

A scenic landscape featuring a deep valley with a stream at the bottom. The valley is flanked by steep, rocky slopes covered in green grass and shrubs. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

*The Advocate
of Truth*

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TWO BATTLES

By David Royer

There are two quite similar battles mentioned in the Bible. One: In the Old Testament, prophesied by Ezekiel (in the Book of Ezekiel) known as the Battle of Gog and Magog; and Two: In the New Testament, prophesied by John (in the book of Revelation) known as the Battle of Armageddon, further identified as the Seventh Plague of the “Seven Last Plagues”. Are they the same Battle?

Ezekiel’s Battle: GOG AND MAGOG

The book of Ezekiel describes the children of Israel in captivity by the Babylonians. Ezekiel prophesies about returning from captivity to their homeland, the restoration of Israel as a nation, a regathering of all tribes of Israel, rebuilding of the Temple for worship and the battle of Gog and Magog. Here is a good description of this Battle:

¹The Gog-Magog Battle prophecy is set between a massive coalition of nations descended from Noah’s sons Japheth and Ham against Israel (Gen. 10:2-7). The nations are from the territories of ancient Rosh, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Gomer and Beth-togarmah. Their leader is called “Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal” (Ezek. 38:2-3). The battlefield is on the “mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate” (Ezek. 38:8). The purpose of the invasion is to “plunder and loot” & destroy the people of Israel (Ezek.38:12,16).

The end result of an invasion by such a seemingly invincible army on a seemingly unprotected Israel will surprise the invaders and shock the world. The invading nations are in truth

being manipulated by God, pulled out of their lands as with “hooks in [their] jaws”(Ezek. 38:4), so that those nations can feel the “hot anger... [of] the Sovereign LORD” (Ezek. 38:18). God drags these specific nations to the “mountains of Israel” to “execute judgment upon him [Gog] with plague and bloodshed... torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him” (Ezek. 38:22). God’s purpose of personally interceding, using the supernatural destruction of so massive an army is not just its destruction, but “so I [God] will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezek. 38:23).

John’s Battle: ARMAGEDDON

The Book of Revelation deals with future “end-times” prophecy and the return of Jesus Christ. Our Savior will return in two parts or phases. First, He will return to the clouds and “catch up” the saints to meet Him in the air. This is called the reaping phase. The saints will remain with the Lord while the seven last plagues are poured out on the wicked. The seven last plagues are called “The wrath of God”. John says: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" (Revelation 15:1).

While the plagues are poured out, the saints return to the earth with the Lord “to judge and make war” i.e.: Armageddon. This is called the warring phase of Jesus’s second coming.

This "Wrath of God" depicts the cleansing process of our earth and the removal/destruction of the False Prophet, Beast, Antichrist and the Gentile armies that follow them. This cleansing is complete at the end of the Seventh Plague: The Battle of Armageddon, with Satan being bound for 1000 years.

"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty...And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon" (Revelation 16:14 and 16).

Are these two battles separate or the same?

Comparing these two prophetic visions, there are parallels and differences between Ezekiel and John the Revelator. I have compiled the following:

EVENT: A. BATTLE OF GOG AND MAGOG IN EZEKIEL, CH. 37-39:

B. ARMAGEDDON IN REVELATION, CH. 16-20:

Location of the Battle:

- a. In the country of Israel.
- b. In the country of Israel.

Israel's condition prior to Battle:

- a. At peace; defenses are down.
- b. Earth changes. "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared" (Revelation 16:12). Then this Battle begins.

Prior signs before the Battle:

- a. None mentioned.
- b. Wonders: Thunders, and lightnings; a great earthquake.

Invading armies:

- a. Regional countries, led by Gog.
- b. All nations are involved, led by Gog/Beast.

Earthquakes:

- a. The earthquake will be centered in Israel, but it will be felt all over the world.
- b. The greatest earthquake known to man.

Results of Earthquakes:

- a. Mountains destroyed, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground.
 - b. Babylon will divide into three parts; cities of nations fall; islands and mountains will be destroyed.
- a. Hailstones, fire and brimstone rained down on the fighters and upon the many people with them.
 - b. Will destroy Babylon and all cities of the world.

Method of enemy destruction:

- a. (Supernatural) By the sword (they kill one another), hailstones, fire and plagues.
- b. (Supernatural) Beast and False Prophet cast alive into the lake of fire....; "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth..." Rev. 19: 20-21.

Where the enemy is destroyed:

- a. In the mountains and open fields; buried in the Valley of Hamon-Gog Jezreel Valley, adjacent to the hill of Megiddo.

Birds feed on carcasses:

- a. Yes.
- b. Yes.

Israel to bury bodies/bones:

- a. Yes, seven months to complete.
- b. No mention.

Death of Gog:

- a. No, 1/6 of the invaders allowed to return to their homes.

b. By the sword. "Slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth..." Rev. 19:21.

All enemies destroyed.

Biblical reason for the Battle:

a. Used by God to bring all Israel back to Him; to restore His authority and for the world to recognize Him.

b. This battle will bring human rulership to an end; the Beast and False Prophet are destroyed; The millennium can begin.

There are other Bible texts and references that help support either position. The purpose for this article is not to declare if these two Battles are the same or not. But rather, present the material to foster further discussions and Bible studies. In fact, this subject opens an array of other study topics: Timing and length of events, countries today that will go to war, identity of the beast & antichrist and other prophetic (completed and future) events presented by Old and New Testament Prophets.

Closing Thoughts:

God has not chosen to give us clarity and details about some "end-time" prophecies. These two Battles are interesting and thought provoking, but not critical for doctrine or salvation. What we need to do, is be ready...ARE WE READY? Because, at any moment Jesus Christ, our Savior will return to the clouds and "catch up" the saints to meet Him in the air.

(Endnotes)

1

Sourced from: <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/timing-gog-magog>



MY LORD

By Pat Evans

*We should try to live the right way,
Striving to do what You ask;
Yet sometimes we fall so short, Lord,
It's a very difficult task.*

*We should follow in Your footsteps,
And be obedient to Your plan;
We should keep Your Ten Commandments,
And be as righteous as we can.*

*So we try, Lord, yet we falter,
And we fall back into sin;
Then we pray for Your forgiveness,
Please wipe clean the slate again.*

*Ever since the Eden garden,
Our sinful nature can't be cured;
And without Your Holy Spirit,
Our destruction is assured.*

*We can't bargain for salvation,
And there is no second chance;
If we're still in love with this world,
We should end that doomed romance.*

*You gave us the Holy Scriptures
Through Your Spirit, line by line;
Words we all should try to live by,
All throughout our brief lifetimes.*

*And Your gospel lays before us,
The one straight and narrow path;
If we follow it, You've promised,
We'll be spared God's final wrath.*

*Count us good and faithful servants
When Your return has come due;
And please help us run the good race,
We owe everything to You.*



LET US ADMIT OUR MISTAKES

Bond Tennant

Mistakes are a part of life, and I make many of them! Most of us have heard the saying “To err is human.” Someone has said that the only person who never makes a mistake is in the cemetery.

Children of God don’t like to err, especially when the erring is wrong from God’s Word. When we do err, we don’t like to admit it, sometimes even to ourselves.

Today’s culture does not require an admission. It seems like most think that they can keep their pride, put on a good front, and call it a learning experience. They think that no one will fault them for it. What about the consequences? If they are small, we maybe can probably get by with a little altering of our plans, or drop a comment here and there to infer that someone else was to blame. However, deep down inside we know that we did it.

If we want to grow in our spiritual lives, we want God’s approval on our lives! There is no other way than to admit our mistakes and correct them. This is what the Bible calls confess and forsake. Please read Proverbs 28:13. Until we do, we are refusing the lesson God wants to teach us.

Some of our best lessons come from our mistakes. You may recall a certain exam you had back in your school days. You do not remember the questions you answered correctly, but you remember the one that you missed. The very fact that you remember it says something about what you learned.

A mistake is not a sin in itself, but how we handle it may be right or wrong! There is a crossover between things natural and spiritual, temporal and eternal. In our

lives, we must apply virtues such as patience, diligence, honesty, etc. The Apostle Paul said, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31). “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). Failing to admit our mistakes only lowers us in God’s sight.

Do we tell ourselves that our mistakes are not really all that bad? If we do, we had better watch out! The human race has been perfecting deception from time immemorial. The Prophet Jeremiah said it clearly: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

When we make mistakes, why not confess them and go on? Nothing is loss. However, simply admitting them is not enough either. Would the boss be impressed with the ever ready admission of his employees who keep making the same mistakes over and over again? Neither does God want those who keep making the same mistakes.

Real recognition of our mistakes is the first step. Then we must change. It may be painful, but it is necessary in order to please God.

So let us admit our mistakes!



The Covenant:

Daniel Cruz



The agreement between two can best be described as covenant. Webster's defines covenant as "A written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action." We are reminded through The Word that God has established promises with man since the beginning. He made promises with His Creation. Genesis 2:16 says, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." We see the Lord required Adam to be obedient in this instance. It was not a test of faith however, it was through this an agreement between God and man was to be established. Read verse 17. The consequences for disobedience is still applied today and man has continued to follow in error. God will keep His promises if we remain faithful unto Him. Exodus 3:12 tells us concerning Moses, "And he (God) said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain." God established a promise to Moses if he was to faithfully fulfill his duty toward God's people. Moses was a bit apprehensive when given this task. He questioned if he could keep such a promise to God. Verse 13 reads, "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you: and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?" It would seem that Moses was doubting the commission given unto him. However, we read that Moses became that voice for the people of God and carried out the instructions of the Lord righteously, which led them free from their captors.

Now, freedom is granted to all men today. We have a

life in Christ that gives us liberties to serve God. He requires that we keep The Commandments of God and Testimony of Christ. We live a life with promise and that our life upon this earth is temporal. As we face afflictions and trials, God will give us guidance and peace to endure. Galatians 5:1 tells us, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." We see a promise being granted to us through Christ. But if we should fall into the same sins again and again, this will void the promises that God has given and leave us without direction and purpose. Ephesians 4:14 says, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive". This cannot be the promises of a child of God. We are to be stable and grounded in the Truth. It makes us a solid example to the world. We show our trust in God everyday that we perform the duties that God requires, such as loving our neighbor as ourself, living as a child with promises from above on high.

II Corinthians 4:18 reads, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." What haven't we seen? Why walk faithfully when there is no proof that God's upholding His end of the deal? Brethren our faith can be questioned or take a big hit. We are being asked to not give into the temporary things and that we must keep our lives focused on the promises that are to come. Eternal things means there will be no end. In this life we cannot focus on what we can't understand however, we must hold fast to this Covenant that God has granted us.



THE MIGHTY MESSAGE OF MALACHI

Reprinted

In the reading of the Old Testament, we find the writers' continually calling to the people of God to remembrance of past events. Moses, in his recounting of the history of the Israelites in their deliverance from Egyptian bondage and their preservation in the wilderness journeys, says: "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no" (Deuteronomy 8:2). With the remembering, there was to be consideration: "Thou shalt consider also in thine heart".

Down through the years, the prophets have constantly called them to remember the dealings of the Lord with them and His covenant, to keep it and not turn aside disobediently. But how prone they were to forget. We have it graphically told in the Psalms: "They soon forgot his works" (Psalm 106:13).

Now coming down to the close of revelation through the prophets, there is the last exhortation of Malachi: "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments" (Malachi 4:4). God, through the prophets, calls them to a backward look over the centuries to the time when He gave the Law through His servant, Moses, in Horeb to the nation of Israel. All the laws and ordinances were for a period of time and point to a great future event of vast import to the nation, the coming of their great Messiah and the forerunner, the announcer of His approaching advent who had been promised in Isaiah

40:3: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Now at the close of the Old Testament, Malachi calls to remembrance the promise of the forerunner, John the Baptist, who should come in the spirit and power of Elijah to announce the coming Christ.

In time of darkness, there is always hope. God never leaves His people without an assuring promise. So with the promise of the coming Messiah comes that of John, the forerunner.

What a time of darkness followed the words at the closing of the Old Testament. In this period, suddenly steps John preaching repentance. Formalism in religion had replaced heart worship. A stirring message was needed to arouse the people, and John gave that message, but how was he received in the religious circles? His message was not a welcome one to the self-satisfied religionists of the day. While the publicans, the common sinners heeded his call to repentance and came for baptism, the scribes and Pharisees were insincere in their coming, and John forcefully denounced their hypocrisy. They rejected and resisted the truth, and this attitude was maintained when Jesus came.

On one occasion, they questioned Jesus as to where He obtained His authority, and Jesus turned on them and asked concerning the baptism of John, "was it from heaven, or of men"? (See Matthew 21:25). However they should answer it, it would incriminate themselves for the people regarded John as a man sent from God,

and they dare not deny it. This being so, they were under condemnation in rejecting him.

The scribes rejected because they said Elias must first come to herald the Messiah, but when the disciples spoke of this to Jesus, He acknowledged the truth but said Elijah had come already and they had done to him as they pleased, and then the disciples understood that He referred to John the Baptist.

John's manner of coming and his message was not pleasing to the scribes and Pharisees. They lived up to the reputation of their ancestors who had persecuted and slain the prophets. John's reception was from the common people--those who were outside the pale of the religionists, of the prevailing ecclesiasticism. They recognized their need of repentance. They hoped for the promised Deliverer while those who had greater light and knowledge scorned to humiliate themselves and confess a heart need.

We may well question if history has not repeated itself and if today we may not witness similar conditions. In periods of church formalism when the evangel of the Gospel was not the dominant note, someone has arisen in the spiritual arena. The Gospel has been given to the poor, the oppressed, the despised of society and Christ has come and been received as the Great Redeemer and many a soul has been saved in some humble mission, in a street service or won through personal contact, that would not have been ministered to through the channels which should have fostered this spiritual ministry. The Higher social classes may have scorned the messengers, but there were those who received them.

It was necessary that there should be announcement of and preparation for Jesus' coming that He might be accorded the proper reception. The King was coming to His own and such an event requires a herald to prepare the way. But when the herald is rejected, what can we expect will be the reception of the King?

Jesus illustrated His reception and the hostility of the Jews in the parable where He pictured the servants as saying: "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).

Jesus came at a time when expectancy was general. The people were questioning if John the Baptist might not be the Christ. The Jewish leaders knew the closing promises of the Old Testament, but did not accord John

his rightful place in prophecy fulfillment.

And how are the heralds of Jesus' Second Coming today? Not always as those who bear a wonderful message but often scorned as sin blinds the eyes to the great and glorious truth. But there are many heralds faithfully proclaiming the message so that we are forced to the conclusion that things are much the same today--light deliberately rejected. But as in John's time many received his message so today many are being enlightened along prophetic lines and looking confidently for the great and glorious Appearing of Jesus Christ. People are being called to the great truths of the Word of God, and their minds and hearts are being opened to them by the Spirit of God, and we hope many more may give heed to the truth as declared by the modern Johns who proclaim Christ's near Appearing.

As Christ is received, and souls occupied with Him, there will be a vital interest in all the pronouncements concerning His Coming again, and the Blessed Hope will inspire to consecrated service. The employments and pleasures of earth will hold their rightful place, and the vanishing things of this world will not become so alluring as to drown out the spiritual values. The Holy Spirit will have the right of way, and God will be glorified in His people.





Fighting Enemies of the Church of God

By David DeLong

Though it may seem that the enemies of the Church of God are mostly people, the Scriptures assure us that it is primarily Satan, and his angels, who are the chief enemies. Ephesians 6:12-13 informs us: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 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." The devil and his minions do use human beings to try to thwart God and His servants, but we must remember that the devil is the one behind the attempted thwarting. Let us look at ways the devil uses to be an enemy of the Church of God.

In the book of Acts we see that one of Satan's tactics is to persecute the Church of God. In Acts chapter 4:1-10 we see where some of the leaders of the Jews threatened some of the Church of God not to teach about Christ. "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole."

A second persecution is recorded in Acts chapter 5. Verses 17-29 reads: "Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

In these persecutions against the Church of God, the disciples were obedient to God to preach about Christ to the people. What gave them the boldness to do so is that

they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Church of God continued to grow in spite of these persecutions. In other persecutions, James the brother of John was killed, and Paul was imprisoned and stoned (see Acts 12:1-2; Acts 14-28).

Satan sometimes still uses persecution against the Church of God, and times will become tougher under the beast system to come. But, he changes tactics when it suits his purposes, too. The old, wily devil knows when to mix the pure doctrines of Christ with false, heretical teachings to form a blend of Gnostic Christianity. In Acts 20:28-31 the Apostle Paul warned: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Also, John in I John 2:18-19 reminds us: "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Some were preaching another gospel, which Paul says is really not another gospel but a perverted gospel. In Galatians 1:6-9 we learn: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Paul wrote that the true message of the gospel of Christ is in I Corinthians 15. Verses 1-8 tell us: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I

preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

Sometimes Satan will use paganism to mix with the true beliefs of the Bible. This is the case with observing Christmas, Easter, and other such non-biblical teachings. Even in Paul's day, Satan used paganism to try to thwart the teachings of God. In chapter 14, verses 8-15 we find: "And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein".

The occult is used by the devil to get Church of God member's minds off of serving the Lord. Occultic practices involve the use of astrology, tarot cards, ouija boards, occultic jewelry, seances, witchcraft, and any other such demon-inspired practices. Paul encountered a direct occultic practice in Acts chapter 16. Verses 16-21 reads: "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are

the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans."

Anything which is added to the Word of God is an enemy to the Church of God. The Apostle Paul encountered this with the Colossian Church. Some were adding practices to the Word of God, thus distorting it. In Colossians chapter 2, beginning with verse 8, we find this situation taking place. We find man's philosophy being used. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses". In Acts 17:18 we find two types of philosophical people: Epicureans and Stoics.

Then there were the legalists. Now legalism is using God's laws improperly. In Colossians 2:14-17 we find written by the Apostle Paul: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." We learn from other Scriptures that some were wanting to keep the law of Moses, or the book of the law, to be saved.

Galatians 3:10 informs us: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." In Acts 15:1,5,24, in addressing those who believed in keeping the law of Moses to be saved, we learn: "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." "...But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." "...Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment".

Paul seemed to have the same problem with the Church of the Galatians. In Galatians 5:1-4 we read: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Then, in Colossians 2:18-19 Paul writes of the practice of mysticism, with which the Colossians must have been involved. "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."

Finally, Paul wrote about asceticism, or denying yourself things which the Lord never denied to us. This is man's commandment, not God's. "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."



The Third Angel's Mes- sage (From a tract)

God has never destroyed a city or a nation without first sending His messenger there to warn the people, thus giving them a chance to escape. He warned the world before the Flood came, and Jesus tells us (Matthew 24:37-40), that it will be the same when He comes again as it was in the days of Noah. God warned the people of Sodom and Gomorrah before He rained fire from heaven and destroyed them, and Jesus says it will be the same when He comes (Luke 17: 27-30). The Lord warned Babylon before destruction came: He sent His messengers to warn Nineveh, Tyre and Sidon; and He also declares there is to be a definite message going forth to warn the whole world before Jesus comes the second time. The Third Angel's Message is a warning message.

In Revelation 14:6-9, there are three messages described, symbolized by an angel flying through the midst of heaven. One is the everlasting gospel, the other cry is that Babylon has fallen, and the last one is a warning to all the world not to receive the mark of the beast in their forehead or hand, telling of the dreadful consequences if they do.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told us in Matthew 24:14 that the gospel of the kingdom was to go to all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end would come. Later, in the above chapter of Revelation, He divides this gospel into three divisions. The everlasting gospel has gone to all the world; the Reformation Message, which was a cry against the corruption of Babylon, has gone to all the world; and now the last message, the final warning against the "mark of the beast" is going with speed and effect. Babylon is described in Revelation 17 as a woman, symbolizing a church, and this one church ruled the world at the time of the Reformation, and the message was that Babylon had spiritually fallen, and become the habitation of devils and false doctrines.

The Third Angel's Message has for its theme the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Revelation

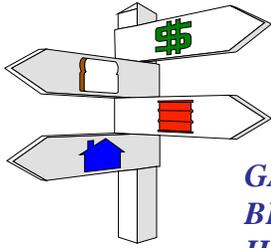
14:12), and is a live issue at this time.

This message precedes the return of our Lord, and as the signs of our time declare His coming near, it is now going, and will continue to the end.

Daniel 7:17-23, being a key to Revelation, tells us a beast symbolizes a kingdom upon earth. These same symbols apply to other parts of the Bible, and in Revelation 17:3-5, where a beast carries a woman, we have a figure of the kingdoms of the world carrying a church. It pictures a church riding upon the civil governments of the world, and is exactly what we had during the (time) of papal persecution when the Catholic Church was united with civil power, and the Catholic religion was forced by law upon the people or they were killed. This beast is to be wounded and come to life again, according to verses 8-11, just before it goes into perdition or destruction. We can now look back through history and see when it was, but now it is not, but the Lord says it yet is (Revelation 17:8). It will come up out of the bottomless pit, a place of seclusion, and then go into perdition. The Third Angel's Message is a special warning against it, when it makes its last appearance. It is now arising.

We are told in Revelation 13:1, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy". Blasphemy is the mark of the Beast. Anything that contradicts God's Word is blasphemy. There are many such contradictions in the world today. Many of these contradictions occur in the name of religion, therefore it is our job to know the truth and dispel untruth by studying God's Word.

The mark of the beast is also made clear, with the warning, and those wishing to escape the things coming to pass, and have divine protection for their loved ones, should understand fully what God has revealed and have this message in their home.



GADGETS BEING HACKED

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.

Sometime ago who would have ever thought that a gadget could be hacked to spy on a person? That is just what they may be able to do now says one source.

NEW YORK – Maybe the CIA is spying on you through your television set after all.

“Documents released by WikiLeaks allege a CIA surveillance program that targets everyday gadgets ranging from smart TV’s to smartphones to cars. Such snooping, WikiLeaks said, could turn some of these devices into recordings of everyday conversations – and also could circumvent data-scrambling encryption on communications apps such as Facebook’s Whats App.

WikiLeaks is, for now, withholding details on the specific hacks “until a consensus emerges” on the nature of the CIA’s program and how the methods should be “analyzed, disarmed and published.” But WikiLeaks – a nonprofit that routinely publishes confidential documents, frequently from government sources – claims that the data and documents it obtained reveal a broad program to bypass security measures on everyday products.

San Bernardino case

If true, the disclosure could spark new privacy tensions between the government and the technology industry. Relations have been fraught since 2003, when former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden disclosed secret NSA surveillance of phone and digital communications.

Just last year, the two sides feuded over the FBI’s calls for Apple to rewrite its operating system so that agents could break into the locked iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino attackers. The FBI ultimately broke into the phone with the help of an outside party; the agency has neither disclosed the party nor the nature of the vulnerability, preventing Apple from fixing it.

According to WikiLeaks, much of the CIA program centered on dozens of vulnerabilities it discovered but didn’t disclose to the gadget makers. Common practice calls for government agencies to disclose such flaws to companies privately, so that they can fix them.

Instead, WikiLeaks claims, the CIA held on to the knowledge in order to conduct a variety of attacks. As a result, tech companies such as Apple, Google and Microsoft haven’t been able to make the necessary fixes.

“Serious vulnerabilities not disclosed to the manufacturers place huge swathes of the population and critical infrastructure at risk to foreign intelligence or cyber criminals who independently discover or hear rumors of the vulnerability,” WikiLeaks wrote in a press release. “If the CIA can discover such vulnerabilities, so can others.”

Tools of the trade

Not everyone is worried. Alan Paller, director of research for the cybersecurity training outfit SANS Institute, said the case boils down to “spies who use their tools to do what they are paid to do.” He said criminals already have similar tools – and he’s more worried about that.

Rich Mogull, of the security research firm Securosis, said that agencies gathering intelligence on other organizations and governments need, by definition, technical exploits that aren’t public.

If they’re authentic, the leaked CIA documents frame a stark reality. It may be that no digital conversation, photo or other slice of life can be shielded from spies and other intruders.

“It’s getting to the point where anything you say, write or electronically transmit on a phone, you have to assume that it is going to be compromised in some way,” said Robert Cattanach, a former U.S. Department of Justice attorney who now specializes in cybersecurity and privacy for the law firm Dorsey & Whitney.

MEN DOING WOMEN’S JOBS

I saw an interesting newspaper article which was entitled *More men taking on "women's jobs" in a changing society*. It stated that as women moved into men’s jobs in fields like medicine, law and business, men did not flock to the lower-status jobs that women mostly did. The article stated that it is now changing. The article said that it is those who are already disadvantaged in the labor market that are taking the jobs that were once predominantly held by women. These include Hispanics,

less educated, poor and immigrant men. The article stated that while work done by women continued to be valued less, the study demonstrates, job opportunities divide not just along gender lines but also by race and class.

Comment

Really there is nothing amiss for a man to take a job that was once considered a woman's job. Society needs all necessary jobs to be filled in order to operate properly, and there is value in every job. Sometimes it may be necessary for even the best, well-educated and qualified white male to accept a job formerly thought of as a woman's job until he finds a job of his profession.

ABOUT THE POPE

I see in the news that the Pope has endorsed two things regarding the Roman Catholic Church. He has proposed that married men can become priests and that no one should be afraid to consult an Exorcist.

RACE RELATIONS

I heard a commentator on the news say that he thought that race relations worsened during the term of President Obama, and it will even become worse during the Trump administration.

Comment

Poor race relations have always been with us in America, and they always will be because people in their hearts are not right. There will be no bad race relations when the kingdom is established.

HOMELESSNESS

I read a column in a newspaper which stated that mental health programs and drug testing would put a huge dent in the homeless population. I got the idea that the homeless problem could be solved by just doing those two things. Poor mental health and drug addiction are not the only reasons for people being homeless. The destruction of a home or the loss of income from work can cause a person or persons to become homeless.

Let us pray for all the homeless people!

MORE ABOUT DRONES

Will there be millions of drones filling the skies in the near future? The following are the first two paragraphs of an article entitled *Regulator wonders if millions of drones will fill the skies* which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

WASHINGTON – So many people are registering drones and applying for drone pilot licenses that federal aviation officials said Friday they are contemplating the possibility of millions of unmanned aircraft crowding the

nation's skies in the not-too-far distant future.

In the nine months since the Federal Aviation Administration created a drone registration system, more than 550,000 unmanned aircraft have been registered with the agency, said Earl Lawrence, director of the FAA's drone office.

WATCH FOR SCAMS

'Hey, you're a phony!': Imposter fraud is taking off, *FTC says* is an article which was published in **USA Today**. The following is that article:

More customers are falling prey to scams in which con artists pretend to be someone trustworthy such as a government official or service technician, in order to fraudulently seek money, the Federal Trade Commission says.

Incidents involving imposters have become so numerous that last year they were second only to complaints about debt collection practices in an annual tally compiled by the FTC. In all, more than 3 million total complaints were received.

The latest report marks the first time these so-called "imposter scams" surpassed identity theft in the annual FTC report. The FTC said it received more than 400,000 complaints about imposter fraud.

U.S. consumers lost a total of \$744 million to fraud in 2016, the FTC says. Scams include advance payments for credit services, work-from-home job offers, buyers' clubs, bogus charities, foreign money offers, Internet auctions, investment opportunities, mortgage foreclosure relief, "free" prizes and tax prep. In 58 percent of the cases, unsuspecting consumers sent money to con artists by wire transfer. The median amount lost was \$450.

"It's effective," said Monica Vaca, an acting associate director of the FTC. "We always tell people to take a deep breath. Take your time. If you get a scammy call that's suspicious or weird, tell someone about it".

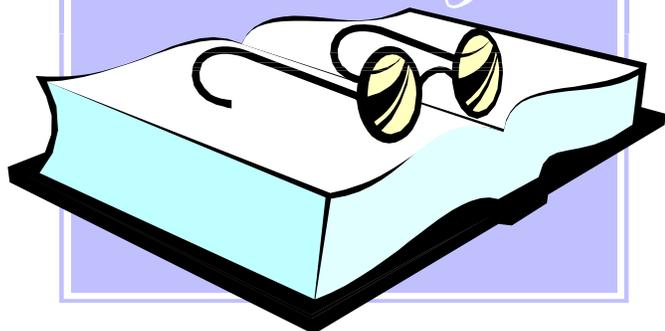
Of the reports that listed the method of initial contact, some 77 percent were by phone. Only 8 percent of the scams involved email.

Florida had the most fraud and miscellaneous complaints per capita. Georgia, Michigan, Texas and Nevada rounded out the top five.

Older Americans are most vulnerable. People in their 60's were scammed most often, followed by those in their 50's. Some 97 percent of the scams are believed to originate in the U.S., the FTC found.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: When I think of my daily cares, I read I Peter 5:5-7 which includes, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." This verse puts my mind at ease as I take it to heart. Will you please comment on this verse?

ANSWER: I Peter 5:7 is a well known verse which is often found as a motto in many homes. It reminds one of God's constant care. The Lord used the Apostle Peter to give us these words of encouragement because of his experiences. We are exhorted by him to rid ourselves of cares. We are to place our cares upon the Lord. Many times Peter wanted matters his own way and was very willful in carrying out his ideas. This caused him to burden himself with many kinds of cares.

Many people view the Apostle Peter as an impetuous man. However, when Peter had a conviction he pursued it relentlessly and worried considerably about making it a reality. He really did believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say I...am?...But whom say ye that I am?", it was Peter who was quick to respond, "...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Read Matthew 16:13-23. Because Peter gave this answer, Jesus told him that he was blessed – that flesh and blood had not revealed this to him but that the Father in heaven had.

Peter was also an anxious man. He could not understand why Jesus spoke of suffering. He could not understand why Jesus had to go to Jerusalem to die. This

Questions and Answers

statement by Jesus worried Peter. Turning this thought over in his mind, he finally gave way to his concern and said, "...Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee" (Matthew 16:22). Peter became more perplexed when Jesus answered him with the words: "...Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Matthew 16:23).

One might believe that Peter lacked courage because he denied Jesus three times. However, when the others fled, Peter trailed the mob and the soldiers who had arrested Jesus. Why did he do that? Some have suggested that Peter had not given up hope of seeing Jesus acclaimed as the Messiah and that he sought an opportunity to turn matters in that direction. We do know that Peter was eager to fight for our Lord. Most assume that it was Peter who said to Jesus, "behold, here are two swords..." Read Luke 22:36-38. The occasion was when Jesus asked His disciples that a sword be purchased. Jesus said, "It is enough" when they came with two swords. Jesus wanted to show that when He would be taken captive He would not offer resistance, even though He had the means. However, Peter had a sword and sought to use it in defense of his Master. Peter swung his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. See John 18:10. Yes, Peter wanted to fight for the kingdom and was perplexed by our Lord's willing submission to the authorities.

When Jesus established the memorial of His death, He said to Peter, "...Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31). We know that Satan's attacks are subtle and are

directed at the mind. This time Satan's strategy was to confuse Peter's mind with anxious thought and to convince him that his actions were right. Satan also befuddled him with other opinions and more anxiety. By doing these things, Satan was able to sift Peter as wheat. No matter what Satan did, we know that Peter outwitted him by casting all his care (anxiety) upon the Lord, realizing that God's providences in his life would prevail.

Peter did his work well. Finally he not only cast upon the Lord all his cares and anxieties relating to the establishment of the kingdom but he also cast upon the Lord all his fears as to what was to befall him personally. He was ready for the humbling process and suffering for Christ. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (I Peter 5:4-5).

The "care" that Peter tells us to cast upon the Lord is a translation of a Greek word meaning "over-anxious care or thought." In the Sermon on the Mount, the same word is "thought." "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" (Matthew 6:25). Jesus asks, "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matthew 6:27)

Luke 10:38-42 records the visit of Jesus made to the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Martha was very busy in her task of entertaining the Lord. Mary sat listening at the feet of Jesus. Finally, Martha could be quiet no longer and said, "...Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me." What was the reply of Jesus? "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

The lesson most people associate with this incident is that we should prefer obtaining spiritual food and should seek it over and above other duties. We know this is true. However, if this should be carried to an extreme, who would do the serving? It would seem that the real lesson is not in the choice that Martha had made (to serve) but rather, concerning the agitated state of mind she

developed. The gentle words of Jesus called attention to the "good part" and that she should not be overanxious about the necessary duties of life.

This is a lesson that the disciples had to learn. We must also learn the same lesson. Material gain has always been an untrustworthy master. Jesus conveyed to His disciples the idea that we should have confidence and trust in God! We really see that the people of the world can worry themselves to death when we analyze the philosophies by which they live.

We must guard against going to the extreme of thinking God wants us to be careless! Many people get this thought from Philippians 4:6. It reads, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Notice the first part of this verse. This part of the verse simply tells us not to worry about anything. Other verses make it clear that we are not to be careless. The Apostle Paul says, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). Proverbs 18:9 records, "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."

The Apostle Paul also tells us, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Timothy 5:8). Romans 12:17 reads, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We may not be able to avoid disconcerting care and worries in these evil days in which we live. However, we must know how to relieve the burden. Take it to the Lord in prayer!

QUESTION: Was John's baptism of divine authority?

ANSWER: John himself regarded his mission as a lower one and as not having the divine authority of the Saviour's work. He considered the existing Judaism as a stepping-stone by which the Gentiles could be accepted. He taught with the authority of a prophet who in his long wilderness sojourn had received spiritual inspiration and guidance for his work. "Repent and be baptized" was the order of his mission. However, his baptism was not regarded as conferring an immediate consecration, but as being preparatory, and the disciples of Jesus, taking this view, rebaptized the followers of John in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Read Acts 19:3-5.



The Philippines





Ministerial meeting
Nov. 25, 2016



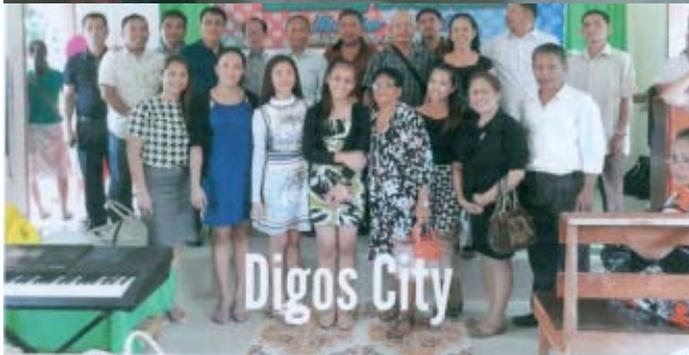
Sabbath service



Tuburan, Cebu brethren
during Sabbath Service



General Santos
Church Choir



Digos City



Caracol, Salug, Zamboanga
del Norte



Caracol, Salug, Zamboanga
del Norte



Cebu City brethren
during Sabbath Service

LESSON I

OUR MONEY

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:18-30.

Golden Text: I Timothy 6:10 (first part).

“For the love of money is the root of all evil.”

1. Is money the first thing for which we should seek? Matthew 6:33.
2. If we would seek to be rich, into what do we fall? I Timothy 6:9.
3. With what should we be content or satisfied? I Timothy 6:8.
4. What part of our money belongs to God? Genesis 28:22; Malachi 3:10.
5. Does God love people more if they are able to give more than others? Mark 12:41-44.
6. Did Judas’s love of money cause him to betray Christ? Matthew 26:15.
7. Instead of wanting or coveting money, what should be our desire to follow? I Timothy 6:11.
8. What did Jesus tell His disciples about a rich man? Matthew 19:23-24.

NOTE: The eye of a sewing needle is very small and would be impossible to go through, however, Jesus is referring to the opening of a gate. It was difficult for a camel to enter this, but not impossible.

9. What did Jesus tell the rich, young man who wanted eternal life? Matthew 19:21-22.

LESSON II

IDLENESS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 20:1-8.

Golden Text: Matthew 12:36.

“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”

1. Should we speak idle words or should they be words of blessing to others? Matthew 12:36.
2. What insect is given as an example to us? Proverbs 6:6-8.
3. Does an idle person learn to be a tattler or busybody? I Timothy 5:13.
4. Does the Lord hate the ways of an idle person who speaks lies and makes trouble between brethren? Proverbs 6:16, 19.
5. What are some things we should do and not do? Proverbs 31:26-27.
6. From what should we ask the Lord to cleanse us? Psalm 19:12, 14.

LESSON III

LOVE

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37.

Golden Text: Mark 12:30 (first part).

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.”

1. What is the greatest commandment? Mark 12:30-31.

NOTE: All Ten Commandments are part of these two commandments.

- 2. Who else are we commanded to love? Leviticus 19:18.
- 3. How do we know we are a child of God? I John 4:7-8.
- 4. Who was the one who loved us so much that He gave His life for us? Galatians 2:20.
- 5. Could we have a greater love than to lay down our life for our friends? John 15:13.
- 6. How can we show God we love him? I John 5:3.
- 7. Love covers all our sins. What does hatred do? Proverbs 10:12.
- 8. If anyone says "I love God" and he hates his brother, what is he? I John 4:20.
- 9. If we love God, do all things work together for our good? Romans 8:28.

Scripture Reading: I Chronicles 25:5-7; Psalm 98:4-6.
 Golden Text: Psalm 100:1.
 "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands."

- 1. How many people praised the Lord with musical instruments in the house of the Lord when David made Solomon King? I Chronicles 23:5.
- 2. What are some of the instruments used to praise the Lord during this time? I Chronicles 25:6.
- 3. Have people always praised the Lord with musical instruments? Genesis 4:21.
- 4. Should we make a joyful noise unto the Lord and sing praise to Him? Psalm 98:4.
- 5. If we have musical talent, should we not use it to glorify God? Psalm 98:5-6.
- 6. Who sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"? Luke 2:13-14.
- 7. The Heavenly Choir will again sing when Jesus is to be make King of the earth. What kind of musical instrument will they use? Revelation 5:8-9.

LESSON IV

MUSIC





THE TEASER

"Yeoooww!" squealed the cat. Mother ran to the door and looked out into the yard.

"Roger, stop teasing the cat," she called. "It hurts him when you pull his tail."

Roger grinned and ran off to play with his tricycle. But soon Mother had to run to the door again when she heard baby Patti crying.

"Don't tease her!" scolded Mother. "It isn't kind to tease." Mother came out into the yard.

"May I go and play with the older boys down the block for a little while?" asked Roger.

Mother said he might for a little while, so Roger climbed on his tricycle and rode off down the sidewalk. He found his friends playing with Allen, the new boy who had moved into the neighborhood.

"There's what I want to do," said Allen, rushing toward Roger. "I want to ride his tricycle."

"I want to ride awhile first," said Roger. "Then you can."

"Get off," yelled Allen, yanking the tricycle.

Roger started to back up and go around Allen. But Allen jumped into his path and would not let him pass.

"Give it here!" Demanded Allen.

"I won't!" cried Roger. "It's mine, and you have no right!"

Allen grabbed Roger's ear and twisted it. Roger yelled from pain, but held on to his tricycle. Allen jerked him back by the hair. How it hurt! Then Roger's two friends came to his rescue. They pulled Allen away and held him so he couldn't hurt Roger any more.

"I wanted us to take turns," Roger said to Allen. "But since you won't play fair, and tease so much, I'll go home and play with my little sister!" Roger whirled around and pedaled back home as fast as he could. He found Patti playing in the sand pile. When she saw Roger, she grabbed her sand pail and shovel and held them close to her and began to whimper.

"Don't worry, Patti," said Roger. "I'm not ever going to tease you again. I know it isn't any fun." Roger had learned to be kind. Now he was happy, Mother was happy, kitty was happy, and Jesus was happy.

-Irene Lefler

"YES, I CAN" or "NO, I CAN'T"

By Maryan B. Wilkinson

Answer each of these questions about big helpers and little helpers. They will give you something to think about. Answer "Yes, I Can", or "No, I Can't".

1. Can you clean your whole house all by yourself? Can you help mother by keeping your own room neat?
2. Can you wash all the clothes and towels and sheets, and hang them out to dry? Can you help a little by carrying the soap or the clothespins?
3. Can you go all by yourself on a big ship to tell the people in Africa about Jesus? Can you tell your friends that Jesus loves them?
4. Can you talk on television about God's love? Can you let your light shine by being a little helper every day?

OLD TESTAMENT NAMES THAT BEGIN WITH "A"

Some of the names used in the Old Testament times sound strange to us today. Some of the names in this puzzle are well-known to Bible readers; others are less familiar. All begin with the letter A.

Aaron, Abada, Abednego, Abel, Abiah, Abiathar, Abiel, Abihu, Abijah, Abimelech, Abinadab, Abiram, Abishai, Abner, Abraham, Absalom, Achan, Adaiah, Adam, Adonijah, Adriel, Agag, Agur, Ahab, Aharah, Ahasuerus, Ahaz, Ahaziah, Ahijah, Ahimelech, Ahithophel, Amalek, Amaziah, Amittai, Ammon, Amos, Amoz, Amram, Anak, Aram, Ariel, Artazerxes, Asa, Asher, Azariah



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SERMON FROM A HUMMING BIRD

By Betty Whetstone

*There are those who refuse to know our Lord,
They scoff at the Ancient of Days;
How can they deny a Creator
When creation is singing His praise?*

*The winds that blow over the mountain,
The sunshine that blesses the plain;
The soft, summer breeze, each leaf on the trees,
The miracle known as rain?*

*Just picture a bird so tiny and small
That you hardly can see it at all;
Flying thousands of miles, never stopping to rest,
And yet never falters or falls.*

*Then it gets to a place where it never has been,
And is doing quite well there alone;
Then something inside of it whispers:
"It is now time to go home."*

*So, scoff, if you dare and offer your prayers
To your idols of vapors and sand;
My God is quite well and am happy to say
I rest in the palm of His hand.*

