

The Advocate of Truth



TABLE OF CONTENTS



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PAGE

John The Baptist And Elijah The Prophet 3-4
John the Baptist was likened onto Elijah the Prophet.

The Truth About Swearing Of Oaths 4
Christians are forbidden by the Lord to swear oaths.

Doctrinal Point #1 5-7
This doctrinal point tells us that the Bible is all we need for salvation.

4 Things God Wants You To Know 7-8
These four points tell us about the plan of salvation.

True Happiness 8
The Gospel message is the source for true happiness.

The Sabbath Is Family "Day!" 9
A look at what the Sabbath symbolizes.

Don't Take God For Granted 10
Regardless of what some think, God is not a "soft touch".

The Folly Of Sin 11
Sin always leads to death.

Questions And Answers 12-14
Why did God allow sin to enter the world?

Glimpses Of The Future 14-15
A look at what the Bible says about the New Jerusalem.

Indestructible Tardigrades 15
Tiny creatures which show God's marvelous design.

The Weakness Of God 16
Is there any way in which God is weak?

The Furtherance Of The Gospel 17
Sometimes the Gospel is furthered by our infirmities.

The Church Around The World 18-19
This month we look at *Myanmar*

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Spring Comes For Shirley"
Games and Puzzles

JOHN the BAPTIST **and ELIJAH THE PROPHET**

By: Moisés Torres M.

1. By what name or title was John the Baptist prophesied in the Old Testament?

ISAIAH 40:1-3: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. **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.**"

Later on Malachi prophecies about this same mystery:

MALACHI 3:1-3: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even **the Messenger** of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." (Malachi 3:1-3).

NOTE: Both Isaiah and Malachi prophesied of John the Baptist, who was identified in the New Testament as "the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness" ANNOUNCING the message of repentance and the coming of the Lord; not only for his First coming, but also about His return to Israel in the future: This statement says that **He will refine the Levites (priests) and then they will serve Him in righteousness.** This of course will not happen until the return of the Lord at his second coming.



2. Besides mentioned as "the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness" by what other name did Malachi prophesy about him?

MALACHI 4:5-6: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

NOTE: Because of these verses in the Old Testament, the scribes and Pharisees and the teachers of Israel thought that Elijah had to come first, before the Messiah. And they believed that this Elijah had to be the Tishbite; but Jesus confirmed that John the Baptist was that Elijah to come, and NOT the prophet of the Old Testament.

The Jews did not accept Jesus as the Messiah, and they were looking for excuses to ignore Him. And with this statement in Malachi 4:5, they were even less likely to accept him, since for them, Elijah the Tishbite had to come first.

3. What did his disciples ask Jesus, and what was his answer?

MATTHEW 17:10-13: "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, that Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also

the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples **understood** that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.”

4. Did John confess that he was not the prophet Elijah when he was questioned by the priests and Levites?

JOHN 1:19-23: “And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”

5. Why then was John the Baptist called “Elijah”?

LUKE 1:11-17: “And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him **in the spirit and power of Elias**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

NOTE: This is why Jesus mentioned John as Elijah in His response to His disciples in Matthew 17:12. Both Elijah and John were provided by God with a similar spirit and virtue. Both were very powerful prophets who faced very difficult situations to announce God’s justice.

The Truth About Swearing Of Oaths

Bond Tennant

In the Old Testament, the swearing of oaths was permitted. See Genesis 24:3, 8, 9; 26:28 and Leviticus 5:4. However, our Lord Jesus told His disciples not to swear. “Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shall perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all. . . .” (Matthew 5:33-34). “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (verse 37). The same teaching is found in James 5:12. “But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.” Also see II Corinthians 1:17-20. Rather than swearing, the truth may be affirmed. “And when she knew Peter’s voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel” (Acts 12:14-15).

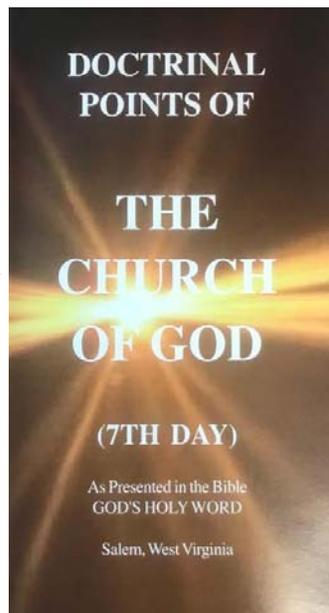
The child of God is admonished to fulfill his words, to speak the truth in love, and to live up to what he says or promises. “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds” (Colossians 3:9).

The true testimony to his fellow man is the child of God’s life and everyday walk. The child of God is to “...lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (I Timothy 2:2).

Children of God have a high regard for truth. They must not follow the world in having a time for being “especially truthful.” No oath can make an untruth true! The simplest truth does not need strong words to make it stand.

Doctrinal Point 1
Reflections on the Doctrinal
Points of the Church of God
(7th Day) Salem, WV

Contributed
Grenada West Indies



Disclaimer:

These series of articles are intended to reflect, as presented by the Word of God, (King James Version), on the document “Doctrinal Points of the Church of God (7th Day), Salem, West Virginia. It is not the intention of the author to bring any new light or provide any new doctrinal point. These are only the reflections of the author based on research into the Word of God and does not place any responsibility or accountability on the organization for what is written herein.

For the purpose of these reflections, “doctrine” will be defined as teachings or belief. It is important to note that for us, called out to be Saints, the Word of God is the standard by which we will be judged. The Church of God did not cease to exist since it was established by our Lord Jesus, in 30 AD, for He said in Matthew 16:18, “...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (the Church).

Introduction:

Today the term Church of God is used by many denominations and groups, which creates confusion. We must remember that “...God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints”, according to 1 Corinthians 14:33. All these churches are of an American origin, except the Church of God (7th Day) Salem. Please note that one way of differentiating these churches is by adding the headquarters city to the name, as a prefix or suffix. Religious historians, in their research “Census of Religious Bodies” (1936) on page 24, states,

“The Church of God (seventh day) was organized in separate church organizations in this country soon after the landing of the Pilgrims; who came here from London, England, in 1620, at which time there were known to be seven local churches in London”. The affirmation of these researchers definitely puts closure to the non-American origin of this organization. Our European brethren “came to Rhode Island at that time and later to Connecticut from England, Holland, Bohemia and Moravia. From these parts they spread to the original thirteen (13) States and then to the other states as they became part of the United States. The Church was reorganized in 1933 at Salem, West Virginia, at which time its government was brought into harmony with that of the first Church, which continues until today”.

Doctrinal Point #1

“The Bible, Old and New Testaments, is inspired as no other writing is, and is complete, infallible and expresses God’s complete will to man”.

In 2 Tim 3:16-17 the Word of God says, “All scripture are given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”. In the aforementioned verses, the Apostle Paul was admonishing “his son” Timothy to continue in the things that he has learned and has been assured of from a child in the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make him wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus, verses 14 and 15.

The Apostle Peter also in his writings tells us, according to II Peter 1:20 – 21, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”. These verses do not need to be explained. Similarly, those also in Hebrews 1: 1-2, which state, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”.

We see in the Word of God various examples of the Word of God being given to holy men from God, and it is enough to quote only a few instances. For example, in

Jeremiah 36: 1,2 and 4 the Bible says, “And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day ... Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.” In Exodus 24:4 it is said that “Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning ...” We also find a similar context in Daniel 12: 4, and Revelation 1:1, to name a few.

David, the prophet of God, in Psalm 12:6 explains to us the character of the Word of God when he says, “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.” He continues in Psalm 19:7-14, “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.”

David continues to make his supplication to God: “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” The Servant of the Lord continues explaining in Psalm 119: 40, 105 when he says, “Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness ... Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

During their sojourn in the wilderness, Moses the servant of the Most High, warns the people of Israel from God in Deuteronomy 4:2 that, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments

of the LORD your God which I command you.” He continues in chapter 12:32 that, “...thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” Joshua, the successor of Moses, was instructed by God to be “...thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:7-8). Much more can be said.

In Deuteronomy 6: 5-7 we are told how we grow our children, our blessings from God, in his Word: “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”.

Today, we are warned in Revelation 22: 18-19 from the Almighty God, “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” God is consistent; the Word says in Malachi 3:6, “For I am the LORD, I change not. . .” These verses tell us of the unchangeable nature of the Most High, and is consistent through the Bible.

In Isaiah 55:11 the human race is warned by God, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah continues to admonish us in chapter 45:23 from God: “I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” Concerning the nature of God’s Word, we are also told in

chapter 40:8, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever". In this context, the phrase "for ever" does not have a duration of time.

In the New Testament, in the book of Matthew 24:35, our Lord and Master says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." We must remember that in relation to His words He said that the words that He speak are not His, but His who sent Him, and this is consistent with the prophecy of Moses in Deuteronomy 18:18 when he said of the Lord, "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him." Similar words appear in Mark 13:31. The same thought is expressed in I Peter 1: 25, when the Apostle Peter, under the inspiration of God says, "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

In relation to the validity of the Word of God, our Lord spake in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Ensuring that His disciples understood these written words, the Saviour also explained in Luke 24: 27, "...beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

We are warned in the Word of God, in II Peter 3:9-11 that, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness". May the Most High grant unto us His Love, Mercy and Grace. Amen.

4 Things God Wants You to Know

Adapted from a Tract

1.

You are a sinner and cannot save yourself.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

2.

Jesus Christ has already provided the way of salvation.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18).

3.

You must repent of your sins, confess them and forsake them.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso

confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

4.

Acceptance or refusal determines your destiny.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Hebrews 2:3).



LIFE without love in it is like a heap of ashes upon a deserted hearth--with the fire dead, the laughter stilled, and the light extinguished. It is like a winter landscape--with the sun hidden, the flowers frozen, and the wind whispering through the withered leaves. God knows we need all the unselfish love that can come to us. For love is seldom unselfish. There is usually the motive and the price. Do you remember William Morris and how his life was lived, his fortune spent, his hands busied--in the service of others? He was the father of the settlement movement, of co-operative homes for working people, and of the arts and crafts revival in our day. He was a “soldier of the common good.” After he was gone his life began to grow in radiance and power, like a beacon set high upon a dangerous shore. In the twilight of his days he wrote what I like to think was his creed--and mine: “I’m going your way, so let us go hand in hand. You help me and I’ll help you. We shall not be here very long, for soon death, the kind old nurse, will come back and rock us all to sleep. Let us help one another while we may.”-Frank P. Tebbetts

From **Elbert Hubbard’s Scrap Book**

TRUE HAPPINESS

Carnal men have some very mistaken ideas of real happiness. It is vain to be expected without being made truly holy. But what a rich variety of blessings the gospel provides for the followers of Christ, amidst their numerous sorrows, persecutions, reproaches, fears and dangers, to animate and encourage their righteous desires by faith and hope. Marvelous is the happiness that still radiates through even tears of sorrow and disappointment because of the enjoyment of God and the Holy Spirit in their lives. Christians are saddened when brethren leave them. Christians are disappointed when friends become disloyal and turn away from the truth. The love of a Christian cannot be turned off and on like water in a faucet. It grows slowly to perfection, and then loved ones depart; great is the wound that is rendered to the loving heart. Still the Christian can love his enemies, bless them that curse him, do good to them that hate him and pray for them that despitefully use him and persecute him. "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in haven is perfect" (Matthew 5:44-48).

This is perfect love. This is the true happiness for God that becomes deeply rooted in the heart of every true Christian. This love is what constitutes true happiness and cannot be erased from heart and mind. Let this consideration quicken and animate every reader to a more serious and exact attention to God and His love. Then let us conform to every word of truth and love.

**A CHRISTIAN'S HEART
WILL BURN WITH THE FIRE
OF GOD,
OR HIS CONSCIENCE
WILL BURN WITH CONVICTION.**



THE SABBATH IS FAMILY “DAY!”

Reprinted

We know from the word of God that the Sabbath is a weekly day of rest from our mental and physical labor” – our spiritual refreshment and refinement. We know that the Sabbath is a sign between God and His people – FAMILY! We know also that God has commanded us to meet in Holy Convocation on “The Sabbath Day” to worship Him and fellowship with – “The Family.” (Genesis 2:2-3; Hebrews 4:4; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:12-17; Leviticus 23:1-3; Hebrews 10:24-25).

The purpose of this outline is to study some of the spiritual significance and substance of “The Sabbath Day!”

WHAT IT MEANS!

That God created us, we did not create ourselves, and that God created us in a “FAMILY STATE” (God’s plain relationship) not an estranged nor adversarial state or relationship. When we meet in Holy Convocation on “The Sabbath Day,” this God’s plain relationship is restored (in part) to the Human family, by those who are begotten members of the God Family – which is the Church of God and the Body of Christ! (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:24; Colossians 3:19-25; Galatians 3:26-29; Galatians 6: 15-16; Romans 2:28-29).

WHAT IT FORE-SHADOWS!

God’s Holy Weekend Sabbath foreshadows a thousand years of restoration, re-education and reconciliation of mankind (The Human Family) and mankind with The God Family (Father, Jesus Christ and Saints). It foreshadows the last thousand years of human history, in contrast to the first six thousand, when the human family lost God’s plain relationship because of Satan and Sin. It also foreshadows the return of the great Jesus Christ (saints with Him) to re-establish the government

and set up the Kingdom of God – on earth!

The primary purpose of the Kingdom of God is to expand the Family of God, ad-infinity. (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:1-7; I Thessalonians 3:13; Revelation 17:14; Isaiah 2:3).

WHAT IT ULTIMATELY FULFILLS!

The weekly Holy Sabbath actually represents eternity (an eternal rest) and the fulfillment of God’s divine purpose and plan, which is to expand His family and make it full; a family of many individuals, with diversity, variety and contrast in the family – but without any prejudice, partiality or animosity towards any member of “The Family!” The Sabbath also represents and fulfills the steps of the plan: from the Human Family to the Church Family to the God Family! According to the Word and Will of God, the Sabbath pictures, foreshadows and is ultimately going to fulfill an eternity of Love, Joy and Peace – fullness of joy and righteous pleasure for evermore! (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 16:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; I Corinthians 15:50-54; Revelation 21:1-7)

“ALL” IN THE FAMILY AND “ALL”!!!

From Genesis through Revelation God reveals His holy, righteous, wonderful, magnificent divine FAMILY PURPOSE AND PLAN! He reveals through the weekly Sabbath the very purpose and reason we were created and placed on the earth: to learn “How To Live” in a FAMILY and as a FAMILY. That is why we say – the SABBATH is FAMILY – “DAY!” When we keep it Holy, the weekly Sabbath provides us with a foretaste of eternity and gives us a glimpse of how we are going to live in eternity: In a divine “Family Relationship” (based on Love) with our Father, our Brother and one another in fullness of Joy and righteous Pleasure, for the rest of eternity!

GOD SAYS TO PROVE ALL THINGS

DON'T TAKE GOD FOR GRANTED

Reprinted

The expression “soft touch” is used to describe someone who can easily be talked into a loan or gift of money. Often it is to pay the price to bail someone out of a jam he has gotten himself into.

The presence of a soft touch among one’s acquaintances is an encouragement to careless living: “Do not worry, so and so is always good for a buck! He will come through in a pinch, and no questions asked.”

Unfortunately, and to their own peril, many people view God as a soft touch--that “Somebody up there” who will help out if you ever get into a pinch.

True, God will help you out--and you are already in a pinch if you have not taken His warning seriously: “...*the wages of sin is death...*” (Romans 6:23); and the greatest sin is unbelief: He who believes on Christ, God’s Son, is not condemned. but he who does not believe is condemned already.

As the Creator of all people and as the ultimate judge of everyone, God does not cease to be righteous, holy and demanding. “All have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious ideal.” At the same time, however, we can indeed be grateful that he has already paid the price to deliver us from the wrath of His judgment because of our sins.

The Bible specifically emphasizes this fact: “But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, then He saved us--not because we were good enough to be saved, but because of His kindness and pity.”

That characteristic of God’s dealing with us is perfectly exemplified at the cross where Jesus died for our sins. As He suffered death on the cross, He did not curse those who had placed Him there. Rather, He uttered this prayer to God: “...*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...*” (Luke 23:34).

We must forever rid ourselves of any notion that we

deserve God’s favor or that we can somehow earn our standing with Him: “Because of His kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ, And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it.”

Our self-assurance may cause us to imagine that we can earn our standing with God, but that route leads only away from Him--forever.

He has mercy, however, for those who are painfully aware of their need for Him and know that they do not deserve His forgiveness and salvation.

If you sense within you at this moment a need for God, just tell Him so and trust Jesus Christ who died for your sin. If you do it now, you can become a member of God’s family.

Yes, God is tender, kind, and compassionate, but He is no soft touch. He does ask questions: “Do you believe in Christ my Son? Have you accepted Him personally as your Saviour?”





THE FOLLY OF SIN

"We are committing a folly in thoughtlessness." this is the opinion of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. he also said, "We must muster the insight, the seriousness and the courage to leave folly and to face reality."

There is a great deal of truth in these words, and a preacher might well weave them into a challenging sermon. It is not too difficult to see how such words can easily fit into the realm of spiritual truth and application.

However, Dr. Schweitzer was not thinking along those lines. He was thinking of peril on the physical level, railing a protest-voice against the expressions of physical power in the area of nuclear explosions and the degrees of radioactive "fall-outs." His words form part of a very earnest and sincere "declaration of conscience" which has attracted serious attention in many parts of our world.

We do not say that the doctor is wrong. We do not minimize the physical dangers, nor desire to keep silence before the stalking of these race annihilator specters.

But there must always be the need for a pressing through to the heart of the heart of the matter -- What the Word of God says -- a boil on the surface testifies to poison underneath. The root of today's restlessness will be found in spiritual realities, and one must always get back to the

prime issue: "...as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin..." (Romans 5:12). (Sin is the transgression of God's law.)

If sin - Sin - SIN! - were underscoring the headlines, reports, protests and problems, then these things would be seeing their true light, traced clear back to the sin which is the fountain-head.

"Folly in thoughtlessness" are sobering words indeed. One is driven back to that supreme question presented by the Lord Jesus concerning Himself: "...What think ye of Christ?..." (Matthew 22:42), and the folly of man is full-faced in this failure to face the problem of his sin and the Person of the Sin-bearer. No atomic mushroom cloud will cause as great fear and trembling as the prospect of "seeing your friends enter the kingdom of God and you yourself thrust out." Or as the Apostle Jude says it: "...the blackness of darkness forever" (verse 13) for those who -- too late -- realize that in life they have traveled to the height, not according to the Word of God, but to the summit of thoughtlessness, scaling the peak of folly! All other questions pass away before the gates of the Holy City and the answers thereto seem so easy to accept if you wish to enter -- "keep the commandments." -- Jesus, (Matthew 19:17).

Beyond hydrogen: DEATH. Let it be stated that way, as to stir the thinking. No danger so great as forgetting eternity in the tumult of time. Those words of Schweitzer, "we must face reality" are fraught with solemn meaning in the light of the life to come, and oh! but that they might sink deep and deeper yet. The acknowledgment of present spiritual peril and the desperate necessity of a personal link with the Lord Jesus through the connecting link -- the Word of God -- should be top topic for today's thinking. The greatest danger comes not from physical explosion but spiritual retreat. The heart closed against the claims of the crucified. "Come now, and let us reason together..." (Isaiah 1:18) is the declaration of One Greater than all, and there must be the personal subscription thereunto for spiritual benefit and eternal assurance. Folly or faith, sin or obedience, Satan or Jesus Christ, death or life eternal -- think on these tremendous things!

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

this information because they had embarked upon a course whereby they would learn these lessons by experience.

Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden, experienced “good” for a short time; although, having known nothing else, they perhaps did not fully appreciate the blessings which their Creator had provided for them. After they sinned, they were driven out of that garden home, and it was then that they began to experience evil. Being perfect to begin with, they lived for hundreds of years; and probably much of that time during these years they were free from severe physical pain, although figuratively, they did eat their bread by the sweat of their face.

But finally death took its toll, and our first parents returned to the earth from which they were taken. Since then, throughout the centuries, generation after generation has likewise suffered and died. Some good has been experienced by many, but for the most part it has been a long dark night of weeping during which evil has been experienced by all almost continuously. David wrote about this, saying, “... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

Question: Will you please comment on the transfiguration of Jesus as we read about it in Matthew 17:2 ?

Answer: Let us quote Matthew 17:1-2, “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.”

The transfiguration scene contains, in miniature ALL the elements of the future of the Kingdom of God, through manifestation. Jesus Christ is not in humiliation, but in

Question: Why did God permit sin to enter the world?

Answer: God permitted sin to enter the world so that His human creatures might, by experience, learn the terrible results of disobedience to His law. In Genesis 3:22 we read, “...the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil...” The “us” referred to in this statement is the same as in Genesis 1:26, where the Creator is quoted as saying, “...Let US make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” The reference is to God and His beloved Son, the Logos, or “Word,” who co-operated with His heavenly Father in all the creative work. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

The heavenly Father and His beloved Son foreknew what the terrible results of disobedience to divine law would be; but Adam did not know, although he had been told that he would die as the result of sin. God and the Logos knew also that the human race could gain this information fully, only by being permitted to experience it. So when Adam and Eve sinned the Creator observed (Genesis 3:22) that they had “...become as one of us, to know good and evil”; that is, they were destined to acquire

glory (II Peter 1:17 first clause).

The transfiguration of Jesus took place on the slopes of Mount Hermon [Sion] (Deuteronomy 4:48). It is proof and is vitally related to all the words Jesus had been telling his disciples. Jesus had accepted Peter's great confession as to His Divine Person, and now, in vision of glory, comes Moses and Elijah to speak with Him. Then comes the voice of Jesus' Father saying: **"...This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; HEAR YE HIM"** (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus had taught them particularly of His approaching death. Luke testifies of this in (9:31) and affirms, **"...of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."** Jesus had predicted His return in glory, and now, as Peter afterwards declared, Jesus gives the disciples a foretaste or what that glory would be.

What is meant by the statement: **"He was transfigured before them."** It is surely an experience quite different from that of Moses on Mount Sinai. The face of Moses shone with a reflected light, but in the case of Jesus, a glory from within bursts forth and radiates His whole Being, until not only His face but His very garments are radiant with a dazzling light. Matthew has been picturing to us the life of Jesus. It is as if a monarch has been walking in disguise, only occasionally beneath His humble garment has been revealed a glimpse of kingship. But here for an hour, the disguise is withdrawn and the King appears in His real majesty and in the regal splendor of His Divine glory.

Jesus had taken three of His disciples with Him into the sacred Mount Hermon, Peter, James and John. They were to witness the startling change of the transfiguration, which brought about the change of Jesus into grandeur, **"...behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him"** (v.3). These two great leaders of people were chosen for their mysterious passage from one place to another. Moses is to represent the Law of God and Elijah to represent the ministers of the Law. Both these men had pointed forward, in their work, by symbol and prediction to the atoning work of Christ. These two

men could speak with Jesus intelligently concerning things that must come to pass. Then too, these two personalities had been prepared by their experiences, to understand the grace of God. Therefore, Moses and Elijah could comprehend the LOVE OF GOD in the great gift of His Son. Another thought, about these two great prophets, concerning the Reaping Phase of Christ's Second Advent is that Moses was a representative of the redeemed who had been sleeping in the grave, and have been caught up to meet the Lord in the air. They have passed from death unto life (Matthew 13:43; Luke 9:31-32). Elijah stands for those saints that are alive when the Lord appears in the clouds. They are changed from mortality to immortality. They enter the Kingdom by transfiguration (I Corinthians 15:51,52; I Thessalonians 4:17).

Peter, James and John, not glorified representatives (for the moment) of Israel in the flesh in the future kingdom (Ezekiel 37:21-27). Then the multitude at the foot of Mount Hermon, who will be brought into the Kingdom after it is established (Isaiah 11:10-12). Then Peter makes his remark in which he says: **"...Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles ; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias"** (Matthew 17:4). Peter is not to be ridiculed. He realized the blessedness of this experience, however, clumsily he expressed it. His desire only was to prolong such an ecstatic vision. In spite of his thoughts, he wishes to continue in such a blissful companionship, The time had come when those who wished to know the nature and will of God, could find them completely and finally revealed in Jesus, our Lord and Master.

No less important are the messages of the transfiguration for us today. They are to remind us of our faith in Him, as they now behold His glory, they can be transformed into the same image. You and I can be transformed, not by an outward imitation of Jesus but by the operation of an inner power. **"...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"** (Romans 12:2). We also read in Colossians 1:13: **"Who hath delivered US from the power of darkness, and hath TRANSLATED us into the kingdom of his dear**

Son.” We will be caught up ... **“to meet the Lord in the air.”** But the splendor of this scene will be embodied and centered in the majestic form and radiant face of the returning triumphant King.

Question: What is the difference between the terms mortal and immortal?

Answer: Mortal means subject to death. Immortal means not subject to death.

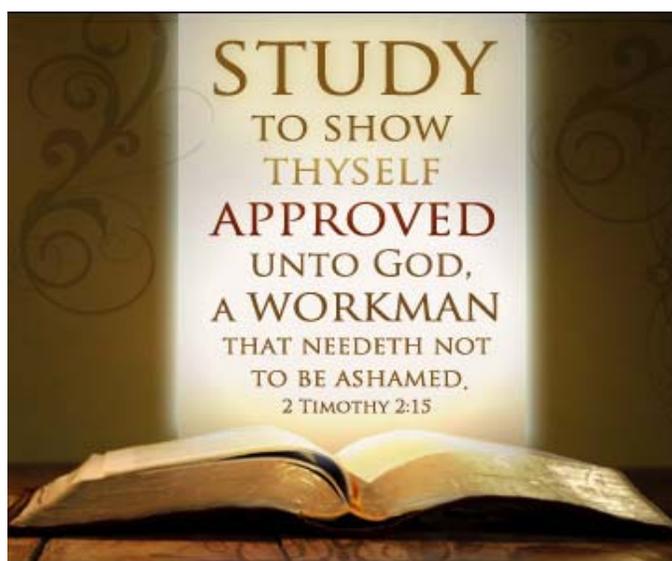
Question: Will you please comment on the term day?

Answer: The term **day**, both in the Scriptures and in common usage, though most frequently used to represent a period of twelve or twenty-four hours, can also signify any definite or special period of time. For instance we speak of Noah’s day, Luther’s day, Washington’s day. In the Bible the entire time of Creation is called a day. In Genesis 2:4 we read, “These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.”

Question: Will you please define sin and evil? Do they mean the same?

Answer: Sin is always an evil, but an evil is not always a sin. An earthquake, a flood or a pestilence would be a calamity, an evil, but none of these would be sins.

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4).



The glimpse we have of the perfect city, New Jerusalem, may look different to you than the way I see it. In fact, a good speaker can give me entirely different pictures than I can obtain by reading and studying about it.

The picture today is one given to us by the Apostle John on the Island of Patmos. He is called John the Revelator because he wrote "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him," to us (His servants) -- (Revelation 1:1; 21:9-27).

The Apostle John's view was the holy City, New Jerusalem -- The Bride -- The Lamb's wife. That was a beautiful glimpse of the home of the saints. For we are all like Abraham "who looked for a city, whose builder and maker is God." We, the saints, will be caught up into this City of God when Jesus returns. The marriage of the Lamb will come. Will you be there in your wedding garment?

John's view was from a great and high mountain. We might say John was getting a bird's eye view from such a distance. John said he saw "...that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God..." (Revelation 21:10-11).

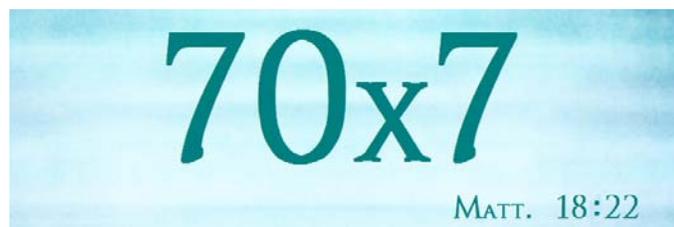
The City, "was like unto a stone most precious" -- very brilliant. It "...had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel" (verse 12).

There were gates three on each side. There was no temple therein because Jesus, the Lamb, was there. He made up a living temple.

Read these verses in Goodspeed's translation: "The city was square, its length the same as its breadth. He measured the city with his rod, and it was 12,000 furlongs. Its length, breadth and height were the same...the city was pure gold as transparent glass." - (Revelation 21:16-19).

The most important part of this picture, I think, is its

shining radiance, a reflection of God's glory with Jesus and the glorified beings. What a wonderful hope to have, to have Christ as our personal Saviour and have the grace of God upon us to say, "Well done, come up hither!" whether we are awake or asleep in Christ.



If you have been hurt by malicious gossip or by words spoken in anger, you know the difficulty of obeying Jesus' command to forgive seventy times seven. Nevertheless, there are good reasons for accepting the wise counsel of Jesus.

Medical science is uncovering evidence that grudges and other emotional junk harm one's health. The Holistic Healing of God can not heal if we have not emptied ourselves of every bit of avarice, or parsimony. Assorted ills ranging from heart disease to hypertension have been traced to an unforgiving spirit. Without question, bitterness is harmful to one's health.

The effect of unforgiveness on one's spiritual condition is even more serious. Jesus insisted that unless we forgive our neighbors and even our enemies, the Father in heaven will not pardon our sins. The Lord was not driving a shrewd bargain with His followers. He wanted them to learn a profound spiritual truth, that the person who chooses to be controlled by revenge shuts off his life to God's forgiving love.

As Jesus approached His final journey to Jerusalem, He spoke to His disciples about the importance of building strong relationships within His Church. Selfish attitudes should make way for the humble serving of others. Brotherhood and group prayer were to mark Church gatherings. Forgiveness must overcome the spirit of revenge. Living in this manner would bring blessing to the Body of Christ and to the glory of the Father and His Son.

--Reprinted

INDESTRUCTIBLE TARDIGRADES

From Does God Exist?

Imagine an animal that can survive without water, can withstand 300-degree temperatures, can live without oxygen, can survive the vacuum of space, can survive almost any amount and kind of radiation, and can hibernate for decades. This is not science fiction; it is an animal phylum known as tardigrades, often called "water bears." There are as many as 1,200 species of tardigrades, and they live all over the Earth.

In 2007 scientists put two species of tardigrades in containers and launched them into orbit and opened them up to cold, airless space with no protection from punishing radiation of the Sun and stars. When the tardigrades returned to Earth, they were alive, and they are still producing offspring that are also alive and reproducing.

These animals are microscopic, about half a millimeter long when fully grown. Under a microscope, they look like a combination of a chubby bear and a single-eyed alien. They have legs but no circulatory system or skeleton. In extreme environmental conditions, they curl up and enter a survival mode called cryptobiosis. When conditions improve, they revive and resume their normal life processes. They eat algae and aquatic plants.

Scientists have studied the tardigrade genome and found ways to improve crop survival in bad weather. The United States government has allotted \$5 million to scientists attempting to find ways to protect vaccines and human blood using what they learn from the genome of tardigrades. Other uses include preserving organs for transplant and producing a sunscreen that protects against ultraviolet rays as well as reducing radiation damage in cancer treatment methods.

The development of life on Earth has not been a hit-or-miss process. As science looks at smaller and smaller things that our technology allows us to see, we realize that there is a whole world of carefully designed microscopic plants and animals that form the base of the animals we CAN see. Every time we look into the world around us, we see that a wonder-working hand guided by an intelligence far beyond our own has gone before and provided for our well-being. Thanks to technology, we realize that now more than ever before.

The Weakness of God

By David DeLong

In I Corinthians 1:22-25 we read: "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Is God really weak? He goes by titles such as Almighty God, and one of His attributes is omnipotence, which means possessing all power. Isaiah 40:28 tells us: "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."

No, the Lord is not weak. But, His ways look weak to unconverted people. Let us examine some of the ways of the Lord. Isaiah 55:8-9 informs us: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

One of God's ways that looks really foolish and weak to an unconverted person is found in Luke 6:28-29: "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also." The Scriptures not only tell us to love our enemies, but we even find in Romans 12:20: "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

Incredible! Most people want to defeat their enemies, or at least be one-up on them. But God's children are told to love them, and on certain occasions to even feed them and give them something to drink. This will "heap coals of fire" on their heads. No one can stand coals of

fire upon the head. This will force the enemy to make a decision, and sometimes that decision will be for them not to be our enemy anymore. God's ways truly are higher than ours.

Along these same lines we learn in Matthew 5:38-42: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

To the natural mind paying ten percent of your income to God, especially if you can barely pay your bills and put food on the table, is utter ridiculousness. But the promise of God in Malachi 3:10 more than makes up for a person's penury. This verse reads: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." I personally am a witness to this promise of the Lord.

The same is true for keeping holy the seventh day of the week. Many people believe that they can't give up a day from work to rest upon. They believe they will lose too much money. But, just as with the paying of the tithe mentioned above, if you will keep God's commandments, including resting upon the Sabbath day, you will be blessed beyond measure.

Perhaps the greatest weakness of God, to the natural mind, is found in the passage of Scripture in Romans 5:6-8: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The Furtherance Of The Gospel

By David DeLong

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Philippian Church, wrote: "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear" (Philippians 1:12-14).

Paul could have bemoaned the fact that he was a prisoner, now, and didn't have free reign to preach the gospel wherever he wanted to. However, he understood that by being a prisoner the gospel of the Lord was actually being furthered instead of being hindered. One of the results of his being a prisoner was that many of his brethren were emboldened to preach the gospel. This would allow the gospel to go to places that it might not have gone to if Paul had not been in bonds.

The same is true for us, as well. Perhaps you have become wheel chair bound and feel that the Lord cannot use you very effectively. However, the testimony that you give may be of greater encouragement to someone else than if you were not in the wheel chair. Thus, the gospel message may be furthered by your testimony. You may not feel that your singing voice is up to par, so you don't give a special in church. But, many of the brethren are thus robbed of a blessing because of this. I have been blessed by average singing voices, at times, as much as by the "beautiful" voices.

I have given sermons before that I thought were pretty much a "flop". I thought to myself, *Who was blessed by that message?* But, I have to remember that the Word preached is in the Lord's hands, not mine. He can bless people when I cannot.

Paul needed to encourage Timothy in the ministration of the gospel. We read in I Timothy 4:12-16: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believ-

ers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." In a similar vein, Paul encouraged Archippus in his ministry. "And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."

We should also encourage others to fulfill their ministries that the Lord has given them. We can encourage brothers and sisters in the Church to give specials, we can encourage our pastors by saying to them, *That sermon really blessed me!* That way, the gospel message can be furthered and strengthened.

We should also explore ways that we can further the gospel by discovering talents that we have that we didn't necessarily know that we had. Perhaps you can give a Bible study to others. This will take preparation on your part to know the Church's doctrines. You could even give the study in your own home, inviting people from your community to attend.

There are many ways that we can further the gospel of Christ. Let us fulfill our ministry that the Lord has given to us, and also encourage others to fulfill their ministries, as well.

The Farmer

By David DeLong

A farmer was using his scythe,
He was little, but also was lithe;
He didn't make much, from his farm work and such,
But was faithful in paying his tithes.



Myanmar

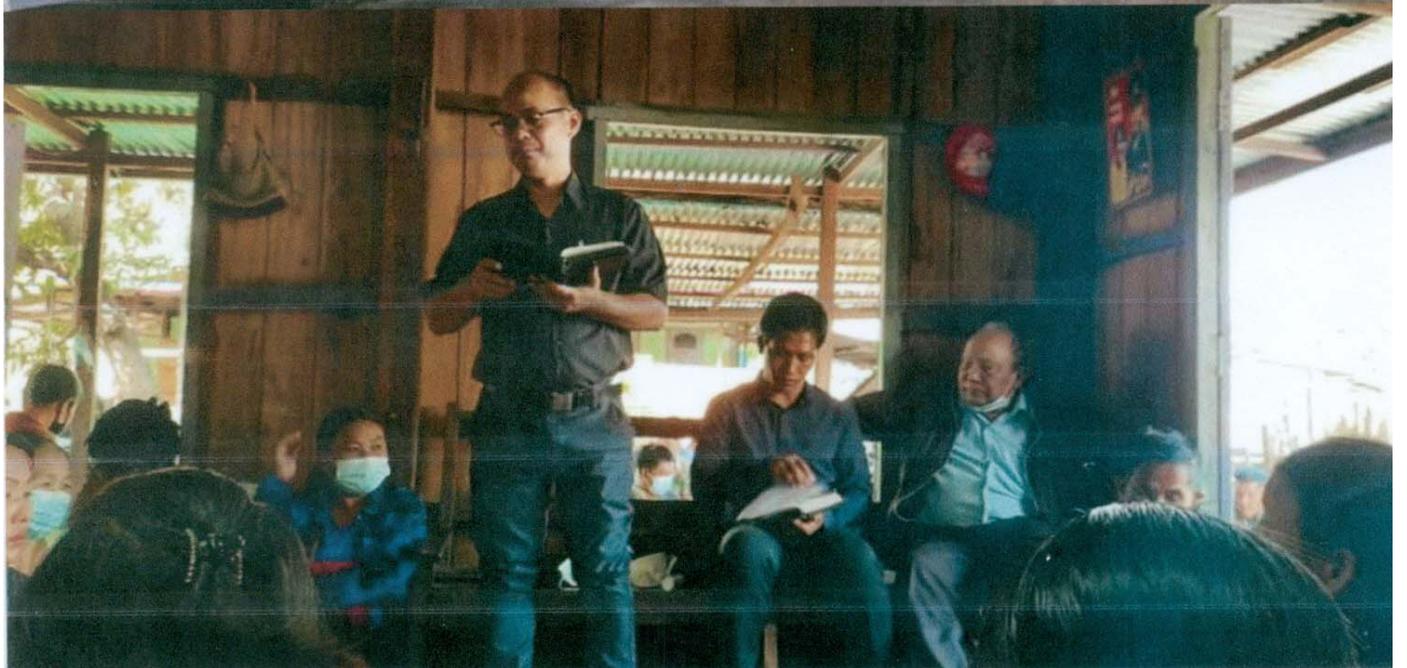
Greetings in Jesus' name. I hope that you are doing well and protected by the loving Father God.

On 10th of January (on Sunday morning) a young boy of our church members died and we had a quick funeral on the same day. Due to the Virus restriction, we are urged to bury the dead body very quickly and avoid people gathering. Our church is very small, have nothing properties and we are in great trouble in time of members death. But we thank God we finished everything for the funeral and now church members visited the bereaved family at night and have prayer and encouragement from the word of God.

Please continue to pray for our safety and provision of our church members. We have spent all the church money to help food to the church members. We are worried if the lockdown and restriction go for some more days and months.

Thanks for your love and prayer.

Kawl



LESSON I

THE FURNISHINGS FOR THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 4:1-22.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 4:19.

"And Solomon made all the vessels that were for the house of God, the golden altar also, and the tables whereon the shewbread was set".

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how the temple itself was built, and out of what kind of materials it was made. Now we shall see what furnishings will be on the inside of the temple.

1. Out of what material was the altar made? II Chronicles 4:1.
2. Describe the molten sea in II Chronicles 4:2-5.
3. For what purpose was the molten sea built? II Chronicles 4:6.
4. Where were the ten candlesticks and ten tables placed? II Chronicles 4:7-8.
5. What did Hiram make for the temple? II Chronicles 4:11-16.
6. Did Solomon make all the vessels for the house of God? Out of what material did he make the candlesticks, lamps and tongs? II Chronicles 4:18-21.
7. What else was made of pure gold? II Chronicles 4:22.

**LESSON II
INDUCTION OF THE ARK
INTO THE ORACLE**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 5:1-14.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 5:4.

"And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark."

NOTE: We have studied about the actual building of the temple and about the furnishings which are inside. The cost of building this temple is variously estimated to equal from two to five billions of dollars in our money. The temple was built by 30,000 Jews and 153,600 Canaanites. It took seven and one-half years to build it. The ark of God is now ready to be placed in the temple.

1. What did Solomon bring into the house of the Lord in II Chronicles 5:1?
2. For what purpose did Solomon assemble the elders of Israel? II Chronicles 5:2.
3. During what month was this assembly, and for what purpose did they meet? II Chronicles 5:3-5.
4. What did King Solomon and the congregation of Israel sacrifice to the Lord? II Chronicles 5:6.
5. The priests brought in the ark of the covenant, and where was it placed in the house? II Chronicles 5:7-9.
6. What was in the ark? II Chronicles 5:10.
7. How did the priests and the people praise God in II Chronicles 5:11-13.
8. What filled the house of God at this time? II Chronicles 5:14.

LESSON III

GOD APPEARS TO SOLOMON

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 7:1-22.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 7:12.

"And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice."

1. When King Solomon's prayer was finished, what happened to the burnt offering, and what filled the house? II Chronicles 7:1.

2. Why could the priests not enter into the house of the Lord? II Chronicles 7:2.
3. What did the children of Israel do when they saw how the fire came down? II Chronicles 7:3.
4. Did the king and all the people offer sacrifices? What did King Solomon offer for a sacrifice? II Chronicles 7:4-5.
5. What did the Levites do in II Chronicles 7:6?
6. How many days did Solomon and all Israel keep the feast, and what did they do on the eighth day? II Chronicles 7:8-9.
7. What promise did the Lord make to Solomon and His people if they would humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways? II Chronicles 7:12-18.
8. If they turned away from God and forsook His commandments to worship other gods, what would be the result? II Chronicles 7:19-22.

LESSON IV

THE GREATNESS OF SOLOMON

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 8:1-18.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 8:10.

"And these were the chief of king Solomon's officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how the glory of God filled the temple and how the people worshipped and offered burnt offerings. The Lord promised many blessings to the people of Israel if they would keep His commandments. If they did not obey Him, He said He would cast the house which they had built out of His sight. Now we are going to study about how great Solomon was in his kingdom.

1. Twenty years after Solomon built the house of the

Lord, what happened? II Chronicles 8:1-2.

2. Name some of the places that Solomon built. What did he make the people who were left of the Hittites and the Amorites do? II Chronicles 8:4-8.
3. Who were his men of war? How many officers ruled over the people? II Chronicles 8:9-10.
4. Who did Solomon bring up out of the city of David? II Chronicles 8:11.
5. Did Solomon still offer burnt offerings unto the Lord? II Chronicles 8:12-13.
6. Whom did he appoint, and what were their duties? II Chronicles 8:14-15.
7. Was the house of the Lord now perfected? II Chronicles 8:16.
8. What did Hiram send to Solomon in II Chronicles 8:18?

**King Solomon used God's blessing
 In a most unselfish way;
 He built a holy temple
 Where all could worship and pray.
 "Great is thy faithfulness!"
 King Solomon prayed;
 God kept His promise,
 For Solomon obeyed.
 "Great is thy faithfulness!"
 I sing to the Lord:
 For He is my Shepherd,
 And He keeps His Word.
 What more could I want
 Than to serve Him each day;
 For He leads me to blessings
 When I follow His way.**



*SPRING
COMES
FOR
SHIRLEY*

It's spring! thought Shirley with delight as she looked out of the kitchen window. Sure enough, there was a very pale sun shining, and she could see some little green shoots along the side of the garage where the cold winds could not reach them.

"Here are your boots and your knitted cap," said Mother bustling into the kitchen. She was carrying Shirley's heavy winter coat over her arm, and Shirley was simply furious.

"I do not have to wear those things, today, especially not a hat and boots," she grumbled. "Everyone else is wearing short socks and light jackets. I have seen them."

Mother shook her head as she held out the boots. "It may seem like spring, dear, but anything is likely to happen to the weather before you get home for lunch. You know you will get an earache and your cough will start up again if you get cold."

Shirley flounced down on a chair and jerked her boots on. Then she put on her cap, and dragged on her coat. She was so angry she did not kiss Mother good-bye as she usually did before she went to school. She just banged the kitchen door and clattered down the cellar stairs to the gate entrance. There was a wooden shelf down there that Dad used for old paint cans. Shirley had an inspiration. Very quietly she pulled her boots off, then her cap, and hid them behind the paint cans. Then, humming loudly, she hurried out of the side door and headed for school.

Grown-ups are always trying to spoil your fun, she thought as she joined some of her friends also on the road. They do not care how hot you get in winter coats, and you can't run when you are all bundled up. When I have little boys and girls of my own, I will let them wear anything they want!

At recess, Shirley played skipping with her best friends, Ann and Margie. She felt fine when she was skipping, but when it was her turn to stand and turn the rope, she started

to shiver. Looking up, she saw the sun had hidden its face behind a black cloud, and she felt chilly little breezes blowing around her feet and through her hair.

Back in school Shirley kept glancing through the window. The sky got darker and darker, and the windows rattled as the wind tried to get in. Now it did not look like a spring day. It looked like the middle of winter. Great splashes of rain pelted down, and then they turned to snow. Big, white, dancing flakes. Shirley thought about the long walk home. She had no boots and no hat, and she remembered how much her ears hurt the last time she got cold. She wished with all her heart she had heeded Mother's advice.

Just before it was time to leave for lunch, one of the older girls came into the classroom and spoke to Miss Wills, the teacher.

After she had gone, Miss Wills said, "I would like to speak to you for a minute, Shirley." As she walked up to the desk, Shirley wondered what she had done wrong, even though Miss Wills did not look cross.

"I have just had word from the principal's office, Shirley, that your Mother brought your hat and boots for you. Be sure to pick them up at the office."

As she thanked Miss Wills, Shirley felt her cheeks burning. Mother must have discovered the boots and hat she had hidden and walked all that way up to school with them.

Tapping on the principal's door, she remembered what she had been thinking on the way to school. She had thought grown-ups like to spoil everyone's fun, but now she knew this was not so. All Mother wanted to do was to be sure she stayed healthy, the way God meant all little girls to be. She was sorry she had forgotten to follow the verse she learned in Sabbath School. "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).

Shirley put on her woolen cap very carefully, making sure the ears were covered. Then she sat down and gently pulled on her boots. There were rules for health just the same as there were for a skipping game, and from now on, she would be sure to keep them. But even more important she would remember the words she learned in Sabbath School, and she would do her best to follow them.

-By Janet Craig James

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

People of the Bible liked music. They had many different musical instruments.
Fill in the blanks with thirteen musical instruments mentioned in the Bible.
There is only one way in which they will fit correctly, and each word is used only once.

- HARP PIPE VIOLIN FLUTE ORGAN
- CORNET TABRET CYMBALS PSALTERY TRUMPET
- SACKBUT DULCIMER TIMBRELS

The crossword puzzle consists of a grid with the word "PSALTERY" filled in horizontally. The grid has several empty cells for other words. Surrounding the puzzle are illustrations of musical instruments: a harp (top left), a horn (top center), a trumpet (top right), a sackbut (middle right), a dulcimer (bottom center), a tabret (middle right), and cymbals (bottom right). There are also several musical notes scattered around the puzzle.

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GOD'S FOREST

By Delwin DeLong

*A twig went CRACK beneath my weight,
As through the woods I strode;
My every glance told of no hate,
Each step in God's abode.*

*An evergreen, a mighty oak, a small and tender fern,
A blade of grass, a tiny flower -
Here was a place that man could learn
To live in peace and not by power.*

*A breeze now bent that mighty oak,
It whistled through the fern;
The chill was felt, I pulled my cloak
Around my neck in turn.*

*A ray of sun streaked through some leaves,
And danced upon the ground;
A gust of wind tore at my sleeves,
But never made a sound.*

*God's presence there, I now could feel,
In sun, in wind, in tree;
A lesson here He did reveal:
Man, live in harmony.*

