



*The Advocate of Truth*



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I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; it is better to be either cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:15-16)



## A City with Lukewarm Water

By David Royer

Like many prosperous small cities, this one had access to valuable local natural and livestock resources, small business development, pharmaceutical, carpet and clothing manufacturing enterprises. Prosperity attracted financial and banking industries. A medical college was built. Commercial exports flourished.

Geographically, this city was positioned on the crossroads of major highways, located about forty miles southeast of Philadelphia and catered to commercial and trade visitors. The city's location was its asset and liability. You see, this great location lacked a source of water. Thermal hot water springs (used for medical soaking relief baths) were several miles away to the north and potable, cold water available from springs six miles to the southeast, used for drinking water; both sources of water arrived at the city as lukewarm...not usable for either purpose. Despite attempts to supply this water through underground pipes, the results were the same: foul tasting lukewarm water that would turn your stomach.

You've probably left a bottle of water all day in your hot car, or you've smelled a stagnant puddle left over from heavy rain. Well, this describes the city's water...gross and—worse—good for nothing.

I have purposely disguised this city to emphasize that it could be a city in history, today or the future with an established Church of God congregation. Here is a more in-depth scholarly description of this city identified in the Book of Revelation:

\* "First-century Laodicea sat astride two major trade routes. The first road ran from Rome eastward into Asia Minor, then beyond to Cilicia where Paul was born. At Derbe it split: One leg went to the south through Damascus and on into Egypt; the other leg struck across the east to Mesopotamia, the ancient home of Babylon. Connecting the city to southern Europe through Byzantium, the second route entered Laodicea from the north and continued to the Mediterranean.

The founders built the city in the Lycus Valley where these routes crossed. This provided Laodicea with unlimited opportunities for trade but caused other significant problems. Ideally, prosperous cities are built close to abundant natural resources, especially water. Great cities are usually founded on deep natural harbors or on the banks of navigable rivers where water is abundant. Unfortunately, Laodicea was not established near an adequate water supply. More driven by trade, its builders located it where the roads crossed.

However, the city had much in its favor, and of special note were its three main industries. The Laodiceans produced glossy, black wool that was prized by the wealthy all over the world. No one knows whether its

rich color came from a particular strain of sheep that they bred in the area, or whether they dyed it, but the quality of the wool is indisputable. In fact, they cornered the market in this commodity, producing tremendous wealth.

Their second business was medicine. Laodicea boasted of one of the most renowned medical schools in the world, and with it came all of its associated industries like pharmaceuticals. They produced a world-famous salve, reputed to cure certain kinds of eye diseases. Another salve supposedly healed ear problems. People came from all over the Roman world in search of remedies for their ailments.

These two industries produced a third that multiplied their already vast wealth—banking. Laodicea became a center of currency exchange and money lending. Cicero, it is said, cashed huge bank drafts there. So huge were its capital reserves that, when it was demolished by a first-century earthquake, the city refused Rome’s offer of help, rebuilding with its own funds.

So, Laodicea had a monopoly in textiles, a world-renowned medical industry, and a prosperous financial center. Writers of the ancient world speak openly of their envy of Laodicean wealth. Record after record attests to their status.” \*Source: “*bibletools.org*” *Forerunner Commentary* (research in the public domain)

This is the backdrop for a critical look at churches today; before the return of Jesus Christ. Revelation Chapter 3 is John’s prophetic description of future conditions of Christian churches, using his known example of the First-Century Laodicean Church. The Laodiceans and other churches in western Asia Minor (now Turkey) could easily understand the Lord’s analogy of lukewarm water within the city to the sickening disgust for conditions resulting in a spiritual falling away within the Church.

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (Revelation 1:3).

Our Lord Jesus gave John (in a vision and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) the following current and prophetic message for John to write the following admonition to the Christian Church in Laodicea with copies to six other Churches in: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis and Philadelphia.

I have used the word “church” several times in this article. Let’s take a step back and review what is meant:



\*\*"Nowhere in the Bible is the place where Christians meet referred to as a “church.” This word appears around 75 times in our English Bibles, depending on the translation (around 110 times if you include the plural). In almost every instance “church” is a translation of the Greek *ekklesia* (from which we get words like “ecclesiastical” and “Ecclesiastes”). Never does *ekklesia* refer to a building in which people gathered, for worship or for any other purpose. In fact, the earliest Christians didn’t even have special buildings in which to meet during the period in which the New Testament was written. This came much later. For the most part, the first Christians met in private homes or other non-religious gathering places."

\*\*Source: <http://www.patheos.com/community/markdroberts/>

**Revelation 3:14-22:** “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art

wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

Note, as previously mentioned, these verses are not from John, but a Revelation by Jesus Christ. The Book of Revelation has the literal title in Greek, the “Apocalypse of John.” \*\*\*Apocalypse means a prophetic revelation; with its origin from the Greek word meaning to uncover or reveal. \*\*\*Source: *Dictionary.com*

We know that “HOT” in these verses means a true believer with passion and zeal for the Lord. The opposite: “COLD” is a metaphor for the unbeliever, who never experienced the saving grace of redemption and salvation from God through Jesus Christ. “LUKEWARM” is what Jesus says makes Him sick. Those who profess Christ, but don’t truly trust Him as Savior; having self-righteous complacency and an outward appearance of Christianity without fruits of the Spirit.

So, through John, Christ made known His strong rebuke against the lukewarm Church at Laodicea (and future churches). They knew they were wealthy and probably felt that they were above other churches. They had a delusion of self-sufficiency and trusted in their own righteousness. They claimed to need nothing without knowing that they needed everything in a spiritual sense. This character flaw was not a new issue. Ezekiel gave us this admonition: “When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.” (Ezekiel 33:13).

Why does Christ hate so much this lukewarm position? Because the consequences of apostasy (turning back from truths once known) are serious. Heb 6:4-6 says: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

This same warning or rebuke is presented to us today! Let us not make the same mistakes as the Church in Laodicea. Since we are offered individual salvation, each of us must be responsible and expected to make our best efforts to not have our church labeled as **LUKEWARM**.



## THE WEeping PROPHEts

By Josue Torres

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6).

The dictionary defines the word weep as the action of shedding tears through the eyes, and this action is manifest through overwhelming feelings that are generated in our heart: pain, happiness, sadness, sickness, suffering, despair.

How many tears, griefs and rejections there are in the path of the Lord for those who preach the gospel. Let us remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah when he said, “...I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain...” (Isaiah 49:4, first part).

The Bible gives us examples of servants of God who suffered and cried immensely along their path. There we find Abraham, appealing to God that He would not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. And Moses, weeping with sadness and pain when he saw his people worshipping idols. Job said, “My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God” (Job 16:20). David cried tremendously because of his oppressors. Samuel cried for Saul because he loved him so much, and he had disobeyed. We also find Prophet Elijah alone against four hundred prophets of Baal.

Jeremiah, “the weeping prophet,” was suffering for his people forty years, watching the falling of Israel. He was the hated and rejected prophet of the nation, and he was captured for speaking the truth (Jeremiah 14:13).

He begged the people to repent so they could escape the condemnation from God, but everything was in vain. He preached without visible results. They were making fun of him. They persecuted him and threatened him with death. That was hard to endure, but that was his destiny. Jeremiah 9:1 says, “Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”

The Apostle Paul was powerful in word and action. He had a soft heart, and he also cried day and night. His sermons were not harsh but humid by tears. These were not cold but warm tears from his warm heart, and they were talking about his immense love for those to whom

he was ministering the Word. He would talk about the servants of God, “Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day” (I Corinthians 4:11-13).

Just like them, the pastors of today, who have the Holy Spirit, have the same feeling, but they are intensely human. Today, “the weeping prophets” are like Ezekiel (the Singer of Love), graceful of voice and good singers. They are also praised by some people because of their preaching. However, there are also people that make fun of, criticize, offend and reject them. And they start thinking that that it is their fault for not being able to get to the heart of their brethren. The prophet said, “...the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly” (Isaiah 33:7).

The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 1:29, “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake”.

Beloved pastors, let us remind ourselves that we are not alone. We have our eyes on Him who knew those tears long ago before us. As a divine sower, He traveled the paths of the earth.

The Lord poured down His tears because of the rejection and disdain from men. Let us remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah about Jesus, “...he was wounded for our transgressions...and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all...he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...yet he opened not his mouth...” (Isaiah 53:5-7). That was His destiny: to suffer, cry and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Therefore, we should not get discouraged when it seems that all our efforts are worthless and in vain. The burden is heavy. Let us not try to get rid of it! Instead, let us always follow the example of the Lord Jesus. He said, “...If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20).

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

“...yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God” (Isaiah 49:4, second part).



# THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RETURN

*Reprinted*

The Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, is coming in **POWER**, but if that **POWER** of His coming is not operating here on earth **NOW**, He will not have the **POWER** to come.

The power of Christ's second coming is constantly operating in the **CHURCH OF GOD** today. As the Father has appointed the moon to lift the tide by its indentures of the coast, so has He ordained this great event of Christ's return to draw up the faith and hope and love of His Body, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth.

If the philosopher is counted to have embodied the highest practical wisdom in his maxim: "Hitch Your Wagon to a Star," can we question the efficacy of the Devine method which has fastened all of our hopes and aspirations upon the "Bright and Morning Star?" Indisputably, the chief motive by which duties, obligations, aspirations and attainments are determined by the Church of God is this, the ever-imminent return of the Lord Jesus. Therefore, the power of this event emanates from the Church by "...waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:7).

It is to be worldly minded to seek a present day reward and a present day glory. "But it shall not be so among you," is the decisive rebuke of Jesus to such aspirations. But why not? By the knowledge of a millennial crown and reign, the heart must become reconciled to a present day cross and humiliation. "We have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have, therefore?"

"Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28). This was stated specifically to the first twelve Apostles, and it shows us that we're to

wait and anticipate a wonderful glory and power to come. This is also promised to every believer: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy ... for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God **KINGS AND PRIESTS**: and we shall **REIGN** on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).

This shows us the tremendous power that the Lord has. He will reign, and we will **REIGN** together in power and great glory. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and **POWER**: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.... Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive **POWER**, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and **POWER**, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Revelation 4:11; 5:12-13).

To those who share Christ's travail and sorrow in the present life, for the rescuing of souls, a coronet of joy is promised. And when?

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" (I Thessalonians 2:19).

To those who have chosen the portion of suffering with the Lord Jesus in the Church of God, the little flock, it is written: "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (I Peter 5:4).

To the steadfast soldier, who has fought the good fight, and finished his course, and kept the faith, the assurance

is: "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" (II Timothy 4:8).

James also mentions this in his letter: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (1:12). This crown will be given to all the faithful at the return of Jesus along with power and great glory.

Let no one say that this world has nothing to give the Christian; it has. The Lord has promised. The question is, whether there is power enough in the Redeemer's proffer: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12). Only when we realize our calling as the sons of God, "begotten again unto a lively hope" and made heirs of a reserved inheritance can we enjoy the reward.

It is such a momentous and powerful event. The contemplation of it so empowers us that we do not doubt this experience in any form. The Holy Spirit within us guards this hope and generates and regenerates the power of this hope. It makes the Church of God victorious because it teaches the utmost accuracy of definition. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you..." (Acts 1:11) fixes the corporeal identity of the coming Lord with Him whom we have known of the wounded hands and pierced feet.

"This same Jesus... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (verse 11). This determines His literal, visible and bodily return to earth. So, also with the Thessalonian statement made by the Apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 4:16. In the words: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,..." there is a kind of understanding of Holy Writ, that we may be particularly reminded that it is no spiritual apparition of Jesus coming. This is what the Jehovah's Witnesses profess. But Jesus is not going to return in spirit form, but we will see Him, and we will look at Him, and we will hear Him, and we will handle Him in His own august personal presence.

There are many volumes written by people who do not believe in a visible return of Jesus. The Power of belief is also lost by these same people. The everywhere-ness of Christ now is accomplished through the agency of the Holy Spirit. "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." It was in order to give

place for this world-wide, or rather Church-wide, indwelling that it was expedient for our Jesus to return to the Father. The Paraclete (Holy Spirit) had to come to abide with the saints. But this every-where presence of Jesus by the Holy Spirit is never, and can never, be construed to mean the Second Coming. The Lord came with a corporeal body and visible "for which we look." "Every eye shall SEE," and not that which has already come to pass spiritually, and which, therefore, no eye can see.

The power of the Second Coming is the axis of the work of the Church of God. It is the hope and the vitalizing product of its members. It is that in which all its doctrines and all its hope stand together. Let us consistently pray, "Thy Kingdom come!" and apply the power derived from this prayer, making all our hopes and attainments to co-center in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then shall we see the Son of man coming in the clouds with POWER and great glory.

Any doctrine of the resurrection that disassociates itself from the Reaping Phase of Christ's coming is frail and eccentric. There can be no atonement apart from the Lamb of God. In the same thought, there can be no resurrection apart from the first stage of Christ's Second Coming (the Parousia). The morning star of the Church of God is the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.

This beautiful morning star has satellites – the rapture, the reward, the resurrection and the rising of Sion for the home of the Lord and His saints and the marriage supper of the Lamb. Not one of these satellites will become apparent until "...the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19).

The attitude of the Church of God towards this sublime event is the all important consideration. That consideration must be one with joyful expectation. We do not believe that the watchful believers will share in the advent with wailing and sorrow as shown in Revelation 1:7: "...all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."

Those that pierced Him will wail and rend their clothes and will smite their breasts, but we who have been looking and watching for His coming and have kept the POWER of the coming apparent will lift up our heads and will rejoice, saying: "...Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him and he will save us: this is the LORD: we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:9).



# Cherubims

By David DeLong

A cherub, or the plural cherubims, is a type of angelic being which God created. A description of the cherubims is found in the book of Ezekiel. In chapter 1, verses 4-24 we read: "And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the

colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went. As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings."

We can see from this description of the cherubims that they have four faces and four wings. They are not to be confused with the seraphims which have six wings. A description of the seraphims is found in Isaiah 6:1-3: "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."

The four "beasts" of Revelation, chapters 4-6, appear to be seraphims since they also have six wings. Chapter 4:8 reads: "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." One of the seraphims' jobs is to praise God day and night.

After the Lord expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He sent Cherubims and a flaming sword to protect the Tree of Life. In Genesis 3:22-24, we read: "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

When God instructed the children of Israel to make the ark of the covenant, He told them to make two Cherubims of gold to be placed upon the mercy seat of the ark. In Exodus 25:17-21 we find: "And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee."

In verse 22 we are told that God would meet with the children of Israel on the mercy seat of the ark, between the two Cherubims: "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." When the king of Assyria

sent troops against Hezekiah, we learn how Hezekiah addressed the Lord in his prayer: "And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth" (II Kings 19:15). He specifically referred to Him as the God "which dwellest between the cherubims". This, of course, had a direct reference to the Lord meeting with His people from the mercy seat of the ark, between the golden cherubims. See also Psalm 80:1.

An interesting thing to note is that before Satan sinned and was cast out of heaven, he was an anointed cherub. In Ezekiel 28:12-19 we get a glimpse of this cherub, called the king of Tyrus. "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 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. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more."

Not only was Satan called the "anointed cherub" but he was also called a "covering cherub". Did he, at one

time in heaven, correspond to one of the golden covering cherubims over the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant? Just some thought for study. According to Ezekiel 28 he had been "perfect in beauty" and had "been in Eden the garden of God". He was "upon the holy mountain of God" and was "perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." God will destroy this cherub. Verse 18 tells us: "...therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and

I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." We see that God will not even burn Satan in hell forever, as many believe. He will someday be burned completely up, and will come to ashes, in gehenna hell. Gehenna is the fire that will be prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41, which is Jesus speaking, tells us: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels".

# Sing Unto The Lord

By David DeLong

In Psalm 95:1-2 we read: "O 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." It is a sure thing that the Lord wants His people to sing their praises unto Him. Singing to Him is a big part of our worship of Him.

But, in this day and age singing unto the Lord seems, in some cases, to be more and more neglected. The people with the "beautiful" voices, those with special singing talents, are expected to sing forth their praises to the Lord, but not so much with us who have average voices.

We may not realize just how much the Lord wants us to sing unto Him. Too often, it seems, we only sing to the Lord when we feel like it. If we are feeling a bit tired we may not feel like praising God in song. However, the Lord commands us to sing unto Him. He even commands us to sing new songs to Him. Psalm 96:1-3 reads: "O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people."

According to these verses, singing to the Lord, including new songs, is a way of testifying for Him. It is a way to show forth His plan of salvation to the lost, and a way of introducing the Lord to the heathen. It is also a

way to invite the Lord's great power into our lives.

For instance, when King Jehoshaphat was being attacked by the Moabites, Ammonites, and others he appointed singers to lead the people against these enemies. We read in II Chronicles 20:20-24: "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped."

Praising the Lord in song definitely changes our mood and attitude. How can you stay angry with someone when

you are singing to the Lord? And when we are in a merry mood, singing is a way of expressing that feeling. James tells us in his book, chapter 5, verse 13: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."

In ancient Israel, there was a group of people who was responsible for leading the worship services by singing and making music. I Chronicles 15:16-22 reads: "And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy. So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; And with them their brethren of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obedom, and Jeiel, the porters. So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass; And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth; And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obedom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel. And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful." If your congregation has enough members who can lead worship services, then I suggest that you have a praise team to do so.

In the book of Revelation we see where singing to the Lord is a major endeavor by heaven's occupants. In chapter 5, when Jesus takes the seven-sealed book out of God's hand we find: "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down be-

fore the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" (verses 8-12).

In chapter 15, verses 2-4 where the saints are standing upon the New Jerusalem which has come out of heaven with Jesus and His Father, we learn: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

Singing unto the Lord is to be such a daily part of our lives that the Apostle Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 5:19-20: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

# Choosing to Suffer Affliction

By David DeLong

In the book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 25, regarding Moses, we find: "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season". This was the conscious choice of

tion with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season". This was the conscious choice of

Moses. Though he could have lived the rest of his days in pleasure and comfort in the court of Pharaoh, he chose to give this life up to follow after the will of God, including the suffering that he went through. This is also the choice that all children of God must make in their lives: will I go the easy way of the world, or will I be willing to suffer with the people of God to accomplish the Lord's will?

It's not that we want to do things the hard way in life. It's just that when we choose to follow the will of God, there are many situations which will lead us through times of suffering. There is no other way if we would be faithful to the Lord. One example of this is giving up a job rather than to work on the Sabbath.

There are many examples of men and women, from the Bible, who chose to suffer affliction rather than to give in to the ways of the world. Hebrews, chapter eleven, contains a passage of Scripture that shows this situation. "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:32-40).

The Apostle Peter had much to say about the suffering that God's people will go through. In I Peter 4:12-17 he wrote: "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. If ye be

reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

How about you, dear brother or sister? Will you choose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season? The leader Joshua told the children of Israel: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

## Will You Stand Alone?

By David DeLong

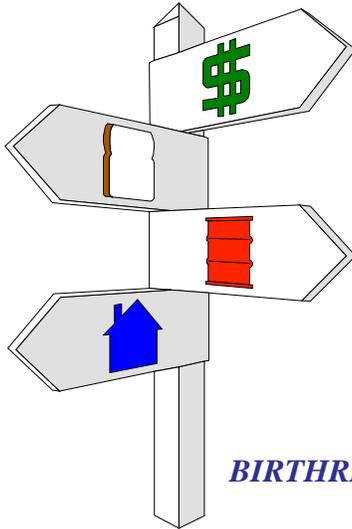
In today's unbridled world  
With its wicked ways;  
Will you stand alone, my friend,  
All your many days?

Even if nobody else  
Stands with you, at all;  
Will you stand alone, for God,  
Standing, straight and tall?

And yet, we do not stand alone,  
Our Savior's by our side;  
But, will you stand for Him, dear saint,  
And stand, whate'er betide?

# 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.*



## **BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP**

President Trump is trying to follow through on one of his campaign promises by ending birthright citizenship.

### **Comment**

Birthright citizenship is a 150-year-old law established in the Constitution that grants U.S. citizenship to anyone born on U.S. soil. U.S. citizenship is recognized by at least 30 other countries. To do away with this law would mean that the Constitution must be amended.

## **SAVING CHALLENGE**

In spite of the present good economy, many say that saving remains a challenge for them. The average American tells us that he is not feeling the improvement in his own wallet. There seems to be an uneven pace of recovery.

## **JOBS IN THE US**

According to a newspaper article by a trusted journalist, most jobs in the US don't support middle-class life. The article gave the example of Esther Akutekha who lives in an apartment in Brooklyn, New York. She is a public relations specialist that pays more than \$50,000 a year.

But because of the \$1,440 a month rent on her studio apartment, she never takes vacations and dines out just once a month. She scrapes together dinner leftovers for lunch the next day.

She said that she is frustrated with the fact that she is not able to save very much, if anything, because her rent is so high. She said that she does not even know if she can afford to have children.

## **WOMEN IN POLITICS**

Many women were victorious in the 2018 mid-term election, more than ever before. Nine women won gubernatorial races.

Let me quote one paragraph from an article published in **USA Today**: "Their historic involvement follows the massive Women's March to resist Trump's presidency and the #MeToo movements' protest against sexual misconduct in the workplace."

### **WORDS MATTER**

Several people running for office in the 2018 mid-term election, including those who ran for reelection, made comments that were racist or in poor taste. This caused many of them to lose the election. Even President Trump is not careful sometimes about his words and the phrases he uses.

When not making these comments in poor taste or putting down their opponents, they make flowery statements. James 3:6-12 records, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." YES, WORDS MATTER!

# RENEWED MINDS

Bond Tennant

The Apostle Paul wrote, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). The renewing of the mind here referred to by Paul is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. By nature, we seek earthly things. Adam was created of the earth, earthy. The earth, by nature, is our home, and it is natural that man should love the things of the earth.

But for those whom God is developing as new creatures in Christ Jesus there is the need that their minds be transformed. There are many promises of the Word which help to accomplish this. Jesus said to His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them, and that He would come and receive them unto Himself, that where He was, there they would be also (John 14:2-3). John wrote that it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that we shall be like Him, and see Him as He is.

The Apostle Peter wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:3-5).

These and other promises create an assurance that by faithfulness to the will of God we may attain spiritual life with Jesus. Thus, our minds are transformed from earthy to heavenly aspirations. We hear Paul's admonition to "...seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God," and to "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2). As we allow these new aspirations to captivate us we are growing as new creatures, and if faithful to the end of our earthly course, we will attain the glory promised.

## THE WAITING

*As twilight again comes softly,  
Marking "closed" to another long day;  
A sad faced old couple rests on their porch,  
For this is the time when they pray.*

*Two worn hand caress an old Bible,  
Voices quiver as they read again the same Word;  
As once again they are hearing the Promise  
That grows dearer each time it is heard.*

*Her hand traces each word of the Scripture,  
So familiar, never dulling with age;  
Her voice often breaks as she reads them,  
Worn hands, wiping a tear from the page.*

*Their hopes burn bright as they listen,  
Then fade away as the hour grows late;  
No sound of a car on the roadway,  
No creak as they open the gate.*

*A sad faced old dog rests at their feet,  
His eyes now dim with age;  
He's been faithful through hardships and blessings,  
And the turning of life's every page.*

*The city has claimed the ones that they miss,  
The streets screaming with noise and sin;  
And every night they rest behind locked doors,  
Their peace disturbed by the din.*

*Sometimes their thoughts turn to a simple life  
Where crops marched along in neat rows;  
Where now brambles and weeds are choking the soil,  
Bringing an end to the life they once chose.*

*A sad eyed old dog slowly moves from the porch,  
To rest on two newly made mounds;  
With a whisper and sigh, he gives up his life,  
And brambles soon will cover the mounds.*

*And still in the city, life moves along  
Midst all the noise and sin  
Where two unhappy people dream of a life  
That will never be known again.*

--Betty Whetstone



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** I have a friend who believes in the trinity. He keeps referring to John 10:30 which reads, "I and my Father are one." What really did Jesus mean by that statement?

**ANSWER:** Jesus spoke about his followers as His sheep and also said that the Father who gave them to Jesus is greater than all. No one can snatch these sheep from His hands or from the hands of the Father. In this connection in the work of safeguarding His sheep, Jesus said, "I and my Father are one." It is only the oneness of mind and unity of His work with the Father to which Jesus referred. It is incorrect to say that Jesus and the Father are one and the same person in body.

Jesus prayed to the Father that His followers should also be one even as He is one with the Father. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21). The point being made is that it shows the unity and the oneness of the mind and purpose that exists between Jesus and the Father, and between Jesus and the Church, and God also.

**QUESTION:** What is the Apocalypse?

**ANSWER:** The last book of the Bible which is Revelation.

**QUESTION:** What does the Bible say about male and female equality?

**ANSWER:** Jesus had high regard for women. In the Jewish culture, women were discouraged from studying the law. Jesus taught women alongside men (Matthew 14:21; 15:38). When He taught, He often used women's activities to illustrate the character of the kingdom of God, such as baking bread (Luke 13:20-21), grinding corn (Luke 17:35), and sweeping the house to find a lost coin (Luke 15:8-10).

Some Jewish Rabbis taught that a man should not speak to a woman in a public place, but Jesus not only spoke to a woman (who incidentally was a Samaritan) but also drank from her cup in a public place (John 4:1-30). The first person He appeared to after resurrecting from the dead was Mary and not the male disciples (John 20). Clearly, Jesus had a high regard for women.

Galatians 3:28 tells us there is neither male or female in Christ Jesus. First Peter 3:7 says men and women are

fellow heirs of grace. Ephesians 5:21 speaks of mutual submission between man and wife. In John 7:53-8:11 Jesus would not permit the double standard of the woman being taken in adultery and letting the man to go free. In Luke 10:39 Jesus let a woman sit at His feet, which was a place reserved for the male disciples. Verses such as these show that in God's eyes men and women are spiritually equal. Nevertheless, Scripture also speaks of male leadership in the family and in the Church (Ephesians 5:22; I Corinthians 11:3; 14:34; I Timothy 2:11).

**QUESTION:** How important is it that we control our tongues, and how may we control our tongues?

**ANSWER:** James 3:8 tells us, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

A six-inch lizard called a chameleon is sitting on a branch watching for insects for his daily meal. One eye is searching the upper branches and one eye, at the same time, is searching the lower branches. We humans certainly cannot do that. Suddenly one eye sees an insect about ten inches away. Immediately both eyes focus on it. Before you can see it happen, the insect disappears. Where did it go? Why on the end of the chameleon's tongue. It flicked out so fast. You did not notice it because you were not prepared, but since it goes back slower, you could see that. Yes, a chameleon has a tongue that can shoot out and capture an insect settled farther away than his entire length. He seems to have perfect control of this extremely long tongue.

God gave many of His creatures useful tongues. The frog also uses his tongue in catching insects. His tongue is fastened to the front of his mouth, rather than the back like ours. The bees and hummingbirds use their tongues as drinking tubes to suck nectar from flowers. The friendly giraffe's long tongue can be stretched out about thirteen inches. He uses it to pick leaves from trees, one at a time, and put them in his mouth.

The anteater also has a very useful tongue. If you remember seeing a picture of this animal, you will remember that his head is shaped in such a way as to look as if someone got a hold of the end and stretched it out. It nearly comes to a point, so you can imagine what a small mouth it has. He does not have any teeth and no doubt could not use them if he did have some. However, he gets along very well for, as his name implies, his main food is ants and termites, which look a great deal like ants. All he has to do to get a meal is to dig up an ant hill with his powerful forepaws and then capture the ants on his sticky, worm-like tongue. They say this tongue can be stuck out to a distance of two feet.

Yes, these creatures seem to have perfect control of their tongues, but when it comes to us humans, our tongue seems to get us into lots of trouble for we cannot seem to control it.

God knew about this problem, for He inspired James to write this letter, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." It also says that it is a fire. Perhaps you are wondering just how this could be. But think back on how many fights were started because someone called someone else a name or said something unkind about him. And then think of how many people's good names have been hurt or destroyed because someone started a tale about them which they thought was true but really was not. If you make a mistake on paper, you can erase it or throw the paper away, but spoken words can never be taken back. They go on and on and many times grow worse and worse as they pass from mouth to mouth.

So you can see how very important it is that we control our tongues. But since the Bible says that no man can tame it, just what are you going to do? Matthew 19:26 has the answer. "...With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Ask God's help. Ask Him so to fill us with His love that we will not say any mean or hateful things. He will help us to tame our tongues.



## Kenya

Some of our brothers and sisters in Kenya having an outdoor church service.





**Some of our leaders in Kenya meeting together.**



**Precious souls in the waters of baptism.**

**LESSON I****MOSES PRAYS FOR GOD'S PRESENCE**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:12-23.

Golden Text: Exodus 33:20.

“And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”

1. What did Moses request of the Lord in Exodus 33:12-13?
2. Did the Lord grant his request? Exodus 33:14.
3. Did Moses desire to do anything without the presence of the Lord? Exodus 33:15-16.
4. Did the Lord know Moses, and had he found favor in the sight of the Lord? Exodus 33:17.
5. What did Moses ask of the Lord in Exodus 33:18?
6. Did the Lord promise Moses to proclaim His name before him? Exodus 33:19.
7. Could Moses look upon the face of the Lord? Why? Exodus 33:20.
8. What further did the Lord tell Moses in Exodus 33:21-23.

**LESSON II****THE TABLES OF STONE RESTORED**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 34:1-14.

Golden Text: Exodus 34:1 (first part).

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first...”

NOTE: A few lessons ago we studied about the tables of stone on which the Lord had written the Ten Commandments. When Moses brought them down

from the mount, he saw the people worshipping a golden calf. He was so disappointed with the people, and hurt, that he broke the two tables of stone on which God had written the commandments for them to follow. Now, we are going to see these were restored to the people.

1. What did the Lord tell Moses to do and when was he to come up into the mount? Exodus 34:1-2.
2. Was anyone to come with Moses? Were the flocks or herds to feed before the mount at this particular time? Exodus 34:3.
3. What did Moses do in Exodus 34:4?
4. How did the Lord appear unto Moses? What did He proclaim unto Moses? Exodus 34:5-7.
5. What did Moses do and ask at this time? Exodus 34:8-9.
6. What was the covenant which the Lord made with Israel? Exodus 34:10-13.
7. Were they to worship any other god? What other name was used for God in Exodus 34:14?

**LESSON III****MOSES' FACE SHONE**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 34:28-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 34:35 (first part).

“And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone...”

NOTE: Moses went up into Mount Sinai to get the second copy of the Ten Commandments and had been talking with the Lord. Moses now returns and comes down from the mount.

1. How many days did Moses stay on the mount with the Lord? Exodus 34:28. Moses did not have

any food or water during this time.

2. When Moses came down from the mount, what did he carry and how did he look? Exodus 34:29.

3. What did Moses do, and who came to see him? Exodus 34:31.

4. Did the children of Israel come close to Moses, and what were they told? Exodus 34:32.

5. What did Moses do when he finished speaking with them? Exodus 34:33.

6. When did Moses take the veil off? Exodus 34:34-35.

4. The Lord was angry with Aaron and Miriam. What did the Lord cause to come on Miriam? Numbers 12:9-10.

5. Did Aaron then admit they had sinned? Numbers 12:11.

6. Did Aaron want Miriam healed, and did Moses ask the Lord for her healing? Numbers 12:12-13.

7. What did the Lord say concerning Miriam? Numbers 12:14.

8. How long was Miriam shut out of the camp? Numbers 12:15.

*NOTE: Sometimes we say things against our ministers or helpers in the Church. Do you think this angers the Lord now as it did then?*

**LESSON IV**

**MIRIAM HEALED OF LEPROSY**

Scripture Reading: Numbers 12.

Golden Text: Numbers 12:13.

“And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.”

*NOTE: The children of Israel are still on their journey to the promised land as our lesson starts today.*

1. Who spoke against Moses and for what reason? Numbers 12:1-2.

*NOTE: Miriam was the sister of Moses, and she did not like it because Moses' wife was an Ethiopian. You may remember studying about Miriam in our earlier lessons. She was the little girl who ran to tell her mother when Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the bulrushes.*

2. What sort of person was Moses? Numbers 12:3.

3. The Lord spake to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, and what did He say? Numbers 12:4-8.

**THE BIBLE**

There's a Book we call the Bible,  
It is God's own blessed Word;  
You will find between its covers  
Words the like you've never heard.

When we read it we are hearing  
God's one voice, so sweet and pure;  
And His promises He always  
Keeps, for they are true and sure.

Let us read it, and obey it,  
Then our lives will give Him praise;  
It will help us in our trials,  
As for God we spend our days.

\*\*\*\*\*

**When you are angry,  
Pretend you're a bird;  
Sing just a little  
But don't say a word.**



### IN THE GARDEN

I like the story I once read of a man who had planted a lawn and cultivated and watered it with great care. Finally he was rewarded for all his effort, not by beautiful green grass such as he had expected, but a big crop of dandelions. He tried to remove them, but every place he tried to remove them, two seemed to blossom where one had been before.

Finally, in desperation he wrote to the Government experiment station and asked what he could do about the dandelion pests. The answer came back "Learn to love them!"

In this life, there are crosses we must bear, and they come like dandelions and weeds in our garden, or even as the thorns that grow with the beautiful roses. It is hard to learn to love them, but if we learn to accept and bear them, we will be rewarded with a little glimpse of heaven and of Calvary.

There is a great secret to be learned if we walk in our beloved garden or woods in the early morning. We can commune with our Creator there, and God will reveal many things to us.

When the Lord planted a garden in Eden, He made every tree to grow there that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food. He also planted the "Tree of Life" in the center of the garden.

God walked in the garden He planted in Eden, and in the cool of the day, He talked to Adam and Eve.

What a wonderful privilege to walk and talk with God.

Boys and Girls, regardless of where you live, you

have the same privilege of walking and talking with God that Adam and Eve had. You can kneel down and talk to Him, and wherever you may be, you will find that you are in the Garden with Him.

Always seek the Lord in the morning and while you are young.

Remember these "Golden Words" and keep them locked in your heart: "...those that seek me early shall find me" (Proverbs 8:17).

### Answers to "Marys" In the Bible

1. Six.
2. No.
3. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (Mark 16:1).
4. Mary Magdalene.
5. Mary, the mother of John Mark (Acts 12:12).
6. Mary, the sister of Martha, called Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38-42).
7. Mary, a Roman Christian, greeted by Paul as having toiled hard for him (Romans 16:6).
8. Mary of Cleophas (or Clopas), sister of our Lord's mother, who was with her at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56).
9. Mary means "exalted of the Lord."
10. Mary, the mother of Jesus; Mary of Clopas; Mary Magdalene (John 19:25).

### Answers to MINERALS

1. Silver (Matthew 27:6).
2. Brimstone (Genesis 19:24).
3. Tin (Ezekiel 27:12).
4. Brass (Numbers 21:9).
5. Clay (John 9:6).
6. Rock sand (Matthew 7:24-29).
7. Salt.
8. Alabaster.
9. Zinc.
10. In the breastplate of Aaron, the high priest.

### FIND ELEVEN MOUNTAINS OF THE BIBLE

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

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

ELMCAR \_\_\_\_\_ HASPIG \_\_\_\_\_  
 MORHEN \_\_\_\_\_ OHMIRA \_\_\_\_\_  
 BONE \_\_\_\_\_ TARARA \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOZI \_\_\_\_\_ VIOLET \_\_\_\_\_  
 ORBAT \_\_\_\_\_ RISE \_\_\_\_\_ ANOBLIN \_\_\_\_\_

**"MARY'S" IN THE BIBLE**

1. How many Marys are mentioned in the Bible?
2. Are there any Marys in the Old Testament?
3. What Marys are named as visitors at the tomb of Christ on the first day of the week?
4. Which Mary came from Magdala?
5. Which Mary is the mother of a Gospel writer?
6. Which Mary had a sister who thought she did not take a fair share of the housework?
7. Which Mary is mentioned only once in the Bible, and by whom?
8. Which Mary is a relative of Mary, the mother of Jesus?
9. What does the name "Mary" mean?
10. How many Marys were at the cross?

**MINERALS**

1. With pieces of what mineral did Judas betray Jesus?
2. What mineral did God use in destroying Sodom?
3. What mineral did the Phoenicians bring all the way from Tarshish?
4. From what metal combination was made the serpent which Moses lifted up in the wilderness?
5. What mineral did Jesus use to cure a blind man?
6. In the parable of two houses, what minerals were mentioned?
7. What mineral was used in the Eastern lands as a sign of friendship?
8. Of what mineral was Mary's box of ointment made?

9. What common mineral is not mentioned in the Bible?

10. Where is the diamond first mentioned in the Bible?



**MIRACLE OF 1877**

In the early spring of 1877, Minnesota farmers anxiously surveyed their lands, dreading the first hordes of locusts that had caused such widespread destruction the summer before. Another such plague threatened to destroy Minnesota's rich wheat lands, spelling ruin for thousands of families.

Suddenly, Governor John S. Pillsbury proclaimed April 26<sup>th</sup> as a day of fasting and prayer, urging that every man, woman and child ask Divine help against the terrible "pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that was at noonday."

On the appointed day, shops, offices and schools were closed, and a strange hush fell over that land as Minnesotans solemnly assembled to pray.

Next morning the sun rose in cloudless skies. Over night, temperatures had soared to midsummer heat. Everywhere, the people looked up at the skies in wonder. This was no natural April sun! And, to their horror, the warm earth began to stir the awakening larva of billions of the dreaded insects. This was a strange answer to their prayers!

Three days passed, and the unseasonable heat hatched out a vast army of locusts that threatened to engulf not only the crops of Minnesota but the entire Northwest! Then, on the fourth day, the sun went down in a cooled sky. That night, frost gripped the earth. When the sun rose again it shone on quiet frozen fields. Most of the creeping locusts had been destroyed as surely as if fire had swept them from the earth!

When summer came, the wheat waved tall and green in Minnesota. And for the grateful farmers, April 26<sup>th</sup> went down in history as the day on which a people's prayer had been answered.

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## **Children Of The Light**

By David DeLong

God has given us a work  
Before we come to night;  
He chose us, and we have become  
The children of the light.

He showed us of His wondrous truth,  
The way that's sure and right;  
And we must ever strive to be  
The children of the light.

We're soldiers of our awesome Lord,  
And we must always fight  
Against the forces of the foe  
As children of the light.

Our trust must always be in God,  
We walk by faith, not sight;  
And though the world around is dark,  
We're children of the light.

It's only by God's Spirit  
And nothing of our might  
That we can surely overcome  
As children of the light.

And when Christ comes to get us,  
We must be dressed in "white";  
Then we will ever be with Him  
As children of the light.

