how poor, are children of God. We must have love in our hearts for all people, not favoring some over others. "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (verses 8-12).

There is a teaching, in christendom today, that all Christians should be wealthy, materially. Notice what I Timothy 6:3-12 teaches. "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our

Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 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. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:3-12).

It is not a sin for believers to have riches. However, they have a great responsibility with such wealth. "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate: Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (verses 17-19).

We must not lift ourselves up with pride above others. This can cause our hearts to become hardened. We are told to hearken and not to harden our hearts, as Israel did. The Psalmist states, "Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest" (Psalm 95:8-11).

Children of God must see themselves in the light of God's awesome power and holiness. They should come together and worship the Lord. This will take away the pride out of their hearts. As we continue to study our Manual (Bible), which has everything pertaining to life, then, "...come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful

noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness" (verses 1-8).

Let us look to, and follow, the example of Jesus. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:11-16).

The Sabbath - A Sign



To support the doctrine of observance of the first day of the week, it became necessary for its adherents to make some kind of disposition of the fourth commandment in the decalogue, which specifically mentions the seventh day of the week. In order to do this, many of them have taken the position that the Ten Commandments were given to the Jews only and that they are the Law of Moses which was abolished at the cross. They insist that the Ten Commandments were not in effect before Moses received them at Mt. Sinai in the wilderness and, that since Christ,

we are no longer bound to keep them.

This position is unreasonable because the Ten Commandments define what sin is. We read that sin is the transgression of the law (see I John 3:4), and that where there is no law, there is no transgression (see Romans 4:15). We know that Abraham kept God's laws, so he must have known them (see Genesis 26:5). Adam knew sin after he had eaten of the forbidden fruit, so there must have been a law defining sin revealed to him at that time. Christ came to save us from our sins, and John writes, "... these things write I unto you, that ye sin not..."

(I John 2:1) Therefore, if we are admonished to not sin, there must be some standard by which we recognize the difference between good and evil.

The Law of God has never been confused with the Law of Moses until man introduced such confusion to support their pernicious doctrine of Sunday observance and false security.

There is no promise in the Bible that a person who sins will be saved unless he repents of that sin and is forgiven. It is possible for a person to live in such close fellowship with God and with Christ that he does not sin habitually, but that is not because the law condemning sin was abolished, but rather because it becomes so much a part of the person's nature when he is in this Divine Fellowship, that his entire being revolts when he is confronted to sin.

This is what God meant when He prophesied in Isaiah

42:21 that He would magnify the law. This is what we mean when we speak of the law being written in our hearts.

We have heard people say, "I know that it is impossible for me to sin." To some, this means merely that they feel they will be forgiven of any wickedness they might commit. To them, the plan of salvation is that people are saved in their sins, not from them. However, others who feel that they cannot sin recognize that it is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the presence of the Law of God in their hearts that directs their lives, helping them to overcome temptation, and to remove sinful habits from their natures.

Of course, such instances as these have the exception that the person must be aware of the possibility of sinning. Sometimes one will sin because he does not know the sinful thing when he sees it. This exception proves the rule that one cannot sin willfully or habitually with the Law of God in his heart.

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson



FULL COVERAGE (A SEATING CHART PARABLE)

BY DANIEL CRUZ

In most states in the United States, it's required that you have full coverage on a new vehicle, and the insurance company insures that they meet the state's requirements. This allows you to drive your vehicle with confidence. If an accident occurs, you will be taken care of, and your car will be restored like new. No cost will come out of your pocket. Now, if you fail to pay for this coverage, you could be in danger of having to pay for it, even though your car is damaged and inoperable. Now, how can we take such a chance and not pay for a policy

that will guarantee our safety and well being?

A study conducted by the Bloomberg Group in 2007 quoted that 40,000 employees were surveyed, and half of this group remained silent. The other 20,000 were either confrontational or happy (meaning a conformist to please the leadership). With this being said, the overall picture that is being painted is either you are a participant or a road block. How does this apply to the Church? Well, the Word of God teaches us to be abased and to abound. Philippians 4:12 teaches us that we must be

disciplined and content in whatever state we find ourselves. Does this just apply to the ministry or the leadership of the Church? No, the letter written by Paul was to the Church at Philippi, and it applies to all who wear the title, Child of God. The standards for the ministry are the same as for the members.

Where you sit in your local church has meaning. How is this true? Well, if you attend regularly, and you have a pew or chair that you sit in every service, what happens if someone is in that spot? You may become discouraged and need to reposition yourself, and you may let this small thing ruin your service. The Lord does not cover the first three rows and allow the remainder of the Church to remain uncovered. Paul, again, addresses this in Romans 1:11-12, "For I long to see you, that I may

impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." Paul explains that what God has for you He has for all, full coverage of the Lord's faithful servants who are committed to the work of the Lord. We must accept that sitting in church does not exclude us from the judgments of the Lord nor the goodness that He gives.

So, when you're sitting in a service, do not feel exempt or that your input is not important. The reality of what is being taught is for the benefit of all. The body must work together to maintain its strength to continue on in these last days. A fair warning would be Luke 11:23, "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." These are the words of Jesus



"But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:13-14). These two verses tell us a lot about angels. First, they are not as exalted as Jesus who sits on the right hand of God (see verses 1-6). Second, a part of their job is to minister to believers. The subject of angels is a fascinating one and, to the believer, it is also an important one.

The word "angel" is "mal'ak" in Hebrew, and "aggelos" in Greek, both terms meaning "messenger". These faithful messengers of God "...excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word" (Psalm 103:20). They surround God's throne in heaven,

giving Him and His Son praise. They are full of wisdom, though they are not omniscient since they don't know the day of Christ's return. They do not accuse the worst of sinners before the Lord. They do, however, deliver those who fear the Lord. They also cannot die. (See Revelation 5:11-12; Psalm 148:2; Matthew 24:36; II Peter 2:11; Psalm 34:7; Luke 20:36).

Some of the angels of heaven sinned against God and, thus, they fell from their habitation. We read in Revelation 12:7-9: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which

deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." These are probably the angels referred to in Job 4:18. Concerning them, the Lord tells us, "...his angels he charged with folly".

Jude wrote about these fallen angels in this manner: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (verse 6). This judgment of angels will apparently be under the jurisdiction of the saints, for the Apostle Paul wrote, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?..." (I Corinthians 6:3).

The tragic story of the fallen angels all began with Lucifer ("Day-star") who, after his fall, became known as Satan. We read in Isaiah 14:12-14: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Lucifer started sin with his own will. He said "I will" five times in this passage. Some contend that Lucifer is a man, not an angel, because verse 16 calls him a man. Sometimes angels are called "men" as we can see from Genesis 18:2-22;19:1.

Lucifer (Satan) was the type of angelic being known as a cherub ("cherubim", plural). Ezekiel 28:14-15 reads: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." In chapter 10 of Ezekiel, we find God's obedient cherubim described in this way: "And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar" (verses 14-15; see also chapter 1:5-21).

We believe, from Revelation 12:3-4, that Satan influenced one-third of the angels in heaven to follow him. We read: "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast

them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." Therefore, these fallen angels are the legions, now known as devils or demons, who roam the earth afflicting mankind and opposing the work of God on earth (see Luke 8:26-34).

Angels (also sometimes called "sons of God") were present when God created the earth. The Lord asked Job where was he when this took place, "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (see Job 38:4-7).

These sons of God make periodic reports before the Lord, apparently, as we glean from Job 1:6. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them." It appears from this verse, then, that the angels must give an accounting of their activities. Even Satan came and gave an accounting of what he had been doing. Now, if angels of God are required to give an account of themselves, then we also are required to do so. No one can be an authority unto himself or herself, but he or she must be under all God-ordained authority, including the leadership of the Church of God.

Another type of angelic being is the seraphim. We read of these in Isaiah 6:1-7. "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

Another view of the seraphim, it is believed, is found in Revelation 4:6-8. "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne,

and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

Cherubim and seraphim are somewhat similar angelic beings, but not identical. Cherubim have four faces and four wings. Their faces resemble a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. These beings were "...placed at the east of the garden of Eden...and a flaming sword...to keep the way of the tree of life" (Genesis 3:24). Golden cherubim were made on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant (see Exodus 25:18).

Seraphim, on the other hand, have six wings and apparently one face each. A part of their role is to praise God for His holiness. Both cherubim and seraphim, it seems, have "eyes" all over them (see Ezekiel 10:12; Revelation 4:6). Whether these eyes symbolize the "eyes of the LORD" (see Psalm 34:15; 11:4), or not, we can only speculate.

The Scriptures seem to indicate that each believer has at least one angel assigned to him or her. Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 18:4,10: "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven...Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Also, when Peter was delivered from prison and came to Mary's house in Acts 12, we read: "And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel" (verses 13-15).

In any case, believers have this promise from the Lord: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12). We do not look to these angels, however, for our protection. We don't pray to them, nor do we worship

them as some have tried to do (see Revelation 19:10; Colossians 2:18). "Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 124:8).

Angels have also been used of the Lord to fight against the enemies of believers. Second Kings 19 gives us a classic example of this. When the Assyrians had besieged Jerusalem, and some of them had blasphemed God, king Hezekiah prayed to the Lord. Part of that prayer is as follows: "LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God...Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only" (verses 16,19).

Notice the results of Hezekiah's prayer. "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses" (verse 35). One hundred eighty five thousand of the Assyrians were destroyed in one night by the angel of the Lord! Our God protects His own people. Verse 36 tells us that Sennacherib then went back to his city of Nineveh.

The angels of God are also well organized. We have seen the example of the cherubim and the seraphim. Possibly the highest of the angels is Michael, the archangel. He is mentioned several times in the Scriptures, including Jude 9, Revelation 12:7, and Daniel 10:13,21. In Daniel 10, Michael is mentioned as being "one of the chief princes". In the book of Ephesians, chapter 3, the Apostle Paul wrote of "...the principalities and powers in heavenly places..." (verse 10).

As messengers of God, angels sometimes make appearances to people. A few examples of these appearances, in the Bible, are: to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:2); to Gideon (Judges 6:11-12); to Manoah and his wife (Judges 13:2-10); to Elijah under the juniper tree (I Kings 19:5-7); to Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26-28; Matthew 1:20; 2:13); to Mary Magdalene at the sepulchre (Matthew 28:1-5); and to Peter in prison (Acts 12:5-7). In all of these cases the angels brought instruction, encouragement, sustenance, warning, comfort, or help.

Our Lord, Himself, was honored by the presence of

angels at different times during His earthly life and death. At His birth, the heavenly host sang praises to God. In the Garden of Gethsemane, during His great ordeal, an angel appeared to Him and gave Him strength. After Jesus was captured, He said that God would send Him more than 12 legions of angels if He prayed for them. An angel rolled back the stone of His sepulchre door. Angels were present when He ascended back to heaven. At His second coming they will accompany Him (see Luke 2:9-15; Luke 22:43; Matthew 26:53; Matthew 28:2-7; Acts 1:10-11; II Thessalonians 1:7).

Angels will be the reapers of the saints at Christ's return. Matthew 24:31 informs us, "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (See also I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 13:39.) In Matthew 13, where we learn of the parable of the wheat and the tares, the reapers (angels) gather the tares (sinners) to be burned, and the wheat (children of God) are gathered into the Lord's barn.

In the book of Revelation, angels also play significant roles. Included in these roles are: pouring out the wrath of God which is the seven last plagues; holding a little book and declaring "...that there should be time no longer..."; having a key to the bottomless pit; and delivering 3 messages to the inhabitants of the earth. (See Revelation 8 & 16; 10:1-7; 20:1; 14:6-11).

The messages just referred to are of the utmost importance. We read: "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, 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..."

The Lord, in His goodness, sends these heavenly messengers to minister to the "heirs of salvation". He did it for ancient Israel: "For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off" (Exodus 23:23). He will also do it for us. On the other hand, maybe we can sometimes minister to angels: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).



Marriage

By Linda DeLong

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (He-

brews 13:4). I was recently asked to share some thoughts on having a lasting marriage. The statistics say that half of

all marriages end in divorce. Both I and my husband are Christians, and even with God as the third party in our marriage, we have had some hard things to overcome. I am now what I would call an older Christian woman, and I want to share my thoughts with other men and women in hopes that what my husband and I have gone through, and learned, will help others. I can't say that it's always been easy. Marriage is hard work, and it takes both spouses to make it work. No matter how much you love each other, it's still hard work.

First, take your wedding vows seriously. Do you remember what you promised that day? It was something like to love, honor, and cherish your spouse, in sickness and health, regardless of financial circumstances, for the rest of your life, until death. These are not promises to make lightly. This is serious stuff.

Learn to talk to each other. Make time each day to talk. Learn to speak the truth in love (see Ephesians 4:15). Learn how to disagree without being disagreeable. We learn how we are to act from our families, while growing up, and that may, or may not, be the best example.

Don't think that you're not marrying into your fiance's (or fiancée's) family. My husband and I grew up in different parts of the country. His family has different traditions and ways of doing things than mine. You and your spouse need to develop your own traditions.

When you have a disagreement, no physical violence, no threats or intimidation, no saying, "you never" or "you always" is allowed. Keep your private issues private. Stick to the issue at hand. Past problems, resolved or not, are not allowed into the discussion. While it's not always possible, try not to bring up things that might lead to an argument late at night, or when one, or both of you, is having a bad day. Sometimes, hurt feelings can't be set aside until things cool off. If one of you needs to stop the discussion because it is more than you can handle, respectfully table it. Just don't let it go too long.

Little things are a big deal. Say things like, "Thank you"; "Please"; "I love you"; "I'm sorry"; "You look nice"; "How was your day?" You get the idea. Sisters, let your husbands know how much you appreciate them! Brothers,

let your wives know how wonderful they are. Let them know how blessed you are to have them.

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine..." (Song of Solomon 6:3). I belong to my husband. He belongs to me. I'm not sharing. We have an exclusive relationship. Don't give your spouse a reason to be jealous. Just because you are married, it doesn't mean that you don't notice attractive people. Choose not to act upon those feelings. I know that I have a good thing with my husband, and I'm not going to do anything to mess that up.

Most affairs start because one spouse is feeling neglected and lonely. If you don't take the time to talk with your spouse, someone else may. Have fun together! Continue to date your spouse.

Your spouse can't fill all your emotional needs. That is too big an expectation of another person. Only God can completely do that. You and your spouse need other people in your lives. Being friends with another couple is great. Encourage your spouse in his or her hobbies and passions. Learn enough about these passions so that you can intelligently talk about them with your spouse.

How do I know these things about marriage? My husband and I have made some of these mistakes. We have seen other couples make some of these mistakes. Every couple has issues that could be deal-breakers. You know, those things that you may not be able to get past.

If there are things going on in a marriage that are illegal, immoral, or just plain dangerous, your marriage is in trouble. You may need counseling to resolve these issues. Think about what kind of example you are giving your children. Do you want your children to think that it's all right if Daddy hits Mommy? Of course not! Do you want your children to speak disrespectfully to each other? Never! Don't approve of unacceptable behavior from anyone.

The Bible has many verses on marriage. I encourage you to study this vital subject on a biblical basis. Remember, when you read and study your Bible, the Word is its own best commentary. Don't take verses out of context to try to make them mean something that the Bible doesn't say.



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.

Thinking Things Over

Information overload is a sign of the times. How can you and I deal with it? Information overload is the state of having too much information to digest. In my office, I have many books and magazines. I have not read many of them as I have not had to use them as yet.

In these last days of this age, books, magazines, journals, etc. are not the only sources of information overload. Technology also has an impact on information overload. The modern computer was invented around the year of 1950. During that time, information was produced in very sedate ways and took much longer to reach the person it was intended for or the general public. The modern computer made it possible to compile data and analyze it at speeds never dreamed of before. The accompanying growth of the Internet, which began around the mid-1990's, allows information to be duplicated and accessed by just about anybody. The World Wide Web is an example. It provides us access to more pages of information than we can count. This increases the number of people whose thoughts we encounter and exposes us to more ideas than ever before. Space prohibits mentioning the many other inventions made possible by technology.

We can classify information into two types which are "factual information" which is "book knowledge" and "social information" which comes from "electronic communication."

How can information overload, especially "social information," be overcome? To begin with, take an honest

assessment of your priorities. Do not get wrapped up in acquiring of secular knowledge or an online social life that you have no time left for your major must-do priorities. Do not use your laptop or cell phone when you are talking face to face with your friends. If you see that you are doing these things, be willing to change.

Check your e-mail, social messaging sites, etc. only once a day. Do not check more than once a day unless you are waiting for an important e-mail or message.

We all need family time. Therefore it is a great idea for each family to set aside some time when no media technologies are used. The Sabbath is an ideal time to do this.

No matter how busy we may be, we must always take time to read the Word of God, the Bible, and meditate upon what we read. Knowing what the Word of God teaches will help us to discard information that we do not need or may cause us harm.

All the surveys taken by Gallup and other organizations in regard to reading the Bible, that I have seen, point out that Americans and others are not reading the Bible as much as they used to. Therefore they know less and less about it and what it says!

Hosea 4:6 tells us that, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Although these words were written

to ancient Israel, the same is true today. God will forget our nations. The information found in the Bible is the information that the world needs most, and it is the only information, when digested and practiced, that will solve the problems of the world.

B.T.

Palestinians Claim Ownership Of Western Wall By Michele Chabin Religion News Service

Jerusalem – The Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, is actually a Muslim shrine, according to an official report published this week by the Palestinian Authority’s Ministry of Information.

The report says the Wall – long considered the sole surviving piece of the Second Jewish Temple built atop the Temple Mount more than 2,000 years ago – is actually part of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, built on Haram al-Sharif, the Arabic name for the Temple Mount.

Archeologists maintain Al-Aqsa was built atop the ruins of the Second Temple, which was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Muslims did not capture Jerusalem until 638 A.D.

The Western Wall and Temple complex have long been a violent flashpoint between Jews and Muslims.

Israelis said Taha’s report contained lies that will only serve to undermine the fragile peace process.

Belief The Houston Chronicles

Comment

The Palestinians claim everything. They either lie about the facts or deny the facts.

Tax Has Witches Out For A Spell

Mogosoia, Romania – Witches from the east and west will head to the southern Plains and the Danube River today to threaten the government with spells and spirits because of a new tax law, which came into effect Jan. 1. In the past, the less mainstream professions of witch,

astrologer and fortune teller were not listed in the Romanian labor code, as were those of embalmer, valet and driving instructor. Those who worked those jobs used their lack of registration to evade paying income tax.

Associated Press

Comment

We know the Scriptures prohibit witchcraft. The witches are breaking the law by not wanting to pay their taxes. The government will suffer little from the spells and spirits directed to them.

Personal about visits to heaven

I just heard of a man who wrote a book about visiting heaven. In his book, he tells of walking through heaven and meeting Paul. He said that he felt honored to meet Paul. But Paul tells him that the honor should really be his. He wrote that Paul confessed to him by saying that he fell short of all that he was called to do.

First, we know that no man, living or dead, has ever visited heaven. Second, Paul’s confession that he fell short of that which he was called to do does not agree with what he (Paul) wrote in II Timothy 4:7-8 wherein is written, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Isaiah 8:19-20 is quite understandable: “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

Following are some Scriptures that forbid necromancy, or the practice of talking to the dead. “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 19:31). “So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it” (I Chronicles 10:13). Also read I Samuel 28.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: How do fiery trials benefit the saints?

ANSWER: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (I Peter 4:12-13). Perhaps few have learned to value the discipline of the Lord as did the faithful apostle who wrote these words.

We must not worry about the trials which may be ahead of us. We are to remember the apostle’s words when they do come: “Think it not strange”. Trials come to prove us and to strengthen our character. They cause the principles of truth and righteousness to take deep root in our hearts. Trials come like fiery darts from our great enemy, Satan. His wrath against the children of light is permitted to manifest itself in various ways. However, his darts cannot injure those who securely buckle on the divinely provided armor of truth and righteousness. “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).

The Apostle Paul, concerning the followers of Christ, says, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12). God will allow His people to have these experiences and to suffer for rightdoing! The Bible explains to us that these trials are

Questions and Answers

necessary to prove and test the character.

God needs to see how loyal we are to the principles of righteousness. Some will endure a certain amount and then withdraw. Others will endure more. The Lord is seeking those who will give up everything in order to prove faithful. This faithfulness means entire loyalty to God, to His laws, which are the laws of righteousness.

Fiery trials will test the church and do a purifying work in its midst. Each member of the church must endure his fiery trial individually. Not only will the church as a whole have opposition against it, but each individual will be personally exposed to the fiery trials. The fiery trial of the church is a different kind of trial from that which comes to any other group of people. The difference can be briefly quoted in these words: “inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings.” We can rejoice when a fiery trial touches us. We can say, “I am having a share in the sufferings of Christ; I am glad that in God’s providence I have a share in these trials; for without them, how could I know that I am one of the body members?”

Now we all rejoice, knowing these fiery trials are permitted by the Lord. We know it is usually not the Lord who causes these trials. It is usually the Adversary. However, we have put ourselves into the Lord’s hands, and He has promised to supervise all that concerns us. Thus, we know that whatever comes to us, we may be sure it is of the Father’s purpose, or permission, for our good.

Concerning the devilish disposition manifested toward our Lord, which resulted in all His sufferings, we cannot think that mankind under any ordinary conditions could

ever have had so malicious a spirit as that manifested against Him. We know that the Devil had to do with this, as also with all the wicked persecutions of the saints, the cutting out of tongues, the racking of their poor bodies, and the shooting out of bitter words against them.

Today, we are more used to this latter form of persecution. The average man today would not permit the things done in the Dark Ages. We know that the wicked feelings are still there--the animosity, the bitterness. The Apostle James tells us, "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: . . . and setteth on fire the course of nature." (See James 3:6.) In our day, the tongue and pen are often used as weapons of evil.

Again, we must remember that nothing can happen to us unless the Father permits it. If we did not get our trials from certain ones, we would get them from somewhere else. The trials will burn up our dross and strengthen the elements of our character which may need development. We know that these trials are working out for us "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Please read II Corinthians 4:17.

God has committed unto us (the church) the Word (message, good tidings) of reconciliation. We, as members of Christ's body, are to shine as lights in the world, holding forth this Word of life. The world is a dark place. Sin and error abound. It is no wonder, then, that as we continue to be faithful ambassadors for Christ, following in His footsteps, we must have the privilege and honour of suffering with Him for righteousness' sake.

Whoever will faithfully exercise His ambassadorship, and not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, will soon know something of the sufferings of Christ and can truly say, "...the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me" (Psalm 69:9). The powers of darkness tend to deceive and discourage us. If not resisted, these influences will lead us to be lukewarm – a weariness in well-doing. These adverse influences are "bushels" under which the saints are tempted to hide the light of truth which God so graciously entrusted to them.

Satan, directly or indirectly, introduces bitter aggression, painful injustice, against the church as a whole and against each member of it. Jesus, through the Revelator, has said, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne..." (Revelation 3:21). In other words, suffer with Him now, and we will reign with Him in the kingdom.

Can we say that we will not have any certain

experience? No! We have committed all to the Lord. We must bow in full submission knowing that all things are working together for good. The story is told of a certain brother that took account of his disposition and decided that he was most lacking in patience. He prayed very earnestly to the Lord to give him more patience. He kept on praying. The more he prayed, the more difficulties he seemed to have. Then it occurred to him that this was the answer to his prayer, for this was the way to get patience. When he began to see the matter in its true light, it encouraged him and made a great change in his life. He saw that the Lord was answering his prayer by granting him the very experience he needed to develop patience in his character. No matter what the trouble is, it will bring patience if one is rightly exercised. Some children of God may have patience well developed and thus not need so many of these experiences. But whatever the child of God may need, he should ask for and desire.

The mission of the church in this present age is to develop in itself every grace. The church is to be God's witness to the world. Each individual member of the church (the body of Christ) must prepare himself to reign with Christ in the coming kingdom. The fiery trials during this age, in which we are to rejoice, fit us (as members of the church) for entrance into the coming Kingdom of God.

QUESTION: What is the difference between "faith" and "credulity"?

ANSWER: Faith is based upon evidence. Credulity is a blind belief which accepts anything with unquestioning mind.

QUESTION: The last words of Revelation 2:10 read, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." What is the "crown of life" promised to the faithful child of God during this gospel age?

ANSWER: The "crown of life" or "crown of glory that fadeth not away" is the promised "immortality". The "divine nature" is the crown of life because it is superior to any other form of life. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (I Peter 5:4). "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life" (Romans 2:7). "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Peter 1:4).

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

BY DEL DELONG

India





LESSON I

ISRAELITES MURMUR AGAINST MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:22-27.

Golden Text: Exodus 15:24.

“And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?”

1. After Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea, where did they travel? Exodus 15:22.
2. Why could they not drink of the water at Marah? Exodus 15:23.
3. What did they do against Moses? Exodus 15:24.
4. Moses could only seek the Lord for help. What did the Lord show Moses? Exodus 15:25.
5. What more did the Lord tell them in Exodus 15:26?
6. What place did they come to next? What did they find there? Exodus 15:27.

LESSON II

ISRAELITES MURMUR FOR WANT OF BREAD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:1-19.

Golden Text: Exodus 16:4 (first part).

“Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you...”

1. After the children of Israel left Elim, where did they go? Exodus 16:1.
2. Who murmured against Moses and Aaron, and what did they say? Exodus 16:2-3.
3. What did the Lord tell Moses He would do for them?

Exodus 16:4-5.

4. What did the Lord promise Moses He would give them to eat? Exodus 16:8.
5. As Aaron was speaking to the congregation, what appeared in a cloud, and what was spoken unto Moses? Exodus 16:9-12.
6. What came upon the camp that evening? Exodus 16:13.
7. When the dew was gone up, what lay on the ground? Exodus 16:14-15.
8. How much were they to gather? Exodus 16:16-18.
9. What were they not do with it? Exodus 16:19.

LESSON III

THE MANNA NOT FOUND ON THE SABBATH

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:20-36.

Golden Text: Exodus 16:25.

“And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field.”

1. Did some not obey Moses in the gathering of the manna? What happened to that which was left until the morning? Exodus 16:20-21.
2. How much were they to gather on the sixth day and why? Exodus 16:22-23.
3. Was there to be any manna to gather on the Sabbath? Exodus 16:24-26.
4. Did some go out on the Sabbath to gather, and what happened? Exodus 16:27.
5. What did Moses tell the people they must do on the Sabbath day? Exodus 16:29.

6. What had the Lord commanded Moses to do in Exodus 16:32? What did Moses then command Aaron to do? Exodus 16:33-34.

7. How long did the children of Israel eat manna? Exodus 16:35.

LESSON IV

AMALEK IS OVERCOME

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 17:11.

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”

1. Into what country had the children of Israel journeyed? Did they find water to drink there? Exodus 17:1.
2. Did the people again murmur against Moses for want of water? Exodus 17:2-3.
3. Moses cried unto the Lord, and what did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Exodus 17:5-6.
4. What did they name this place and why? Exodus 17:7.
5. Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. What did Moses tell Joshua to do? Exodus 17:8-10.
6. Joshua fought with Amalek. What did Moses do on top of the hill? Exodus 17:11-12.
7. Did Joshua discomfit Amalek? Exodus 17:13-14.
8. Moses built an altar. What did he call it and why? Exodus 17:15-16.

THE CLIMBING DOLLAR

“I saw it first!” shouted Mike. His head collided with Ben’s as both reached at the same time for the dollar under the picnic bench.

“I saw it the same second as you did,” Ben argued.

Mike clutched the dollar in his hand and glared at his brother. “Maybe we did see it at the same time,” he said, “but I get to keep it because I am older than you.”

Ben felt like crying, but he swallowed hard. “You always want everything,” he complained.

That evening the boys were looking at their rock collection when their father came into the room.

“I found a dollar today, Daddy,” said Ben. “But Mike kept it.”

“I found a dollar, you mean,” insisted Mike. “What’s all this?” asked Daddy. “Did you find two dollars?” “No, only one,” Ben began, but Mike interrupted.

“There was one dollar under a bench on the picnic ground, and we both saw it at the same time. I took it because I am older than Ben. Wasn’t that right?” asked Mike.

“Not necessarily,” said Daddy. “Wouldn’t it be better to divide the money? I will give you two half dollars for the dollar, and you will each have one.”

“Oh, Daddy,” said Mike. “You can’t buy anything with fifty cents.”

“Dollars grow, you know,” said Daddy. “They even climb.”

Both boys laughed. “I know how money can grow,” said Mike.

“So do I,” said Ben. “You buy something and then sell it. But I don’t see how money can climb.”

Daddy dropped something in front of the boys. “You study that,” he said, “and you will find out.”

Ben picked up the seed catalogue that Daddy had dropped. The boys looked at the colored pictures, and suddenly Mike pointed and exclaimed, “Look at that!”

“My,” said Ben with admiration. “Isn’t that beautiful?”

There was a picture of a tall, green vine covered from top to bottom with big red tomatoes.

“I didn’t know that tomato plants grew that tall,” said Mike.

"Ours never did," added Ben. "Read what it says."
 "New climbing tomato. Large, firm fruit. Dark red and fine flavored. Seed packet, one dollar."

The boys looked at each other. "That's what Daddy meant," said Mike. "We could make that dollar climb if we had those seeds. Say, I forgot something important."

Ben nodded quickly. "The tithe. We won't have a dollar after we pay the Lord His ten cents."

Daddy had been listening. "Here are ten dimes for the dollar," he said. "Put one in your tithe jar, and I will add one dime of my own. I want to see how those climbing tomatoes turn out."

"Did you pay your tithe, Daddy?" asked Ben.

"Of course," answered Daddy.

"I take out the Lord's tithe as soon as I cash my pay check."

"Can you write the letter, Mike, to send for the seeds?" Ben asked anxiously.

"I think so," said Mike. "If I can't, I will ask Mother to help me."

While the boys were waiting for the seeds to come, they prepared a place to plant them. Daddy promised to help them put in stakes for the tomato vines after the plants began to come up.

"I will help you take care of the plants," said Ben. "Then may I have some of the tomatoes?"

"Of course. Half of them will be yours" promised Mike. "There will be lots more than a dollar's worth. I'm sorry about saying the dollar was mine, Ben."

"Oh, that's all right," said Ben. "I don't mind now."

"We'd better pray and ask Jesus to forgive us for quarreling and to bless our vines and make them grow and have lots of tomatoes," suggested Mike.

The Lord answered the boys' prayers, for the tomato vines grew and grew. They climbed higher and higher. Not a bug could be found on them.

"I think some of your tomatoes are ready to sell," said Daddy one morning several weeks later.

"Oh, good!" Said Mike. "We are going to ask Mrs. Green if she needs any."

Mrs. Green wanted a whole box of tomatoes. She paid more than the store price. "These are much better tomatoes," she exclaimed. "I want another box as soon as they are ready to pick."

"This one is a present for you, Mrs. Green," said Ben. He handed her a huge, ripe tomato. "It was the biggest one on the vines."

"My, my, what a beauty," said Mrs. Green. "Thank you, Ben, I will slice it for my dinner."

Mike and Ben were happy. The vines kept on bearing. They had more tomatoes than their Mother and Mrs. Green could use, so other neighbors bought them, too.

"Daddy, are you getting your dollar's worth of tomatoes?" asked Mike.

"Yes, indeed," said Daddy. "Every time I go by the vines I pick a tomato, and eat it."

After the crop was over, the boys divided their money evenly. This time there was plenty to divide.

"What are you going to do with yours?" asked Ben.

"Give it for Sabbath School investment," said Mike promptly.

"I will too," said Ben. "My, I'm glad dollars can climb."

NATURE'S MELODY

How happy we should be that we can see and hear and feel and taste and smell.

Today we have a poem here that was written by a blind man, Dr. Kallenbach, who was killed in an accident, November 16, 1946 before his poem was published.

I cannot view the bloom upon the rose,
 But oh, the scent is very dear to me,
 And I can feel the cooling breeze that blows
 Through pearl-tipped peaks of hills I cannot see.

I cannot see the wild birds on the wing,
 But I can hear the swallows in the eaves;
 I hear the song that nature has to sing;
 The gentle music of the rustling leaves.

I cannot see the children going by,
 But I can hear their laughter as they pass;
 I cannot see the sunrise in the sky,
 But I can feel the swaying of the grass.

I cannot see the moonlight on the sea,
 But I can hear the waves beat on the shore;
 I feast upon all nature's melody,
 And thank my God and do not ask for more.

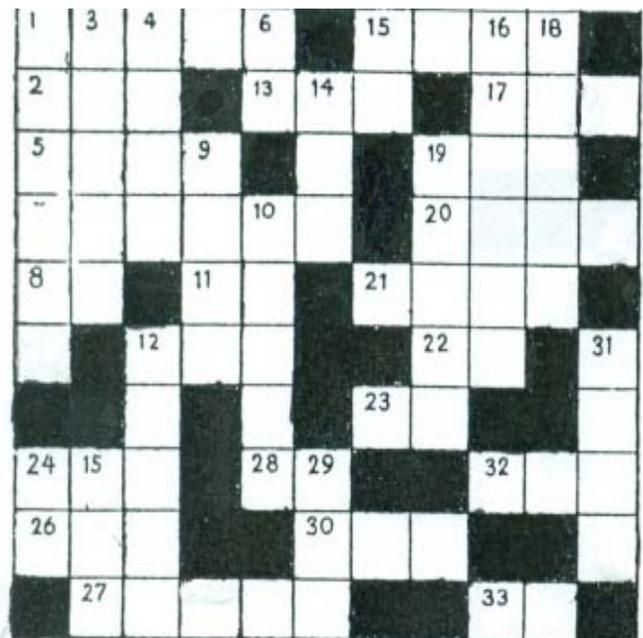
ACROSS

1. The food that John the Baptist ate, besides locusts. Matthew 3:4.
2. _____ no man anything. Romans 13:8.
5. A bird that wandereth from her _____. Proverbs 27:8.
7. The Book of the Bible that follows Nehemiah.
8. The abbreviation of street.
11. Jesus taught in the synagogue _____ the Sabbath. Luke 13:10.
12. Be sure your sin will find you _____. Numbers 32:23.
13. Something that will come after the gospel is preached in all the world. Matthew 24:14.
15. The name of the garden in which the Lord placed Adam. Genesis 2:15.
17. He maketh me to _____ down in green pastures. Psalm 23:2.
19. To make bare the _____. Isaiah 47:2.
20. The young men of what place shall fall by the sword? Ezekiel 30:17.
21. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for _____. Amen. Matthew 6:13.
22. _____ is the prefix of the word (endure) found in Genesis 33:14.
23. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, _____ any likeness of anything. Exodus 20:4.
24. Six days shalt thou labour _____ do all thy work. Exodus 20:9.
26. The children of Israel were to put ram's blood on the great _____ of their right foot. Exodus 29:20.
27. Jesus _____ with his finger on the ground. John 8:6.
28. The prefix of the word recall.
30. Martha said "_____, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ." John 11:27.
32. When Jesus comes, every eye shall _____ Him. Revelation 1:7.
33. _____ we are Christ's, then we are Abraham's seed. Galatians 3:29.

DOWN

1. Seven men of _____ report. Acts 6:3.
3. "Pay me that thou _____." Matthew 18:28.

4. The sparrow found a house and the swallow a _____. Psalm 84:3.
6. Jesus said, "_____ are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13.
9. _____ shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3.
10. Jesus said, If thou wilt _____ into life, keep the commandments." Matthew 19:17.
12. Thou art a priest for ever after the _____ of Melchizedek. Psalm 110:4.
14. Thou shalt not do any work on the Sabbath, thou _____ thy son. Exodus 20:10.
15. The children of Reuben and Gad called the altar by what name? Joshua 22:34.
16. Peter stood with the _____ and lifted up his voice. Acts 2:14.
18. Simeon, that was called _____ was in the church at Antioch. Acts 13:1.
19. The Lord told Moses to make what out of brass? Exodus 30:18.
24. The kingdom of God _____ hand. Mark 1:15.
25. Remember _____ thy Creator. Ecclesiastes 12:1.
29. If thine _____ offend thee, pluck it out. Matthew 18:9.
31. _____ and ye shall find. Matthew 7:7.



A CROSSWORD PUZZLE
by Marcille Bartholomew

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A photograph of a peacock standing in a garden. The peacock is the central focus, with its vibrant blue and green feathers. It is surrounded by lush greenery, including large ferns and agave-like plants. The ground is covered in dark mulch. The overall scene is bright and natural.

The Task!

By David DeLong

The task! that's given to God's saint,
To wrestle with the trials of
The people. 'Tis a task that's quaint,
But one that's filled with God's own love.

The task! to tell of that dear love,
To go, so friends and foes can see
That Jesus Christ came from above,
To die upon a cursed tree.

The task! to intercede in prayer,
To call upon the mighty Lord,
So souls can flee from Satan's lair,
Delivered by God's two-edged Sword.

The task! to bring a daily hope
To those who would be doomed to death;
To fling to them salvation's rope,
And help them breathe redemption's breath.

