

The Advocate of Truth





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In memory of:



“Well done...thou good and faithful servant.”

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive, and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive, and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.” I Thess. 4:13-18

On January 21, 2022, at 10:40 p.m., in Mexico City, our dear brother Moisés Torres Martínez passed away at the age of 73.

From childhood he was taught in the word of God since he grew up in a family dedicated to the work of the Lord, his grandfather Aaron Martínez, apostle of the Church, was part of those who instructed him in his career. From a very young age he began to work in the Church of God, and soon stood out at the national level for his character as a born leader, his total dedication to the work of God soon allowed him to grow within the ministry of the Church.

On June 4, 1995, he was chosen by lot as one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of God and with this he continued his career. He expanded his work horizons internationally, part of his work was extended to Central America, being an important pillar and support for the brothers of those countries establishing the correct order and understanding in that region. His participation in the Church Council was appreciated, since the Lord always helped him and gave him understanding to understand the scriptures and thereby bring valuable knowledge among the brothers.

Being a great preacher and evangelist, he contributed to the spiritual and material growth of the Church. He was characterized as a man filled with the Spirit of God, who was given the gift of understanding prophecy and being able to teach it to others. He was a promoter of the edition and printing of Spanish language literature (Advocate of the Truth and Sabbath School Lessons) in Mexico, as well as in the construction of buildings (temples) and to support the Church in Mexico, to organize and order it in a correct and honest way for it to work according to the government ordained by God.

We will always carry him in our hearts, since he was a great friend, a good brother, and a mentor or spiritual father who leaves us with good memories of him, we have hope and consolation that one day he will hear the call of the Lord and he will rise to eternal life. Elder Moises will be missed not only in Mexico City but all over the world. His sermons and articles concerning church matters and relating to the Word of God have been an inspiration and have gone into nearly every country of the world.

A brotherly hug and the consolation of God to be able to overcome this unfortunate loss.

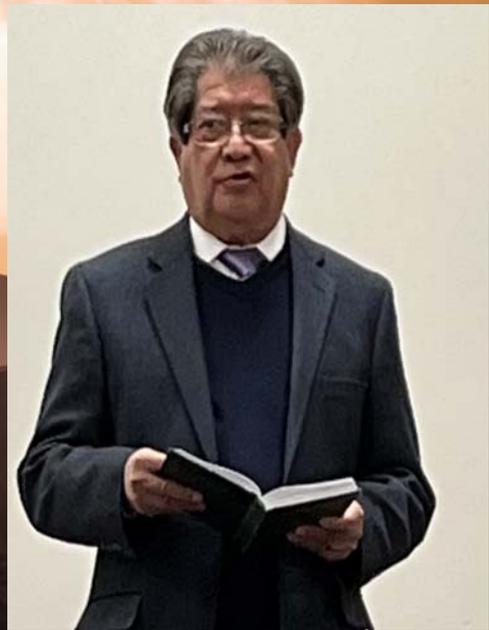
How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!
Romans 10:15.

A soldier has fallen in the midst of the fray
One who fought through the heat of day
Not by the sword, which is of man,
But by the sword of the Spirit-strong and grand.

We know this soldier, we helped him fight
We prayed together to banish the night
And light from his pen flowed out o'er the world
And the banner of Christ by his writings unfurled.

Good-by to this soldier, who fought with his pen
Good-by to this soldier and leader of men.
God knew him in life. He knows him in death
And someday He'll give back the life-giving breath.

To some he was a Brother
To some he was friend, known only by others
To God he was both brother and friend
Who kept him and loved him right to the end.





by Moises Torres M.

***SPIRITUAL BALANCE OR EQUILIBRIUM:
THE LORD HAS A SCALE TO WEIGH THE SPIRIT OF MAN***

Proverbs 16:11: “A just weight and balance are the LORD’S: all the weights of the bag are his work.

The Lord is the one who weighs our spirit, He puts it in balance, and knows if we are in a spiritual balance, or if the balance of the Lord is tipped against us and we are found wanting like King Belshazzar (Daniel 5:27).

In this difficult time in which it has befallen us to live, we must seek and try to find the way to keep ourselves in a state of balance and righteousness before God, because the text, says: “A just weight and balance are the LORD’S.”

One of the Lord’s counsels is, “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider...” (Ecclesiastes 7:14).

What should we consider in this difficult time to keep our thoughts (mind) in spiritual balance?

We must consider with much vision and thoughtfulness whether we are doing right or wrong. We must be prudent and measured, and not go to extremes in our considerations or way of seeing things. There are righteous men who exaggerate in their righteousness, and wise men who go to excess.

Ecclesiastes 7:16-17, says: “Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldst thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?”

The rigorists or radicals, the over-cautious, the jealous, the morbid or scrupulous who would not even want the

dust to touch them; these types of people sin by wanting to be “so righteous”, that they only maintain a false weight when it comes to being placed in the balance of the Lord, and then they are found wanting like King Belshazzar.

PROVERBS 11:1: “A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.”

I Corinthians 10: 31-32: “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”

EPHESIANS 5:15-17 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

Let us pray we are found in a right spiritual balance, in the balance of the Lord Jesus Christ.



By Bibi S. Allicock
Guyana, South America



God

THE MAGNIFICENT POWER OF ALMIGHTY GOD

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof" (Psalm 46:1-3). "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire" (verse 9).

As we depend upon the Lord to be our refuge and strength, let us do what is required of us, and He will definitely look down upon us. "For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" (Romans 9:15).

We know that Sarai was Abram's wife, but to save his life in Egypt, he told Pharaoh that she was his sister; thus to prove that God is no respecter of persons. Although Pharaoh was a king, he only took the woman into his house, and he did not as much as touch her. Yet the Lord was angry with him. "And it came to pass, that, when Abram has come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house" (Genesis 12:14-15). "And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?" (verses 17-18). Because God called Abram to serve Him, He had to protect him through

His magnificent powers. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3). Thus, God could not allow Pharaoh to take Abram's wife. He had to intervene in order for His promise to Abram to be fulfilled.

In Gerar, Almighty God also saved Sarah from Abimelech, the king who sent and took Sarah. "But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine" (Genesis 20:3-7). "So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abrahams' wife" (verses 17-18).

The essence of the matter, here, is that when God is for you no man can be against you. And we can also see that the king was covetous in that he already had a wife. Because he saw beauty, he lusted after her. We should take heed of our Lord's admonishment: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).

When we accept the true and living God into our lives, He will always be there to lead and guide us when we're living according to His commands. As we continue to read the book of Genesis, we see the magnificent power of God whereby He caused Sarah to bring forth a child when she was past the flowering stage. "Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son" (Genesis 18:11-14). "And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him" (Genesis 21:1-2). "And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me. And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age" (verses 5-7).

As the magnificent power of the almighty God continued, Abraham made his eldest servant answer that he would not take a wife unto his son from the Canaanites. "And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again. The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence" (Genesis 24:1-7). "And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water. And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. And the servant ran to meet her, and said, let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking" (verses 10-19).

Here, we see a very beautiful young girl who willingly gave water to Abraham's servant and his beasts also. She even called him lord which showed deep respect unto elders whether they were in authority or not because the man was a servant of Abraham. Also, we should take note that the man made even the camels kneel down while he knelt down and prayed that God would grant him his

petition. Thus it was granted. "And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in? And she said unto him I am the daughter of Bethuel..." (verses 22-24). "And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD" (verse 26). "And the man came into the house" (verse 32, first part). "And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on. And he said, I am Abraham's servant" (verse 33-34). "And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son" (verses 37-38). "And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left. Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good" (verses 49-50). "And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men" (verses 58-59).

Today, we are instructing our children just as in the olden days, but instead of adhering to us, they sometimes want their own way. Thus we hear them saying that their parents should not choose their mates. Therefore, they socialize with all manner of people. Before they know it, they end up with an unwanted pregnancy or they turn to drugs. In the book of Ecclesiastes, we see an instruction to our young people: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Also, we are instructed to wait upon the Lord. "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:14). Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife (Genesis 25:20). Also, we saw that Rebekah was a virgin." And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her" (Genesis 24:16), first part).

As children of God, let us be an example to the world and keep ourselves unspotted. Through the magnificent

power of almighty God, nothing is impossible with Him. All we have to do is trust Him where we cannot trace Him. He will provide talented husbands and wives for us when we ask Him. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:4-8). "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (verses 20-21).

HATE....BUT LOVE

*Hate the sin, but love the sinner,
Ever keep the two apart;
Reaching out with loving-kindness,
Show the love God can impart.*

*Hate the sin--keep right on hating,
Hold God's precepts ever high;
Hate the sin with God's own power,
Live as though He is ever nigh.*

*With all that's in you, love the sinner,
Live the gospel that you bear;
With smile or gold and words of mercy
Teach him of our God's own care.*

*Hate the sin, but love the sinner,
Ever keep the two apart;
Living, loving as a Christian,
Thank Him, He transformed your heart.*

Alvin Fisher

The Birth of the Spirit

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listenth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:5-8).

A spirit creature is able to move like the wind, with no one being able to see them or even know of their presence. That's the third birth spoken of by the Scriptures. Each birth does have a conception before it. We all had to have been conceived in our mother's womb before our birth into the world. When one is placed beneath the watery fluid, that is his conception of the water, and when the minister brings him up from the water, that is this birth of the water. The minister would then lay his hands upon the individual and pray that God would give him of his Holy Spirit, and if that person is properly prepared, then the Lord will place a portion of his Spirit into the heart of that individual. This is not the birth of the Spirit, because that person cannot go and come like the wind. It is simply the conception. Like a woman with child has to be careful to avoid an abortion, so likewise we with the Spirit of God have to be very careful to avoid the grieving of it. Ephesians 4:30 says: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

When one is born of the Spirit he cannot sin anymore, but we are in the begotten stage.

I John 5:18: "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." The Spirit of God in our hearts is to give us direction as we travel along life's journey: "For as many as are led by the Spirit

of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:1-2). John here is speaking of the birth of the Spirit, when all the saints will put on immortality, to be like Jesus is now.

Let us turn to Romans 8:22-23. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Before the resurrection of our Lord the Jews tried many times to kill him, but Jesus oftentimes made his escape by mingling with the people. Luke 4:28-30 tells of one such instance. "And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way." And again in John 8:57-59 we read: "Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."

After the resurrection of our Lord, he was able *to* appear and disappear. he was able to go and come like the wind because he was now born of the Spirit. Luke 24:30-40 gives account of this. "And it came to pass, as

he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet."

John chapter 20 verses 19 and 20 also have amazing information concerning the birth of the Spirit. "Then the same day at evening,...when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord." The entire body of believers have to wait until the resurrection at the last day to receive that new body, when we shall be born of the Spirit.

II Corinthians 5:1-5 tells us: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit."

I Corinthians 15:50-54 reads: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at

the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

When this will be a reality, we shall be born of the Spirit. Earthly transportation will not be necessary to carry us around anymore.

FRUIT-BEARING DISCIPLES

by David DeLong

Jesus told His disciples in John chapter 15, verses 1-8: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Not only is it the Lord's will that His followers bear fruit, but they are to bear *much* fruit. This is the characteristic of a disciple of Jesus as implied by His statement in verse 8. God is glorified when much fruit is produced.

Therefore, when only *some* fruit is produced, a purging (pruning) must take place by the Father in heaven so that much fruit can be produced. Let it be emphasized, however, that bearing much fruit is a relative thing. We are not to compare the fruit that we are to bear with the fruit of someone else. Bearing fruit is related to the time, talents, resources, and health that an individual possesses. But, more than that, it relates to our “abiding” in Jesus, which we will come back to shortly.

When a pruning of the branches on a vine takes place, we know that certain parts are cut off. This may include some of the blossoms, or some of the “shoots” that grow out of the branches. Blossoms are very beautiful parts of a plant, and are necessary for fruit to be produced. However, too many blossoms can actually lessen the amount of fruit that is produced.

In our lives as well, there may be times when we produce “blossoms” instead of fruit. These blossoms, in themselves, may not be harmful. But too many can keep a believer from bearing the amount of fruit that is glorifying to the heavenly Father. An example of this may involve the use of our time. Sometimes a person gets caught up in a bustle of activities. It seems that the more one volunteers for these things--civic functions, charitable organizations, fund drives, even too many church meetings--the more he or she is called upon to volunteer. It is sometimes hard to say no to this volunteerism because, after all, we are supposed to be servants. Right?

However, this person may become exhausted and overtaxed by the amount of activities so that certain negative things take place. First, his relationship with the Lord may suffer because there is little time and energy to pray and study the Scriptures. Second, his relationship with family may suffer because of the same lack of time and energy. Third, his health may suffer. The interesting thing here is that when a person becomes sick due to stress, it just may be the Lord’s pruning back some of the person’s activities so that real fruit can be produced.

The Lord Jesus gives us a clue to producing much fruit in John 15. He said in the last part of verse 5, “He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” Now, please notice verse 7. “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” These two verses appear to be very closely related. The Greek word in these passages for “abideth”

and “abide” is “meno,” and means: “to stay, abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry...” In other words, to “abide” refers to a continuous state of being.

We abide in Jesus by faith. He abides in us through the Holy Spirit and His words that we receive. Therefore, when the Lord abides in us, it always involves His words abiding in us as well. This is extremely important. Many say that they abide in Jesus by claiming Him as their Savior. But do His *words* abide in them? Listen to what rejecting Jesus really involves. “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). If a person does not follow the plain teachings (words) of Jesus, he or she is actually rejecting the Lord.

In Matthew 12:33, Jesus correlated a good tree with good fruit, and a corrupt tree with corrupt fruit, “...for the tree is known by his fruit.” Therefore, we see that fruit can either be righteous or evil, positive or negative. John the Baptist warned the multitude that came to him for baptism: “Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance...And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire” (Luke 3:8,9). Furthermore, our Savior taught about those who either become unfruitful or those who become very fruitful. He said: “And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred” (Mark 4:18-20).

Since the disciple is to bear *much* fruit; and the bearing of only *some* fruit will bring pruning from the Father; and the bearing of *no* fruit will bring an ax (and burning) to the unfruitful tree, and burning to the unfruitful branch, let us study further into this important subject of fruit-bearing.

Abiding in Jesus *and* His words abiding in us is a key to producing much fruit, as we have seen in this article. However, we also mentioned that producing much fruit is a relative thing, based upon a person’s time, talents, resources, and health. This seems to be suggested in the

Parable of the ten pounds in Luke 19:11-27. (Please see also Matthew 25:14,15).

Ten servants were each given a pound of money to produce a profit (fruit) with. The first servant gained 10 pounds with his one pound, the second servant gained 5 pounds with his one pound, and a third servant gained no profit from his one pound. The first two servants seem to have produced much fruit with their pounds, since neither one was chastised (pruned) for not producing enough. It is interesting, though, that each one was rewarded according to the amount produced: 10 pounds = having authority over 10 cities, and 5 pounds = having authority over 5 cities. But the third servant was punished for producing no profit. His fear was responsible for this. It would have been enough for him if he had only gained the interest from a bank's investment upon his pound.

Let's now examine some of the areas that the Bible classifies as fruit that disciples are to bear. First, and perhaps foremost, all disciples of Jesus must exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. This list is found in Galatians 5: 22,23 and reads: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Jesus spoke of the first two parts of this fruit in John 15:9-12. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Jesus even explained that the two greatest commandments are love for God and love for our neighbor (please see Matthew 22:35-40).

The third part of this fruit was spoken of by our Lord in John 14:27 which says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Fear, as we recall, was what kept the third servant in the Parable of the pounds from producing fruit. It will keep us from doing the same.

All of the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit is essential in a believer's life, and is automatically present, to some degree, when the Holy Spirit is indwelt by the believer. However, as Jesus taught in the Parable of the sower (Mark 4), certain things can "choke the word" (and thus possi-

bly grieve or quench the Spirit--Ephesians 4:30; I Thessalonians 5:19) in a believer so that he becomes unfruitful. This involves the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and other lusts.

Another area of fruit-bearing is obeying God's truth as recorded in the Scriptures. This is clearly shown in Colossians 1:5,6,9,10. "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth...For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Striving to build and maintain a Christ-like character is also bearing fruit. This involves:

a.) holiness--"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Romans 6:22).

b.) righteousness--"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:10,11; please see also II Corinthians 9:10; Proverbs 8:18,19). Sometimes the Lord needs to chasten us (which may involve the pruning that we mentioned), so that we can have "the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11).

c.) good words--"A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him" (Proverbs 12:14; please see also Isaiah 57:19).

d.) right thoughts--"Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it" (Jeremiah 6:19; please see also II Corinthians 10:5).

e.) wisdom--"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (James 3:17,18).

Giving an offering to help the poor may be classified

as fruit. This is the way that the Apostle Paul termed it in Romans 15:26-28. "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things. When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain." In this particular case, the offering may have included actual fruit (of the vine or tree) that Paul took to the poor saints.

Soul-winning is also a type of fruit. In Proverbs 11:30 we read, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." As a matter of fact, we sing the hymn, "Bringing in the Sheaves", which gives the thought of persons who are won for the Lord as being grain gathered in. Jesus also likens the redeemed to wheat in the Parable of the tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:30). Please notice how our Lord described soul-winning in John 4:35,36: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." (Please see also James 5:7; Romans 1:13; I Corinthians 16:15).

Included in fruit-bearing is the giving of praise and thanks to our Father in heaven. The writer of Hebrews said it like this: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

The mark, and success, of a child of God is bearing much fruit, which also brings glory to the Father. The process of fruit-bearing can only come about when the disciple abides in Christ, and His words abide in the disciple. This situation brings wonderful results to prayer (John 15:7). Fruit-bearing is also to be contingent upon how much has been given to the disciple. When much has been given, much will be required (Luke 12:48). Finally, let us hear the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 92:12-14: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing."

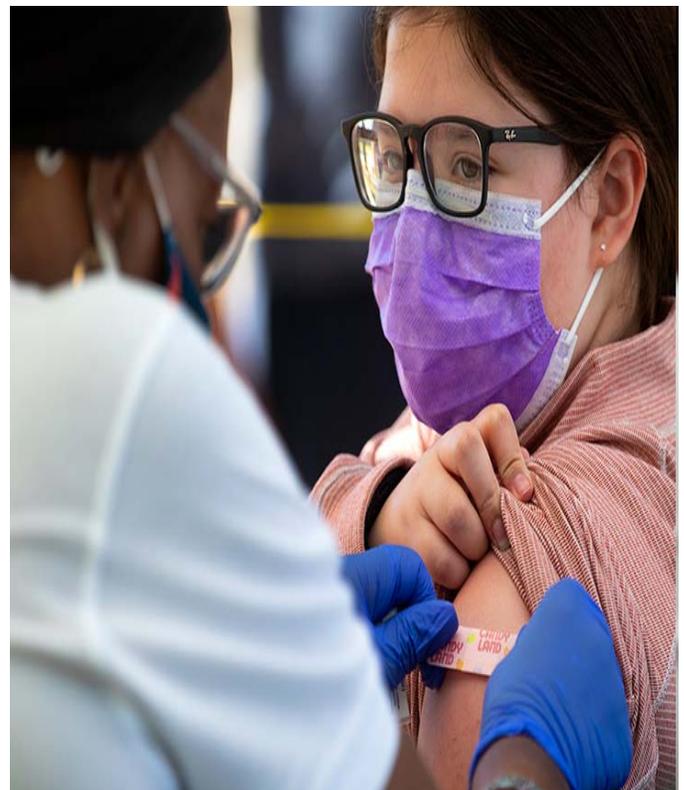
Thoughts From Our Leadership

Submitted by Jerry Womble

A man stood on the roof of his house with all the area around him being flooded and prayed to God to save him. Soon the water was up to the roof and a boat came by and offered him a ride but he said God will save me. Sometime later a helicopter arrived over him and offered to let down a rope to rescue him but he said God will save me. Finally he drowned and when he met God he said I thought You were going to save me, and God said I sent you a boat and a helicopter. Why did you refuse my help?

Brethren, we are at that point now with the covid situation in our country. God gave us vaccines to save us. Be sure you do not refuse His help.

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15).





We have tears of joy and of sorrow; we will take a look at each one.

A sinner woman that had much to be thankful for because she had been forgiven of many sins met Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee and was so joyful that she washed Jesus's feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

In Psalm 6 David says the Lord has heard the voice of his weeping and gave him blessing for his faithful service. He says he was so needful of the Lord's help that his tears made his bed to swim and he watered his couch. This is the way that he described the emotions of his deep feelings for strength and comfort from God. He says that because of his state of dependence and dedication to God that God will drive away his enemies.

Then there is this special situation of tears that David wants to happen to himself. David was still a young man but had the problem of being hunted by King Saul. In these verses he says he was wandering about the country staying ahead of trouble. Feeling that all the world is against him in Ps. 56:8 he asked God to put his tears in God's bottle. To understand David's heavy heart in asking this we need to see what he is referring to. In that day and time the priest would go around to the mourners at a funeral with a small bottle called a lachrymatory and get tears from those crying at the service. He would then give the bottle of tears to the family of the dead person and they would take it home with them as a remembrance of their loved ones and of the sympathy and concern of their

friends. Here we see David asking God to remember him in this special way.

We are looking forward to the time of no tears talked about in Rev. 7:17 and 21:4. Here the Scriptures tells us there is a time coming when God will wipe away all tears because in that kingdom there will be no crying because there will be no more death, sorrow nor pain. We may cry in this life for joy or sorrow but a time will come when all this is forgotten.

*FROM LIFE TO DEATH
-OR-
FROM DEATH TO LIFE
???*

Skeptics are always seeking to point out flaws in the Bible expressions. Did Jesus say He would make His followers "fishers of men?" Then someone will sneeringly remind us that He would have His servants going around drawing men from their true element wherein they were free and contented, into an element in which they could not breathe and in which they must die.

If you wish to be that emphatic as to believe this thought you may be free to do so without doing violence to the words of Jesus. When you come to Christ and are caught you actually must die to your present environment and become born again to the Lord Jesus. So you see you are like a fish and must leave your environment of sin and put off the sins of the flesh (become scaled) before you are worth anything.

Now if you do not want to be like a fish, the Master Teacher did not overlook that point either. Notice the rendering of Luke 5:10, when Jesus said to His disciples after they had taken a great draught of fishes, "...from henceforth thou shalt catch men." Literally, it is: "thou shalt capture them alive." Not as the fisherman draws the fish from life to death, but from abyss of earth to life. The Apostles were able to deliver men already taken alive in the Devil's net, gathering them from that deadly element into the net of life. Jesus was really an outstanding teacher and He always safeguarded the words He spoke.

7

Things you may or my not know about

PRAYER

by Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. Abraham prayed for Abimelech.

"So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children" (Genesis 20:17).

2. Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife because she was barren.

"And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived " (Genesis 25:21).

3. Elijah prayed for the widow's son.

"And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived" (I Kings 17:20-22).

NOTE: The soul referred to here is the breath of life.

4. Daniel prayed three times a day.

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10).

5. After being in the belly of the great fish for three days

and three nights, Jonah prayed.

"Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly" (Jonah 2:1.).

6. We should not be like the hypocrites.

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:5-6).

7. We should never stop praying.

"Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).

Christ, My Salvation

by Eva Gray

Christ, my Lord, is my salvation,

Him I'll trust, and never fear

When the tempter's darts assail me,

And the tempest draweth near.

Christ, my strength, the Rock of Ages,

Is my joy and perfect song;

Of Him, fairest of ten thousands,

Doth my heart and soul belong.

Him I will declare, yes, mention,

As I cry and shout, and sing;

Of His wells of great salvation

I will praises ever bring.

I will laud His Name forever,

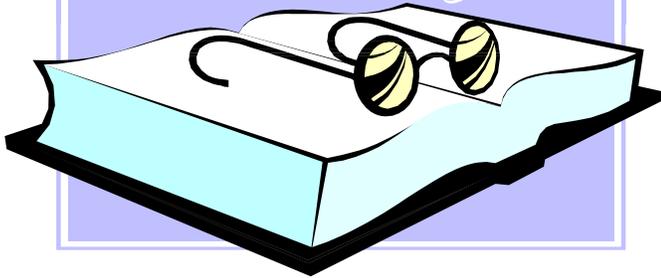
Worship, love and Him adore;

Through the ceaseless, endless ages

Praise His Name forevermore.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Home Instructor Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 4 - THE THREE ANGEL'S MESSAGES

NOTE: The everlasting gospel was first preached to Israel out of which were called 144,000. Study the lesson on the 144,000.

QUESTION: After the everlasting gospel had been preached to Israel, calling out of them 144,000, to whom then was it sent?

ANSWER: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" Revelation 14:6.

NOTE: Angel in prophecy means message or messenger. These are three warning messages sent by God to His church for the world spanning the gospel age.

QUESTION: What two things comprise the everlasting gospel?

ANSWER: "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come:

and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water" Verse 7.

QUESTION: For what purpose did Christ say He came into the world?

ANSWER: "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind" John 9:39.

QUESTION: Had Israel overlooked judgment?:

ANSWER: "But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" Luke 11:42.

QUESTION: When did Christ say the judgment of the world began?

ANSWER: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world (Satan) be cast out" John 12:31.

QUESTION: Upon whom did the judgment begin?

ANSWER: "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?" I Peter 4:17

QUESTION: How do we know that the preaching of God as the Creator was a part of the apostolic message?

ANSWER: "Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined

the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" Acts 17:22-26.

NOTE: We see that the Apostles taught the first message or everlasting gospel in its entirety. This message is also a part of the gospel today.

QUESTION: What was the second angel's message?

ANSWER: "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city" Revelation 14:8; first part.

QUESTION: Where else is this message repeated?

ANSWER: "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" Revelation 18:1-2.

QUESTION: Why and how did Babylon fall?

ANSWER: "...because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" Revelation 14:8; last part.

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" Revelation 18:3.

NOTE: In the book of Revelation, Babylon includes the city of Rome. The Bible outlines both the spiritual and literal fall of this great city. The church at Rome did not fall into the errors of the ancient Babylonian religion all at one time, but she fell gradually. The heathens of Rome had adopted the Babylonish religion. In order to win these pagans to so-called Christendom the church at Rome adopted these false doctrines or wine of fornication, one by one, until she was engulfed with them. She attributed all of the pagan feast days which were in honour of the sun, moon, and stars to Jesus Christ. For example she finally accepted the venerable day of the sun, the first day

of the week as the day of worship instead of the seventh day as God had given it. She accepted the birthday of the sun-god Tammuz, December the 25th as the birthday of Christ. We could go on and on. Being the predominant church during the dark ages she forced her religious beliefs upon all nations, causing them to commit spiritual fornication with her, by accepting her teachings instead of Christ's. Read Revelation 17:9-18.

QUESTION: What did Paul say was already working in his day?

ANSWER: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" II Thessalonians 2:7".

QUESTION: How did Paul warn that this fall would take place?

ANSWER: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the second coming of Christ) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" II Thessalonians 2:3-4. Also read Ezekiel 28:1-11.

QUESTION: How did John show that the spirit of iniquity, the doctrines of Babylon, were also invading the Churches of God causing them to stray from Christ?

ANSWER: "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, (Baal the Babylonian sun god), who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols (usually the unclean meats), and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (lewd doctrines), which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth (The Word of God)" Revelation 2:14-16.

NOTE: This was written to the Church at Pergamos. "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth

herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space (time) to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works" Verses 20-23.

NOTE: This was written to the church at Thyatira. The way Jezebel was teaching was through men teaching the Babylonian doctrines in the church.

When the church at Rome fell into complete spiritual darkness by accepting the doctrines of Babylon she became the habitation of devils because the doctrines of Babylon are the doctrines of the Devil. She became the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird of prey, preying upon the nations with her doctrines which will only lead to destruction. She made or seduced all nations to drink of her wine or doctrines. This is emphasized in Revelation 17:4.

Part of the gospel of this age is to reveal modern Babylon and the doctrines of her fall.

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" Revelation 2:9-10.

NOTE: This was written to the church in Smyrna. Revelation 2:8.

QUESTION: What did the third angel warn against?

ANSWER: "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the pres-

ence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:9-10).

QUESTION: What will those who worship these things drink?

ANSWER: "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (verses 10-11).

QUESTION: What is the wrath of God?

ANSWER: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" Revelation 15:1.

QUESTION: Why should we come out of, or away from the doctrines of Babylon?

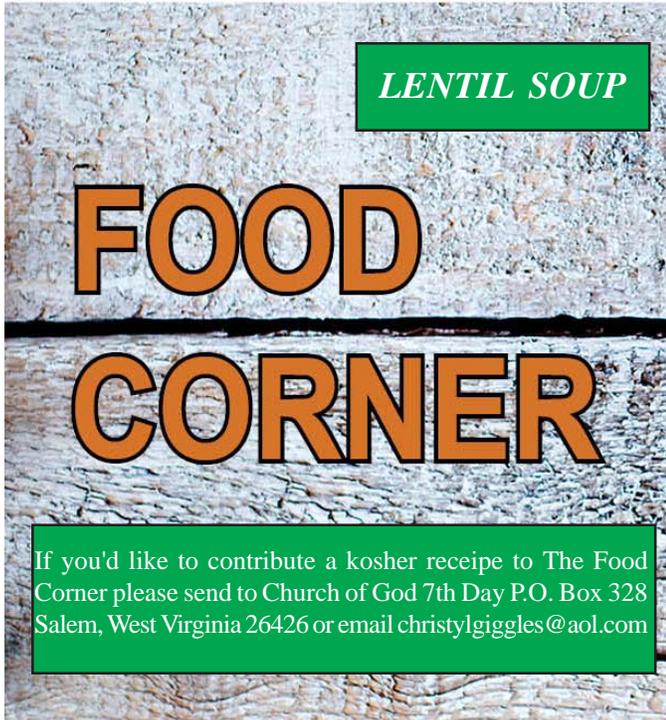
ANSWER: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" Revelation 18:4.

QUESTION: How may we escape the wrath of God which is the seven last plagues?

ANSWER: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.

"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" Revelation 15:2.

NOTE: The gospel of the church today includes all three of the above messages. We should be placing great stress on calling people away from the doctrines of Babylon. It is with this in mind that this book is published.



Beans or lentils (legumes) were served widely in the Old Testament. "Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way:..." (Genesis 25:34).

Legumes are good antioxidants, and are low in saturated fats. And they make a great meatless meal with their high protein and high fiber value.

"And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness" II Samuel 17:27-29.

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 medium carrots, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 large celery stalk (about 2 ounces), cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste

- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 cups dried brown lentils
- 1 can Rotel spicy tomatoes
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- 7 sprigs thyme, leaves stripped (about 1 teaspoon leaves)
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest, plus the juice of 1/2 lemon (about 2 tablespoons)
- 1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, plus more for garnish, roughly chopped

Directions

Heat the oil in a large heavy-bottom pot over medium-high heat. Add the carrot, onion, celery and 1 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are starting to caramelize and take on a dark brown color, 8 to 10 minutes (this step is important as it will add tons of flavor to your soup!)

Stir in the tomato paste and garlic and cook, scraping up the brown bits, until the garlic is fragrant and slightly softened, 1 to 2 minutes. Add in the lentils, stock, 4 cups water, thyme, bay leaf, oregano, red pepper flakes, lemon zest, 2 teaspoons salt and a generous amount of black pepper and stir to combine. Bring to a boil then reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook until the lentils are softened with just a bit of bite, 25 to 30 minutes.

Remove the bay leaf. Puree 2 1/2 cups of the soup in a blender until smooth then stir back into the pot. Stir in the lemon juice and parsley. Ladle into bowls and garnish with more parsley, cheese cubes and green onion.



LESSON I

ELIJAH IS TRANSLATED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY

Scripture Reading: II Kings 2:1-15.

Golden Text: II Kings 2:11.

"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied about Elijah meeting Elisha and anointing him a prophet. Elisha continues to follow Elijah as he is trained to take over for Elijah when he is gone. In this lesson, we will study about how Elijah gets to another country.

1. What did Elijah tell Elisha to do, and what was Elisha's reply? II Kings 2:1-2.
2. While at Bethel, who comes to talk to Elisha, and what do they say to him? II Kings 2:3.
3. Where are the next two places that Elijah and Elisha go, and who meets Elisha at these places? II Kings 2:4-7.
4. What does Elijah do in II Kings 2:8?
5. What does Elisha ask Elijah to do for him, and what is Elijah's reply? II Kings 2:9-10.
6. What became of Elijah in II Kings 2:11?

NOTE: Elijah was taken up in the atmosphere and sent to another country. Ten years later Elijah sends a letter to the king (II Chronicles 21:12). This shows us that it was just as Enoch was translated to another place so that the native people could not continue to harass him (Jude 14-15).

7. Did Elisha see Elijah taken up, and what did he do next? II Kings 2:12-14.

8. What did the sons of the prophets say and do when they saw Elisha? II Kings 2:15.

NOTE: You can read more about Elisha and the miracles he performs in the book of II Kings.

LESSON II

DANIEL

Scripture Reading: Daniel 1:3-21.

Golden Text: Daniel 1:9.

"Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

NOTE: We are going to study about Daniel and three other faithful Israelites that were selected to work in the palace for King Nebuchadnezzar. Let us find how God blesses these men for their obedience.

1. What qualities did King Nebuchadnezzar want in children that were chosen to stand in the king's palace? Daniel 1:3-4.
2. Who was chosen, and what was ordered to give to them? Daniel 1:5-6.
3. What new names were given to these four young men? Daniel 1:7.
4. What request did Daniel ask of the prince of the eunuchs, and was God with him? Daniel 1:8-9.
5. Of what was the prince of the eunuchs afraid, and what did Daniel suggest that they do? Daniel 1:10-13.

NOTE: Pulse is eatable seeds such as peas, beans, or lentils.

6. Did the prince consent to Daniel's idea, and what happened at the end of ten days? Daniel 1:14-16.
7. What did God give to the four young men for their obedience? Daniel 1:17.

8. When King Nebuchadnezzar asked to see the children that were chosen, what did he discover about Daniel and his three friends? Daniel 1:18-21.

LESSON III

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:1-30.

Golden Text: Daniel 3:17.

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we met Daniel and his three faithful friends. God blessed them. In chapter two of Daniel, you can read about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and how God helped Daniel interpret this dream. Daniel is made ruler over the sole province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men. We will now study about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and how God delivers them from a fiery furnace.

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar make, and who did he order to come and see it? Daniel 3:1-3.
2. What were these people ordered to do in Daniel 3:4-5?
3. What would happen to those who did not worship the golden image, and were there people who obeyed this? Daniel 3:6-7.
4. Who did not serve the king's golden image? Daniel 3:8-12.
5. King Nebuchadnezzar is very angry at the report he hears and orders the three men to come. What did he ask of the three men, and what was their reply? Daniel 3:13-18.
6. What did the King order to be done to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Daniel 3:19-21.

7. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and to the men who threw them into the fire? Daniel 3:22-23.

8. What did King Nebuchadnezzar see in the furnace, and what did he say to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Daniel 3:24-27.

9. After seeing the miracle of the three men being saved from the fire, what did King Nebuchadnezzar say, and what became of the three faithful men? Daniel 3:28-30.

LESSON IV

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Scripture Reading: Daniel 5:1-31.

Golden Text: Daniel 5:5.

"In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace:..."

NOTE: We last studied about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being saved from the fiery furnace. In chapter 4 of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar has another dream that Daniel interprets for him. In this next lesson, we will now study about King Belshazzar and how Daniel is called to help him.

1. Who is Belshazzar and what do we find him doing in Daniel 5:1-4?
2. While King Belshazzar is at his feast, what strange thing does he see happen? Daniel 5:5. What did the king do after he saw this hand write on the wall? Daniel 5:6-7.
3. Could the Kings' wise men interpret the writing on the wall? Daniel 5:8-9.
4. What did the Queen suggest that the King should do in finding out what the message is? Daniel 5:10-12.
5. When Daniel was brought to see king Belshazzar, what did he say to him? Daniel 5:13-16. **Continued page 23**

ASHLEY FINDS A FRIEND**By Janet Craig-James**

It was on the way to school that Ashley heard Joan and Margie talking. Ashley did not mean to listen, but she was wearing her running shoes, and the two girls did not hear her walking behind. Margie was talking, and Ashley knew it was Kate Sharpe they were talking about.

"I do not like her at all," Margie was saying. "Just because she is smart in class, she thinks she knows everything. Let us stop talking to her, Joan. If we stop, all the rest of the girls will leave her alone, too. When we are playing out in the yard we will not pick her for any other games. It will be fun to see what she does."

Ashley walked slowing into school, thinking about what Margie and Joan had been saying. Kate was a very quiet little girl. It was true that she was clever, but she never said anything about it. All she wanted was to be friendly with the other girls. Ashley knew how much it would hurt Kate if the girls did what they were planning. She would never know why they were treating her badly.

At recess, Ashley watched Joan and Margie walk over to the other side of the playground. They had always been the leaders in the class, and so the rest of the girls followed them. Kate was left standing alone, not knowing what to do.

Ashley felt her heart thump with fear. She knew it would be a difficult thing to do, and that probably the girls would treat her the same way as they were treating Kate but she threw back her head and walked over to Kate. Ashley slipped her arm through Kate's and said, "What was the name of that book you were talking about in class, Kate? It sounded so exciting I thought I would get it out of the library."

Ashley saw the girls were watching as she spoke to Kate, but she pretended not to notice.

Kate clutched her arm as if she would never let it go. She could not understand why she was being left alone, and she was grateful to Ashley for helping her.

During recess Kate told Ashley all about the book and about a lot of other books she had read, too.

When they went back to class, Kate smiled at her gratefully, but Joan and Margie glared. If even one girl was speaking to Kate it would spoil their plan.

Ashley felt a little uncomfortable, but she was glad she had not ganged up on Kate as with the rest of the girls. Because Kate was so quiet, Ashley had never gotten to know her very well, but now she knew what an interesting person she was.

The next day most of the girls were still not speaking to Kate, and they were avoiding Ashley as well, but one or two of them seemed sorry for what they had been doing. At recess, Ashley and Kate were joined by these girls. One of them brought a new skipping rope, and they took turns turning and skipping.

Ashley did everything she could to make the girls see how nice Kate really was - even though she was very clever and did not say much.

Pretty soon everyone, including Margie and Joan, were speaking to Kate again. The plan had not worked because Ashley had made up her mind she was not going to join in doing something she knew was wrong.

Now that Ashley knew Kate so much better, she found out something else. She thought she was being a good friend to Kate by helping her, and so she was. But something else had happened, too. By doing what was right, she also had gained a friend.



**Answer to Bible Riddle
on page 23 - Judges 15:4**

Fox

Lessons continued from page 21

6. Summarize in your own words what Daniel tells the king in Daniel 5:7-24.
7. What were the words that were written on the wall, and what did they mean? Daniel 5:25-28.
8. What was Daniel's reward, and what became of King Belshazzar? Daniel 5:29-31.

TOOLS IN THE BIBLE

People who lived in Bible times didn't have electric lights or modern conveniences, but they did have certain tools. Some of their tools are listed below. The vowels have been removed. Can you fill in the missing letters? See how well you can complete them without looking up the text.

1. P - T T - R'S W H - - L Jeremiah 18:3
2. S L - N G I Samuel 17:40
3. S P - - R II Samuel 1:6
4. H - M M - R S Psalm 74:6
5. - X G - - D Judges 3:31
6. P - G Isaiah 22:25
7. THR - SH - NG SL - DG - Isaiah 28:27
8. S - WS I Kings 7:9
9. Y - K - Matthew 11:29

GIFTS FROM GOD

God has given each of His little creatures special abilities. He has also given each of His children certain gifts or talents. The verse below tells us how He wants us to use these gifts. The words are in the wrong order. Rearrange them so that they make sense. The answer is in I Peter 4:10. "As God man of every grace hath manifold received the gift of stewards even good so as another minister to the one same."

YOUNG DANIEL

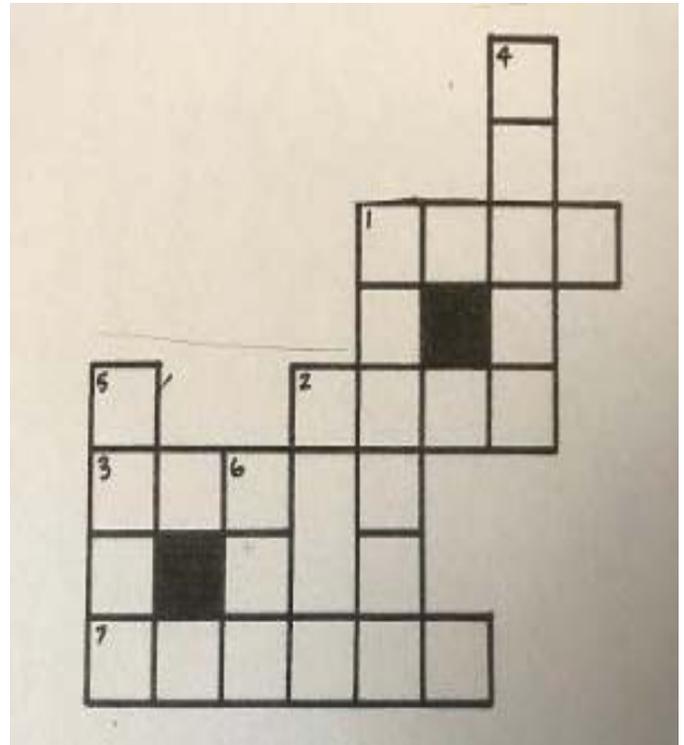
Daniel 1:1-7

Across

- 1 - A sweet, purple fruit - rhymes with "Drum"
- 2 - A man who rules over a country
- 3 - Opposite of in
- 7 - Young ___ would only eat the food of his people.

Down

- 1 - A son of a king
- 4 - Opposite of old
- 5 - Daniel would not eat the King's _____.
- 6 - The number that comes before eleven



Bible Riddle -

*We live in holes,
We are sly animals
We spoil crops
Samson caught 300 of us
Who are we?*

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