

The Advocate of Truth





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OUR FOUNDING

By David Royer



Independence Day

*is a time to remember
our freedoms and
thank God for them.*

While speaking with a brother in Panama, he inspired me to write this article. He said that the problem with the United States is that our country is moving further from our founding principles, based on Judeo-Christian values.

In our current worldly day-to-day environment, the popular view is that the United States was founded by secular, white men who were not religious. This revisionist's assertion is untrue and an effort to change history. Regardless of what's being written and taught today, we are the only nation built upon the Christian faith!

Most of the early colonists considered themselves Christians. Differing Christian groups often believed that their practices and faiths provided unique values that needed protection against those who disagreed, driving a need for rules and regulations. Source: <https://www.facinghistory.org/nobigotry/religion-colonial-america-trends-regulations-and-beliefs>

The key Founders who were most responsible for the documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, intended a FREE nation based on biblical moral virtues.

Even though there were a few Agnostics during early colonial times, most of our founders believed that religion was necessary for maintaining moral virtue and assumed that the nation would remain culturally Christian.

Source: Constituting America, <https://constitutingamerica.org/>

Christianity's influence on American law was most pronounced in the colonial era, especially in New England's Puritan commonwealths. Early colonial laws drew extensively from biblical sources, especially Mosaic law as interpreted within the colonists' theological traditions. Christianity also contributed to an evolving constitutional tradition in the colonies and, later, the newly independent states, culminating in the U.S. Constitution framed in 1787.

Source: Published online by Cambridge University Press: 24 June 2019 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/great-christian-jurists-in-american-history/introduction-christianity-and-american-law/5AEA44725A0B80CCAD5DDD2252D8148E>

Here is a sampling of statements made by our original settlers, founding fathers, and government leaders:

* Before establishing the 13 colonies of England, the Mayflower Compact was signed on the ship Mayflower before landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts. This Pilgrim Charter of 1620 states in the preamble that its purpose was to advance the enlargement of the Christian religion to the glory of God

Almighty.”

Source: Constituting America <https://constitutingamerica.org/>

* When Maryland was chartered in 1632 as one of the 13 colonies, they wrote, “We are motivated with the pious zeal for extending the Christian religion.”

* The 1776 Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson and edited by his fellow delegates, contains a theory of rights that depends on a Supreme Being, not man, for its validity. The Declaration states that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Notice that our Founders recognized God as an invaluable part of the founding of this country.

(Note: If you would like a copy of the Declaration of Independence, go to <https://constitutionus.com/additional-documents/free-pdf-of-us-declaration-of-independence/>)

Commentary on the Declaration of Independence: 1. “Yet, even in the midst of declaring the United States to be a new, independent nation as a matter of right, the concluding paragraph has two important references to God.

The first is an appeal “to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions.” This is a remarkable thing for a bunch of “rebels” to proclaim. It is common for a rebel to begin with the rejection of human authority and quickly follow with the rejection of divine authority. This was not the attitude of America’s founders.

They believed in the higher law that comes from God, and by this appeal, they acknowledge their duty of obedience to God both in word, action, and even in their intentions. In the midst of declaring their independence from England, they declared their dependence on God.

The second reference to God in the last paragraph of The Declaration of Independence comes in the last sentence: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

This again echoes the theme of dependence on God. In the first instance, they proclaimed that their hearts were right before God; this last sentence proclaims that the success of their efforts depended entirely on God’s intervening protection.”

Source: Constituting America, <https://constitutingamerica.org/>

* George Washington, in his farewell speech on Sept. 19, 1796 said, “It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible.”

* John Adams, 2nd President said, “Our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people.”

* Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President said, “Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.” January 1, 1802

* John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams, and 6th President said, “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principle of Christianity.” July 4, 1802

* Andrew Jackson, 7th President said, “The Bible is the rock upon which our Republic rests.”

* Harry S. Truman, 33rd President said, “We can all pray. We all should pray. We should ask for courage, wisdom, for the quietness of soul which comes alone in them who place their lives in His hands.”

* Ronald Reagan, 40th President said, “America was founded by people who believed that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it’s all right to keep asking if we’re on His side.”

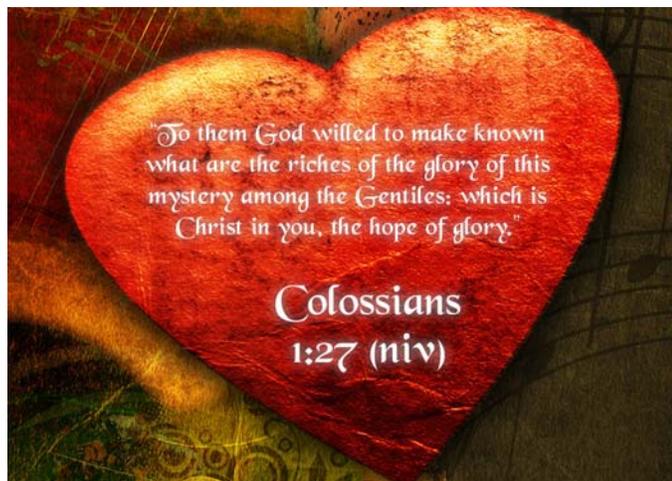
* George Bush, 41st President said, "The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us; so that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways... that all peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other."

Summary

This brief history lesson supports that the founding of The United States of America was influenced and built upon Christian ideas and faith! America's founders believed in a higher law from God and acknowledged their duty of obedience to God in word, action, and even intentions. In the midst of declaring their independence from England, they declared their dependence on God.

The hope for the future of our country is embodied in a speech delivered by Dwight Eisenhower, 36th President, "Without God, there could be no American form of Government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first — the most basic — the expression of Americanism. Thus, the Founding Fathers saw it, and thus, with God's help, it will continue to be."

Jesus said, "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32). No government can give us freedom, but what they can do is protect and preserve freedom. God is the Author and His Son, Jesus, provides the path to all liberty and true freedom.



THE HOPE OF GLORY

Deuteronomy 6

*When your sons and daughters ask you
About the past, in the days to come;
Remember what our Lord taught us
And all the wonderful things He has done.*

*Look back on the time of Noah,
The world exceeded the limits of sin;
So the Lord cleansed the earth the first time,
And could find just eight righteous then.*

*The Israelites became bondsmen in Egypt,
A life of slavery in a foreign land;
But through miracles, and signs, and wonders
The Lord freed them with His mighty hand.*

*He said if you keep My commandments,
My statutes and testimonies too;
I'll give you the land that I've promised
To the faithful who came before you.*

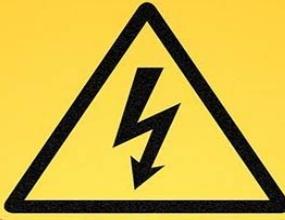
*So all Israel waited for the Savior,
But when He came, they said this can't be Him;
They rejected what He tried to teach them,
So the Gentiles were grafted in.*

*Even though they crucified Jesus,
He was raised, and lives immortal today;
For our sins He was sacrificed for us,
And through His words we are taught the way.*

*Again, He says, keep My commandments,
And the New Covenant I bring to you;
I'll continue to bless you in all things,
And grant the gift eternal life too.*

*So let us not be forgetful,
And remember what we have to do;
To fear God is the beginning of knowledge,
And the hope of glory is Christ in you.*

Pat Evans



THE DANGERS OF LOOKING BACK

When we come to God, we must know that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him: Thus, if we look back, it is very dangerous and detrimental unto us, as Lot's wife, who looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city...And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed...Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:15; 17; 24-26).

We must understand when Almighty God appoints us to do His work, He always equips us properly. Thus He chose Jeroboam to be king and govern the ten tribes of the children of Israel well. "And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces: And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of

the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:... And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee" (I Kings 11:28-31; 38).

"And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD" (I Kings 12:20-24).

We see here that Jeroboam became king over the ten tribes of the children of Israel as was prophesied by Ahijah the prophet, but instead of looking to Almighty God for His wisdom and guidance: he set up idols and chose priests from the lowest of the people: also he did

the offerings on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, instead of the fifteenth day of the first month. Thus he sinned miserably: "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense" (I Kings 12:28-33).

We see here he devised things of his own heart and burned incense, which was not a king's duty. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." We are not to devise things of our own heart, but we ought always to: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 14:12; 3:5-6).

Almighty God desires for us to always acknowledge Him and He will direct our path, but Jeroboam told the children of Israel that the calves which he made were their gods which brought them out of Egypt. But as we study the Scriptures, we will see differently. "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace...Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses" (Exodus 14:13-14; 30-31).

Had Jeroboam hearkened unto the command-

ments and statutes of Almighty God, God would have been there for him, but he decided to worship idols instead. Thus he got a warning from the prophet; and although he tried to harm the prophet, when he put out his hand unto him, his hand was withered and the same prophet had to pray for him, that he was healed, yet he did not depart from his evil ways. "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before...After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth" (I Kings 13:1-6; 33-34).

After his sinful practices, his son became sick, and he asked his wife to disguise herself and go to the prophet Ahijah. He sent her in disguise because it was the same prophet who told him he would be king, but he must hearken unto the commandments and statutes of Almighty God. But because he didn't do such, he could not have faced the prophet, this leading him to send his wife in disguise. But we must understand we can fool man, but not Almighty God. But since the man is a man of God, God will

definitely be with him and guide him. "At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, which told me that I should be king over this people. And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child. And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age" (I Kings 14:1-4).

Nevertheless, although the prophet could not see properly, Almighty God guided him because he did that which was right in His sight. "And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman. And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings. Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel, And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes; But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back: Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone. Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken it. Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam" (I Kings 14:5-13).

The danger of looking back is so detrimental that the prophet who prophesied against Jeroboam was offered refreshment and a reward for deeds done unto Jeroboam by him; but the prophet could not partake because the LORD instructed him that he could not eat bread, nor drink water, nor go back the same way which he came. Nevertheless another prophet deceived him, and he went back and did eat and drink with the old prophet. Thus a lion killed him on his way home. "And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Beth-el. Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am. Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him. So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back" (I Kings 13:7-20).

"And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God com-

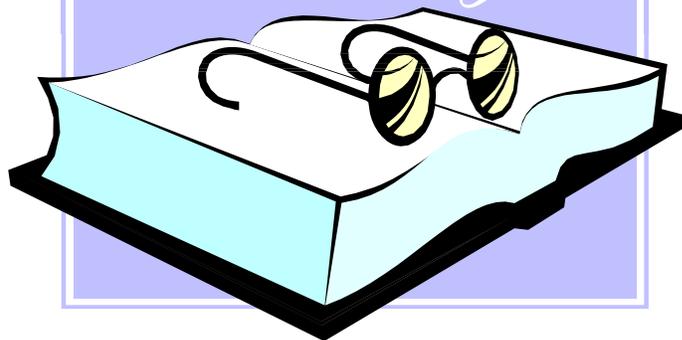
manded thee, But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers. And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase. And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him" (I Kings 13:21-26).

"And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass. And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God...And he laid his carcase in his own grave...And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass" (I Kings 13:28; 29 first part; 30 first part; 31-32).

We see here what took place because the man of God was disobedient and instead of listening to God and doing His work properly, he came back to the city to eat bread just as Esau, for one morsel of meat, sold his birth-right. Amen.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Instructor of Truth 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 18B - DANIEL 2 (NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM OF THE IMAGE)

QUESTION: How did Daniel answer the king?

ANSWER: "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass thereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightiest know the thoughts of thy heart" (verses 27-30).

BIBLE TRIVIA
Answers to Trivia on page 19

1. Noah
2. wild gourds
3. a little cake
4. Leah
5. Jonathan
6. arrows
7. Benjamin
8. Gadarenes
9. Sarah
10. "a stone"
11. rebuked them
12. Rachel

QUESTION: What had the king seen?

ANSWER: "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible" (verse 31).

QUESTION: Of what metals were the head, breast, arms, belly and thighs composed?

ANSWER: "This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass" (verse 32).

QUESTION: Of what were the legs and feet composed?

ANSWER: "His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay" (verse 33).

QUESTION: What did he finally see?

ANSWER: "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces" (verse 34).

QUESTION: What happened to the image?

ANSWER: "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them..." (verse 35, first part).

QUESTION: What did the stone become and what did it fill?

ANSWER: "...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (verse 35, last part).

QUESTION: Who was the head of gold?

ANSWER: "Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men

dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold" (verses 37-38).

NOTE: This reign of Nebuchadnezzar lasted from 603-538 B.C. or a period of 65 years.

QUESTION: What then would arise?

ANSWER: "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth" (verse 39).

NOTE: As Babylon was known as the golden kingdom, Medo-Persia was the silver, and Grecia the brass. Medo-Persia, represented by the breast and arms of the image, lasted from 538-331 B.C., a period of 207 years. The Grecian kingdom represented by the belly and thighs existed from 331-168 B.C., a period of 163 years. Therefore the head, breast, arms, belly and thighs existed a combined total of 435 years. These dates are the approximate dates recorded by history.

QUESTION: To what was the fourth kingdom compared?

ANSWER: "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (verse 40).

NOTE: Rome is known in history as the iron monarchy. She existed as a kingdom from 168 B.C. -476 A.D., a period of 644 years. We see that the legs which represented the iron monarchy of Rome were somewhat longer than the body which is not an oddity in the image of man. Here the parallel of the fourth beast upon which the woman sits in Revelation 17 is complete. Once the woman or church took over the power of the beast, the prophecy of the beast as a separate entity is not resumed until the time when the woman shall be destroyed.

QUESTION: In what condition are the feet and the toes?

ANSWER: "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes,

part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay" (verse 41).

NOTE: As stated above, prophecy and history leave off with the Roman Empire as a separate entity in 476 A.D. Prophecy, however, picks it up again with information of the feet. The feet were not formed immediately following 476 A.D. It is our generation that has been living in the period of the forming of the feet so that the ten toes can be formed shortly before the Lord takes over the nations.

QUESTION: What is the condition of the toes?

ANSWER: "And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken" (verse 42).

QUESTION: How does Daniel bring us down to the present?

ANSWER: "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay" (verse 43).

NOTE: This has been the condition of the European nations since World War I. Marriage and trade with men of all nations has been increasing. The common market of Europe is the beginning evidence that the ten toes are soon to be formed. The ten toes of Daniel 2 and the ten horns of Revelation 17 are synonymous. They shall not cleave one to another so they continue as ten separate entities or nations but will combine to make the beast strong again after the Roman church is destroyed.

QUESTION: What will happen in the days of the ten toes or kings?

ANSWER: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (verse 44).

NOTE: In the days of the ten toes the Fifth Universal Kingdom shall be established on earth by Jesus Christ.

QUESTION: How had God made this known to the king?

ANSWER: "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure" (verse 45).

NOTE: The little stone represents the kingdom of God that will grow during Christ's millennial reign until it fills the whole earth.

QUESTION: What then did the king do?

ANSWER: "Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him" (verse 46).

QUESTION: What did he confess?

ANSWER: "The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret" (verse 47).

QUESTION: What position did he give Daniel?

ANSWER: "Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler (governor) over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon" (verse 48).

QUESTION: Did Daniel forget his companions?

ANSWER: "Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king" (verse 49).



A problem had occurred in Great Britain called mad cows disease. It seemed to be a neurological disease that was found and could be passed on to humans. Because it takes awhile for it to show up in your body, a lot of people in Great Britain quit eating beef.

Many people were concerned about their health on this issue.

We had a speaker at our school recently, who spoke about AIDS. The speaker held up a sign that said this is a picture of a person with AIDS. The person didn't look any different than regular children. The whole point is that you don't know who has AIDS. He went on to point out that the best way of not getting AIDS is to obey God's laws, stay pure and stay monogamous in your marriage. Make sure you obey God's laws and you won't get this disease. You don't know who has it or how they got it. When we keep God's laws, we will be kept from those things.

It seems that people get very concerned when they know about those things that will affect them. What about the unclean things that are in this world? Unclean foods, when eaten, affect our health. What we eat will affect us. God says the penalty for not doing his commandments is death. The penalty for catching AIDS is death. The penalty for sin is death. If people were really conscientious about obeying God's laws then they would save their lives.

Lets turn to II Chronicles 26. There was a king named Uzziah. He was quite a good king. He was sixteen years old when he started his reign as king and he reigned for fifty-two years. But that good king made a mistake. In II Chronicles 26:1-4 we read, "Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem.

His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did." Uzziah followed the good example of Amaziah, his father, and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.

In II Chronicles 26:5 we read, "And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper." He was properous and lived well in his area; and, even when the warriors and the Philistines came against them, and the surrounding countries came upon them, he was successful in defeating them.

Continuing in II Chronicles 26:7-9 we read, "And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur-baal, and the Mehunims. And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly. Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them." Uzziah did some other things for Israel. He made towers for Jerusalem and was very crafty and talented.

"Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred. And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy." (II Chronicles 26:11-13). He was well liked, and most of all he kept God's laws and was well blessed because of this.

II Chronicles 26:14-15: "And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong." The Lord was with him and helped him. In all ways he prospered quite well.

I think a little of this went to his head because he made a mistake. He thought, to himself, "I'm a pretty good individual," and pride got in the way. "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense." (II Chronicles 26:16). Not even the king was suppose to do this. Only the priests could burn incense, and he knew this. He allowed pride to enter in and he thought how great I am. I'm going to go ahead and do this anyway and go against the Law of God. He was rebuked. The priest even told him, "don't do this, you are going against God's Laws." Uzziah was angry now, because the priest said this to a powerful king.

"Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar." (II Chronicles 26:19). If you think of all the good this king had done, and now he had made this one little mistake, how could leprosy be spreading all over his entire body? The leprosy didn't leave Uzziah. He died of it and that ended his reign. What a way for a good king to die after only making one mistake, but he broke God's Law. This had a devastating effect on his life just like the devastation one would get from AIDS.

The penalty for disobedience is death. God has set down several laws for us to follow. One is the Law of clean and unclean. If God's Laws are not followed, the penalty is death. Now if people knew about the unclean foods just like they know about this mad cow disease, they wouldn't be eating unclean foods. They would shun it just like the people shun the beef in England. It is not always evident the harm that is being done to someone eating unclean food, but there are diseases of which no one knows the source. There are people's livers being destroyed and no one knows the cause. Sometimes drinking does undo the liver, but there are other causes also. What about diabetes? What is its cause? No one has any idea. God tells us, He knows and says definitely that

the unclean foods are bad for us. He knows our bodies and tells us, DON'T EAT THEM, stay away from them. This is one of the laws that we must obey. He made our bodies and He knows what is good for our bodies.

In the long run, even if someone is not physically harmed, he or she will be spiritually harmed for not keeping God's Laws. If you don't die from that particular disease or whatever ailment you receive by eating an unclean food, then you will die that second death which is eternal death. There is no more chance for life beyond that.

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). God knows everything in our lives. We can't hide anything from Him. He watches over His people, and He knows about our lives. The wicked, however, are estranged from Him.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD..." (Proverbs 15:8). We know before Jesus came on this earth that when people sacrificed they were sacrificing for sin. Well if this wicked individual was sacrificing it says that this is an abomination unto God. He is trying to do something right, yet his whole way of life is an abomination to God.

"...but the prayer of the upright is his delight" (Proverbs 15:8). God is so happy when His children pray to Him. It is a delight for Him. Following after His words, keeping his commandments, and precepts, is a delight to God.

"The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness" (Proverbs 15:9). We also read in Isaiah where eating the abominable thing, (the mouse and the swine's flesh,) is an abomination to God. He does not want to see that happen and he turns away from those things.

"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words... The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:26,29). He turns his back on the wicked, he doesn't want to have any part in that. But those who follow after His ways are a delight to Him, and He turns and listens.

"When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Proverbs 16:7). We each have a job, and that job is to be God's people. We need to keep ourselves pure, like we are told to do.

We stay away from the mad cows disease of the unclean meats if you wish to call it that. We have a job to do. We need to spread His Word and do the things He asks us to do.

In Ezekiel, we are told about the faithful shepherd. We are shepherds so to speak, each and everyone of us, and we need to feed the sheep: we need to do our part in spreading God's Word. "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" (Ezekiel 34:1-2). These shepherds were looking after their own interests. They were building up their own wealth and making it easy for themselves. They were not going out and keeping the flock.

"Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered" (Ezekiel 34:3-5). The Lord is telling us we need to be good shepherds and we need to look after and try to help individuals. We need to try to help the flock and bring them together.

"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them" (Ezekiel

34:6-10).

There were many leaders in the land of Israel that went their own ways and were contrary to God. They didn't do the things that were for God. They did not feed the sheep. We need to take these things as a warning for ourselves, so that we are not reckless shepherds but faithful shepherds.

When we come together, we need to be especially mindful of each other, and we need to make ourselves right with each other in the sight of the Lord. When we come together we wait upon one another and try to help one another by being considerate to one another and being right with one another. We also need to spread the Word and tell others of the correct way and we ourselves need to keep those things and help others to keep those things. Let us be good shepherds one to another.

"But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (I Corinthians 10:5-6). When the children of Israel came out of the Land of Egypt they did not obey what God was telling them to do. They followed the ways of wickedness rather than the ways of God.

We do not want to be evil shepherds but we want to be good shepherds. "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND ROSE UP TO PLAY. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:7-11). These things were written for our admonition. They were written so we could see the proper path to follow. It is imperative that we keep God's Laws as good shepherds.

We need to think on these things, keep the commandments of God and His testimonies, and spread the Word that He has given to us.

God bless you as you think on these things.

In Memoriam – Bond Tennant



Elder Bond Tennant
1943 - 2023

“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 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Bond Tennant, 79 of Alvin, Texas passed away on Monday, April 3, 2023 following an extended illness. He was born July 23, 1943 in Clarksburg, West Virginia, son of the late Charles Louis Tennant and Elizabeth Bond Tennant. Bond graduated from Salem High School and Salem College, with a Bachelor’s in English and Religion. Bond was drafted during the Vietnam War and served as a medic from July 14, 1966 to May 25, 1968.

Bond was raised a Seventh Day Baptist but later joined the Church of God, 7th Day and was baptized June 25, 1966.

Bond was a minister with the Church of God (7th Day) and member of the editorial staff of the Advocate of

Truth. Bond served as a member of the Church Council of Seventy.

Bond wrote articles for the Advocate of Truth in the 60’s and continued until he was no longer able in 2022. Bond loved the church brethren and a highlight was attending the Apostolic meetings and visiting with the brethren.

Bond is survived by his wife, Laura Loomis Tennant, whom he married April 19, 1970; one child, Sallie Anne Kerns and husband Jack Kerns, Alvin, Texas.

Elder Bond will be missed not only in Salem but all over the world. His letters and articles concerning church matters and relating to the Word of God have been an inspiration.



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-bye to this soldier, who fought with his pen
Good-bye 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 Dad, to us he was Brother
To some he was friend, known only by others
To God he was both brother and friend
Who kept him ad loved him right to the end.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

San Antonio Texas - Left Brother Mario Cantu and Right Brother Tim Buechner baptizing a new member into The Church of God 7th Day Body. Picture below shows ministers laying on of hands after baptism with prayer for new member - on far right Brother Jerry Womble.





*Pictured above members of the Panama Church
Pictured below Baptisms in Río Grande, Cocle, Panama.*



God Must Have His Way, And His Way, Alone

By David DeLong

Some people may think that the Lord is being selfish by wanting only His will to be done. They may think that He is on a big, cosmic ego-trip for demanding obedience to His commandments and precepts, alone. But, this belief is the farthest from the truth that ever could be. Since the Lord demands of us humility, then that has to be one of His attributes as well. As a matter of fact, the book of Psalms tells us about God's humility. Chapter 113, verses 5-6 reads: "Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!"

Jesus' life and teachings show us exactly what the Father in heaven is like. In John 14:8-9 we learn: "Philip saith unto him (Jesus), Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" How does Jesus characterize Himself? We find in Matthew 11:29-30, Jesus speaking: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Therefore, since Jesus is meek and lowly, the Father in heaven is also meek and lowly. He is definitely NOT on an ego-trip.

Why, then, does the Lord demand that He must have His way, and His way, alone? It is not out of selfishness, but rather out of pure mercy. Mercy for us, His subjects. Since God knows everything perfectly, He also knows the past, present, and future perfectly. He knows that only His way is the right way. No one else's way is as right as God's way. Not the angels in heaven's way, and definitely not our way upon the earth. Good sailors know that if a person deviates from a true course of navigation by only one degree, that they will end up hundreds of miles off course. If we deviate from God's commands by just the tiniest fraction, we will also end up on the path of death

and destruction. So the Lord commands us for our perfect good.

It is Satan who is really the selfish being, not God. Even when his name was Lucifer, Satan's goal was "I will." Isaiah 14:12-14 reads: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." No one can be like the most High. His ways are absolutely perfect, with no deviation.

King Nebuchadnezzar also had an "I" or "my" complex. In Daniel 4:29-31 we find: "At the end of twelve months he (king Nebuchadnezzar) walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee."

A great problem, today, is that many professed followers of Jesus are willing to follow Him only if they can do so on their terms. They may think, for instance, "I will pay my tithes only if I think I can afford to do so." Or else, "I will help out at church if I can get recognition for it." Jesus is calling on us to get totally rid of the "I" and "me" complex. He wants us to follow Him absolutely and with no deviation from His, and the Father's, will. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" (Luke 9:23-25).

BIBLE TRIVIA

Answers found on page 9

- 1. The first man to plant a vineyard was (Nabal; Seth; Noah). Genesis 9:20*
- 2. The hungry prophets cooked (husks; wild gourds; garlic) which would have caused their deaths if they had eaten them. II Kings 4:39-40*
- 3. The Prophet Elijah asked the widow to give him (a quail; a little cake; bread and butter). I Kings 17:13*
- 4. The first woman mentioned as having poor eyesight was (Leah; Eve; Hannah). Genesis 29:17*
- 5. When Saul commanded David to be slain (Samson; Michal; Jonathan) warned him. I Samuel 19:1-3*
- 6. Jonathan used (arrows; a scarlet cord; five pebbles) to let David know that Saul intended to kill him. I Samuel 20:33-42*
- 7. Paul's father belonged to the tribe of (Judah; Dan; Benjamin). Philippians 3:5*
- 8. The (Gadarenes; scribes and Pharisees; high priests) asked Jesus to depart from their coasts. Mark 5:1-17*
- 9. (Sarah; Rachel; Rebekah) was the first woman who was described as "a fair woman to look upon." Genesis 12:11*
- 10. Jesus told Peter that he would be called Cephas, which is by interpretation ("a pillar"; "a stone"; "a river"). John 1:42*
- 11. The disciples (rebuked them; were happy; were indifferent) when Jesus laid his hands on the little children. Matthew 19:13*
- 12. (Jezebel; Abigail; Rachel) was the first woman to be called "beautiful." Genesis 29:17*

LESSON I

CHRIST DIES ON THE CROSS

Scripture Reading: John 19:16-24, 33-38.

Golden Text: John 19:16.

"Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away."

1. Who carried the cross on which Jesus was to die? Luke 23:26.
2. What was the name of the place to which they carried the cross? John 19:17.
3. Was anyone else crucified with Jesus? John 19:18.
4. What writing did Pilate put over Jesus' head? John 19:19.
5. Why did the Jews object, and what did Pilate answer? John 19:21-22.
6. What was done with the garments Jesus wore? John 19:23-24.
7. The soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves, but why did they not break Jesus' legs? John 19:32-33, 36.
8. Who came to take the body of Jesus, and what did they do with it? John 19:38-42.

NOTE: This lesson can be found also in Matthew 27:29-54; Mark 15:20-38 and Luke 23:24-47.

LESSON II

JESUS' RESURRECTION

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12, 36-53.

Golden Text: Luke 24:46.

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day."

1. What two men wrapped Jesus in linen clothes and anointed Him, and then buried Him? John 19:38-42.
2. How long was Jesus in the tomb? Matthew 12:40; Luke 24:46.
3. What happened when Jesus arose? Matthew 28:2.
4. What did the enemies of Jesus say? Matthew 28:12-13.
5. Were the keepers of the tomb afraid of the angel? Matthew 28:4.
6. Women came to see the body of Jesus and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. What did the two angels tell the women about Jesus? Luke 24:4-8.
7. What did Jesus say to the disciples when He first saw them, and how did they feel? Luke 24:36-39.
8. Where did Jesus lead the disciples at this time, and describe the events that happen in Luke 24:50-53.

LESSON III

SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24.

Golden Text: Matthew 24:33.

"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

NOTE In our last lesson, we learned of Jesus' resurrection and that He returned to heaven. We will now go back to when Jesus was alive to learn what He taught about the signs of His return to Earth.

1. What important question did the disciples ask Jesus as they sat with Him on the mount? Matthew 24:3.
2. Of what did Jesus warn them as He began to answer them? Matthew 24:4-5.

3. What conditions did Jesus say would take place in the world which will be signs of His coming? Matthew 24:6-11.

4. How did Jesus compare the days just before His coming with the days of Noah and Lot? Luke 17:26-30.

5. What signs would take place both in heaven and earth just prior to His coming? Luke 21:25-38.

6. Is it possible to tell the exact time that Jesus will come? Why? Matthew 24:36.

7. How do we know that these events are signs of His coming? Matthew 24:32-33.

8. What has He commanded us to do in regard to these signs, and why? Matthew 24:42-44.

NOTE: How many things can you name which are taking place in the world today that are signs of the coming of Christ? Are you looking for the Savior to come? Will He find you ready?

LESSON IV

JESUS OUR FRIEND

Scripture Reading: John 15:9-15.

Golden Text: John 15:14.

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

NOTE: When Jesus was alive on Earth, He taught His disciples about love and that He was their friend. We should also learn to love Jesus and be His friend so that we may be saved.

1. How are we to abide in Jesus' love? John 15:9. How did Jesus abide in His Father's love?

NOTE: Abide means to endure without yielding; to accept without objection.

2. How are we to love one another, and who is our example? John 15:12.

3. What is the greatest way we can show our love? John 15:13. Did Jesus do this?

4. How can we be friends of Jesus? John 15:14.

5. Why does Jesus call us His friends? John 15:15. A true friend will share his valuables, especially if it means a matter of life or death. Have you shared God's Word with anyone lately, or are you keeping it all to yourself? God's Word is life giving.

6. Why did Jesus choose us to be His friends? John 15:16. What does "go and bring forth fruit" mean?

NOTE: We must let Jesus abide in us, and keep His commandments. He showed us He is our friend.



Betty's Opportunity

Betty danced in from the rural mailbox, clasping a parcel in her arms.

"It came, Mother," she shouted excitedly, "my new rosebud dress! Now I can wear it to the outing."

Mrs. Brown looked up from the big lunch basket she was packing with all sorts of goodies for the outing at the lakeside. She smiled into Betty's eager little face.

"Open your parcel, dear," she said.

Betty lost no time in obeying. Her cheeks were flushed with pleasure. Her blue eyes sparkled in anticipation. Betty

did not get many new dresses.

"Oh-h-h-h-h!" she breathed with a happy sigh, as she unfolded the dress and shook out the wrinkles.

"Try it on," laughed Mother, who was almost as excited as Betty herself.

Betty's fingers were all thumbs, but she finally managed to wiggle into the garment.

"It's the prettiest dress I ever had," she said proudly. "I must take ever such good care of it."

"Yes, it's very nice, indeed," added Mother, as she turned Betty round and round. "Too pretty to wear to an outing," she teased.

"Mother, please - !"

"You may leave it on, dear," laughed Mother, "and now we're all ready." She placed a clean white cloth over the hamper which held pies, cakes and sandwiches.

Father came in presently. "Why, how sweet you are, Betty," he remarked in a pleased voice. "Been getting a new dress?"

"Yes, Daddy, isn't it pretty?"

"Very pretty, indeed, but remember dear," he said, stooping down to kiss the girl's rosy cheek, "remember, although Jesus likes to see your nice clothes, He would love you just the same if you wore patched dresses. Jesus looks on the heart, and I'm glad to know my Betty's heart is sweet and pure."

"That's worth more than all the pretty dresses in the world," added Mother approvingly.

Father picked up the lunch basket. "This to go?" he asked, sniffing deeply, "surely smells good."

"Yes," answered Mother, "but do be careful. Please don't spill anything."

They were soon driving swiftly along the hot, dusty country road to the cool lake shore picnic grounds.

A crowd already had gathered under the trees. Betty eagerly joined the boys and girls in the merry games. She forgot about her new dress until she saw Joan Newsome wearing one exactly the same.

Betty liked Joan, but somehow Joan did not seem to like her. Was it because she had so many friends, while Joan had so few?

All the joy left Betty's face as she met Joan's disapproving look and ugly frown.

"Smarty," Joan hissed in Betty's ear. "What business

have you with a dress exactly like mine? I hate you!" Then she walked away, leaving a heart broken girl behind her.

The outing was spoiled for Betty - and all because of a pretty rosebud dress. "I hate you, I hate you, I hate you," kept ringing in her ears. Her eyes were smarting without tears. Her throat ached.

Then she remembered what Father had said. It made her feel better right away. She was glad she had given her heart to Jesus. Last Sabbath's memory verse had been, "Do good to them that hate you." O, but how could she do good to Joan?

The opportunity presented itself sooner than expected. When the time came for the girl's races, Betty and Joan were lined up with the others, eagerly awaiting the word "go." It came like the crack of a whip, and the seven girls ran swiftly forward.

Soon two were well in advance of the others. They were Betty and Joan!

Then Joan was ahead. It did look as if she was going to win when her pretty dress caught on a thorny bush, throwing her to the ground. She burst into tears. Betty, who was just a few yards behind Joan, ran on, touched the goal, then quickly stooped down, placing a gentle hand on Joan's head.

"Don't cry, Joan," she comforted, "the prize really belongs to you, for you were ahead of me when you fell."

"But my p-pretty dress is s-spoiled, sobbed Joan. "Mother will be angry."

"No, she won't, Joan," exclaimed Betty, "cause we'll trade. Isn't it nice they're exactly the same?"

Joan wiped the tears from her eyes, and amid much giggling and laughing, the two rosebud dresses presently changed owners.

"Why are you so good to me, Betty?" asked Joan, wondering. "I was ever so mean to you."

"Well, Joan," was the smiling reply, "you said you hated me, and Jesus tells us we must do good to anyone who hates us. It's better than hating back."

"I guess that's why I have so few friends, Betty," said Joan thoughtfully. "I've been doing so much hating. But I'll ask Jesus to take all the hate out of my heart and fill it with love, instead."

"He will, too, Joan," said Betty, happily.

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Your Life

By David DeLong

Your life is a sermon you preach,
Every day, unto others, you reach;
For good, or for bad, for happy, or sad,
Is a lesson your life will teach.

