



# *The Advocate of Truth*

*Faith and  
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*Zechariah 8*

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# Faith and Obedience

Faith in Christ is the backbone of our Christian religion. Without it, there would be no Christianity. That is why a Jew is not a Christian. He does not believe in Christ. The Moslem believes in Mohammed, but not in Christ. However, the Christian religion is singular in that we worship God through His Son, Jesus the Christ, and are thereby made partakers of all the promises of God to the faithful.

Many people believe that Christ exists, that He is the Son of God and Savior of mankind. But that is the extent of their belief. We are told the devils believe also, and they tremble. Such a realization of Christ is not faith. Faith is all this realization applied to life.

When an automobile is not working properly, it is one thing to know that a certain repair operation, performed by a certain skilled mechanic, will correct the trouble. It is something else to go to the mechanic to have the job done. When one is suffering from acute appendicitis, it is one thing to know that surgery can correct the trouble, and another to know that well enough and with enough confidence to have the needed operation performed.

So it is in our lives. We may be suffering all the symptoms of sin-sickness. Our lives may not be running smoothly. But to know that Christ can correct the trouble and heal the disease of a sinful nature is not enough. We have to know it well enough to go to Him and have Him perform the needed operation in our hearts.

Now let us suppose that we take our car to the skilled

mechanic, and he finds that because we have neglected the cooling system the pistons have become overheated and are quite warped, hampering the operation of the motor. Suppose we have him put in new pistons and fit them properly in reconditioned cylinders. Does that give us a motor that will stand neglect? I dare say we will be more careful to see that our cooling system is filled and the motor does not again become overheated.

But many people come to Christ to have Him take away their sins, but they do not do anything to prevent a recurrence of the same old trouble. If a person doesn't have faith enough to convert him from his sins, he doesn't have faith enough to be a Christian. The difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is that one sins habitually, while the other does not. The reason for this difference is that one has faith in Christ, while the other does not have faith in Christ.

It does little good for us to say, "I believe Christ can pardon and remove my sins," if we continue to live in sin. Faith and obedience are inseparable. Paul said we establish the law of God through faith. Through faith it becomes a permanent institution in our lives. The one who has no faith cannot transgress it.

The works of faith are obedience to the will of God.

-From an old Sabbath School Lesson



Myanmar Brethren

# Zechariah

## Chapter 8

By Moises Torres Martinez

Zechariah, chapter 8, confirms that God keeps His promises. God promised His people, Israel, a punishment because of their defiance and disobedience, but He also promised them pardon and future blessings.

We will begin our study reading a blessing of God for Israel in Zechariah 8:13-15: "And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not."

NOTE: The Lord did punish them because He always keeps His promises. He now has promised to do them well.

The punishment that the Lord promised to do to the house of Israel and to the house Judah began when they were taken captive to Assyria and Babylon. We also know of their sufferings among the nations that began in 70 A.D. for rejecting their Messiah. To this, they were sentenced by the Lord, **and He repented not**. But later we see the mercy of God in these verses when He says, "So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah."

In verses 18 and 19 of this chapter, the Lord recalls the great anguishes and sufferings of the house of Judah: "And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me, saying,

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace."

Here we have to analyze why the Lord mentions these fasts of crying and bitterness in the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months. What was it that happened in these months, and why did they fast?

First we'll talk about the tenth month. It was in a **tenth month** of the ninth year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came and built forts round about, and the city was besieged for two years. Please read II Kings 25:1-2.

II Kings 25:3-7 tells us that on the ninth day of the **fourth month** of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the famine in the city prevailed, and there was no bread for the people of the land. Then they made a gap in the wall, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, and so the king and the Chaldees overtook him, and they slew his sons before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters and brass, and carried him prisoner to Babylon. In Jeremiah 39:2-5, we read about this same event: "And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up. And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate...And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then

they fled, and went forth out of the city by night... But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho..."

We read about the fifth month in II Kings 25:8-10: "And in the **fifth month**, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem: And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. And all the army of the Chaldees, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about."

In the **seventh month**, the fasting commemorated the death of Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to whom Nebuchadnezzar had made governor over all the people that had not left the land of Judah. Please read II Kings 25:25 and Jeremiah, chapter 40.

All of these fasts that Zechariah talks about in chapter 8 were fasts of crying and bitterness because they were reminders of the events described above when they lost their freedom by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The Lord had promised them a punishment, and He kept His Word. Nebuzaradan himself, captain of the guard, recalled the Prophet Jeremiah because this evil came to Jerusalem and Judah: "And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, The LORD thy God hath pronounced this evil upon this place. **Now the LORD hath brought it, and done according as he hath said:** because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed his voice, therefore this thing is come upon you" (Jeremiah 40:2-3).

**GOD KEEPS HIS WORD!** He promised to punish the house of Israel and the house of Judah, and so He did. Thus He has turned and promised **THAT THOSE FASTS WILL BE TURNED INTO JOY AND HAPPINESS. THUS THE LORD WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE!** He will do well to the house of Judah and the house of Israel just like we read in the first verses of our study in Zechariah 8:14-15 where is recorded, "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not."

In the third verse of this same chapter 8 of Zechariah, we see the blessing that would come for the people of Israel on God's behalf: "Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain." Do you know when this promise will be fulfilled? **Of course, at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ at the beginning of the millennium.**

Let us examine contemporary history. The Lord has brought a great part of His people from the East, and from the land where the sun sets. He has brought them to dwell in the middle of Jerusalem. This means that the fulfilling of these promises is now in progress. However, the Lord is not now dwelling with them in the middle of Jerusalem and the city is not known as the "City of Truth." First, the children of Israel will have to go through a period of great tribulation, known as Jacob's Trouble. So these blessings of Zechariah 8 will have their fulfillment after the seven last plagues have been poured out upon the earth.

The blessings for Israel in the future are continued in verses 20-23. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you." We ask again, when will this be fulfilled?

Our answer is again, at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, at the beginning of the kingdom of one thousand years of Christ and the saints.

What a great blessing there will be in Israel in the nearby future, that even ten men of different nations and languages will take hold of the skirt of a Jew to go with him because they will know that the Lord Jesus Christ will be with them in those glorious days!

The Prophet Isaiah confirms the words of Zechariah. "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last

days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:1-3).

The word “mount or mountains” refers to city, cities, kingdoms or powers. The mountain, or city, of the house of God will be located upon the top of the mountains and will be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. The aim here is to see that God keeps His Word,

whether it is for condemnation or blessing. This is something that the church in our day should take into account. Just as God kept His promises to Israel, so He will keep His promises to the church. If Israel suffered its promised punishment, thus it will receive its promised blessings from God.

God’s promise to the church is that our present sufferings in no way can be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

## The Open Windows Of Heaven

Bond Tennant



The New Testament relates some distinct instances where God opened the windows of heaven.

Two times the windows of heaven were opened to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. At His baptism: “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened” (Luke 3:21-22).

2. At His transfiguration: “And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men

that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen” (Luke 9:28-36).

Two times the heavens were opened to the Apostle Paul.

1. At his conversion: “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this

way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus” (Acts 9:1-8).

2. To give him instruction when he was called to the Gentiles: “And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me. And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him” (Acts 22: 17-20).

The heavens were opened to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war” (Revelation 19:11).

Also, do you know that God assures us, through His Word, that He is with His children, and He will open the heavens to every need and to every call they may make to Him? “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it” (John 14:12-14).

How may you have God to open the windows of heaven for you? I wish to suggest five things.

1. Open your heart to Christ. He seeks entrance. “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and

will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Let nothing keep the Lord Jesus out!

2. Cast out all the idols. “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan. And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance. And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire” (Matthew 3:1-10). Put away all evil! Let nothing in your life take God’s place!

3. Love God and keep His commandments. “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me” (John 14:21-24). This statement of the Master is very simple and plain. Our Lord’s promise which He made there can never be broken!

4. Get right with your fellowman and those in your church. “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before

the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matthew 5:22-24).

5. Pay your tithes and give offerings. “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that

there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:8-10). NOTE: The paying of the tithe (10 percent of one’s increase) is enforced in the New Testament.

## Mulling Over Adultery

Bond Tennant

“Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).

During these past few weeks, I have been thinking about adultery. I have often wondered what reason one could have for being unfaithful to his or her husband or wife.

While reading the *Houston Chronicle*, I came across an article in the society section called *Why Did They Stray* by Tara Dooley who is a Pop Culture writer. It attempts to tell of several reasons. I wish to quote it for you. Here it is:

“On television, infidelity looks like a problem for the rich and famous. Take Tiger Woods, John Edwards and Lee Ann Rimes, to name just a few. Sandra Bullock’s husband, Jesse James, may be the newest addition to the club of dubious distinction.

But it’s not just the bold and the beautiful doing the cheating. Though lying about cheating is as time-honored a tradition as cheating itself, researchers estimate a third of men and 15 percent to 20 percent of women are unfaithful at some point in their lives. Helen E. Fisher, a research professor in Rutgers University’s anthropology department, says indications are that the gender gap narrows for men and women younger than 40.

Infidelity may not be as common as it seems in the

grocery store check-out line, but it’s clear that a fair number of people engage in behavior that is almost universally abhorred. In some cultures, it can lead to punishment.

‘Adultery has real negative payoffs, yet people do it,’ Fisher said.

‘The reasons are multiple and sometimes complex. On the psychological side, there’s revenge, loneliness, marriage dissatisfaction, bad sex or no sex,’ said Fisher, author of *Why Him? Why Her?: How to Find and Keep Lasting Love* (Henry Holt, \$25).

Michael S. Bishop, a former president of the Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, said affairs often start when the marriage or long-term relationship loses its emotional connection. Often, the adulterous relationship starts as friendship – a personal confidant at work, perhaps. It turns into an inappropriately close emotional connection and lands in bed.

For some the affair is a one-night stand. For others, it becomes fullblown.

‘The euphoria that the new relationship brings about, they become attached to it,’ said Bishop, a licensed marriage and family therapist at the Austin Family Institute, a nonprofit that offers low-cost mental health care.

The affair is exciting in contrast to 'coming home, dealing with children, paying bills, doing housework chores,' he said.

'Some therapists theorize that men philander to express their virility or masculinity,' Bishop said. 'Women often go searching for an emotional connection in all the wrong places,' he said. 'Then, of course, there are the folks with sexual or emotional addictions. That's a different kettle of philanderers from the majority of the cheaters,' Bishop said. 'Those folks need to find help for their problems,' he said.

'Psychological reasons don't completely explain the urge for sexual infidelity, given the risks including divorce, financial ruin and potential bodily harm,' Fisher said. She sees the possibility of a genetic predisposition or evolutionary payoff at work, too. 'For example, human

beings have three kinds of attachments: sexual, romantic and deeply emotional. They can function independently of each other,' she said.

'We are totally capable of feeling a long, deep attachment for one person and romantic love for another person,' she said. 'This is a brain architecture that enables adultery.'

'A genetic or evolutionary predisposition, addiction or a psychological need may explain adultery. But they do not offer an excuse,' Fisher and Bishop said. At some point, every cheater made a choice.' (End of article)

Pay close attention to the last paragraph of this article. No matter what the reason, the choice to commit adultery is the wrong choice. God's Word says, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).



Myanmar

## Sound Doctrine Is A Necessity

The Apostle Paul said, "...let God be true, but every man a liar..." (Romans 3:4). If our doctrine is not scripturally sound, we cannot make God a liar. If this is true, it remains that we, ourselves are under the condemnation of falsehood. If we teach a thing that is contrary to the Word of God, we become guilty of bearing false witness. Paul, in speaking of the resurrection of the dead and proving it by the resurrection of Christ in I Corinthians 15:13-15, says, "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not."

Of course, we can readily see that Christ was raised

from the dead, therefore there is a resurrection of the dead, and the apostles are not found false witnesses, but true. But if we, today, teach a thing, it must be in harmony with the Word, or we are found false witnesses of God. If God did not change the Sabbath or give us a day in which to worship other than the Sabbath, and we teach that He did give us a different rest, we become false witnesses of God. If God's kingdom is to be here on earth, and we teach that it will be in heaven, we are false witnesses and condemned by the commandment of God. We do well to be careful that our doctrine is sound, for to teach error is to be found a false witness.

It is our earnest desire as children of God to live with Christ and the Father in the earth made new. Therefore, we want to live as closely with Him as it is possible for us

to do. It is self evident that we must abide in the truth of His Word as faithfully as we can. This is true for two outstanding reasons.

First, we would not give Him less than our best. Our best is little enough, but less than that is not Christian service. In order to give our best, we should be established in truth.

Second, we want to be overcomers that inherit the crown of righteousness. In order to overcome the temptations and the doubts of this world, we need a strong doctrinal background. If our doctrine is in error, it will be easily shaken, possibly by some other erroneous doctrine, and by that we may fall. But if our doctrine is soundly

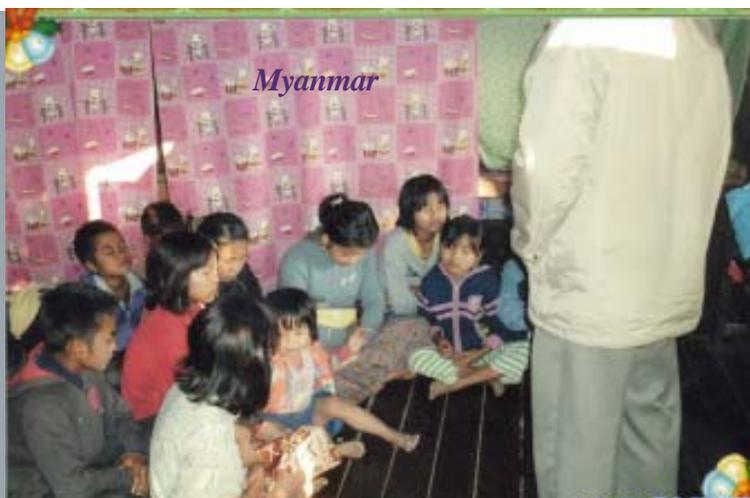
based upon the pure Word, nothing shall shake it. We are told that one can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

We are reminded of Christ's parable of the two builders, one of whom built his house on the sand, and the other built upon the rock. Our doctrine is like our house. If it is founded upon the traditions of men, it will be easily swept away in the storms of life. But founded upon the Rock, it is unshakeable and cannot be disturbed. Let us be careful that our house shall constantly be built upon the solid foundation, and will stand the stress of the storms of life.

-Adapted from an old Sabbath School Lesson

# Authority and Submission

By David DeLong



A good example of the principle of authority and submission is found in Matthew 8:5-10, where Jesus was met by a Roman centurion. "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

Everyone must have an attitude of submission to those

who are in authority. Many times, too, there are those who are under our authority, and they must submit themselves. This is what the centurion had learned. He said, "For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me..." This Roman soldier was under authority from his superiors, and, at the same time, he had soldiers under him. Because he already had this submission attitude, He was able, by faith, to place himself under Jesus' authority. Some people want to be under the Lord's authority, but won't submit to anyone else's. This simply is not acceptable to the Lord.

A warning is given in the book of Jude, verse 8, to those who reject authority and speak against "dignities": "Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." The next verse informs us that even Michael the archangel would not speak in an evil manner to the devil, but rather wanted the

Lord to rebuke him. (See also II Peter 2:10-11, and the example of Paul in Acts 23:3-5). We should be very careful how we speak of our leaders, whether they are in the church or in our governments.

First Corinthians 11:1-3 sets forth the basic authority structure of God. These verses read: "Be ye followers of me (Paul), even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Some have likened this authority structure to the protection we get from being under an umbrella when we're out in a rainstorm. As long as we stay under the umbrella, we are safe from getting wet. So too, as long as we submit to God's "umbrella of authority" we will be protected from Satan's attacks against us. To not be submitted means that we are in rebellion to God, and that put us on Satan's turf (see I Samuel 15:23).

The Bible gives us a number of situations in which we need to submit ourselves to the authority structure involved. First, and of course foremost, we must be under the direct authority of the Lord. James 4:7 instructs us to, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." This takes humility on our part, and therefore, the Lord admonishes us to, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6). Also, we are given a general command to submit ourselves one to another. Ephesians 5:21 reads, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." The Apostle Peter instructs us with similar wisdom: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (I Peter 5:5). In addition to the above instructions there are a least four other areas, involving submission, that we should consider: our jobs, our governments, our families, and our churches.

### **Our Jobs**

The places where we are employed are similar, in some respects, to a master/servant relationship. Ephesians 6:5-8 advises: "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ,

doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." The Apostle Peter adds this admonition, "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward" (I Peter 2:18).

We are to serve our bosses (masters) as if we were serving the Lord, Himself. Just because a boss doesn't treat us fairly doesn't mean that we can perform our job in a haphazard manner. We must not retaliate in our thoughts or actions. The Lord will bless us for this.

The Scriptures give admonition to masters as well as to servants. Colossians 4:1 gives part of the responsibilities that masters have: "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven." This advice by the Apostle Paul should make bosses take notice how they should treat their employees. Even in the Old Testament the Lord instructed the people how hired hands were to be treated: "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning" (Leviticus 19:13).

### **Our Governments**

There seems to be an increasing number of people who consider the governments they live under to be totally evil, even Satanic. Therefore, they fight against the authority structure of these governments at every opportunity. It is true that there are some evil men and women in governments, and there is also corruption at almost every level. However, governments are not necessarily evil in themselves and, unless they are promoting ungodly behavior (see Acts 5:29), they must be submitted to and obeyed. Jesus commanded, "...Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

Romans 13:1-7 is a classic biblical text on one's duty to submit to governments. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that

which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."

This passage of Scripture informs us that it is God, Himself, Who has set up the authority structure of governments as well as the authority structure of those who govern. If a person resists this authority, he or she will reap judgment. Notice that God did not set up every type of government that exists, or has existed. He has set up the authority structure ("power") of those governments. To resist this power is to resist God Who set up the power.

The official in charge of the government is termed "the minister of God". Part of his job is to protect the people whom he serves from those who would do evil. Therefore, everyone needs to be submissive to the power (authority) not only because he will be punished for wrongdoing, but also because it is the right thing to do ("conscience sake"). These officials or rulers need to be paid for their work, too. The Apostle commands that tribute be paid to them for their "attending continually upon this very thing." In fact, he commands that not only tribute be paid to them, but also custom, fear, and honour to whom it is due.

We have seen from the Scriptures that we are to submit to the authority structure of our governments and their leaders; we are not to speak evil of those leaders (we may, however, disagree with their policies); and we are to support the government by paying our taxes. The Apostle Peter adds another point of submission. He commands: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (I Peter 2:13-15). Whether it be obeying speed limits or some other laws, we are to submit to "every ordinance" "for the Lord's sake".

### **Our Families**

When it comes to the authority structure of our fami-

lies, perhaps it would be best to let Ephesians 5:21-33 speak for itself. In this passage of Scripture we can discern the clear instructions of the Lord, for husbands and wives, which the Apostle Paul penned to the church in Ephesus. The principles thus penned are applicable to all in the same circumstances. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Some wives may contend that they don't have to be in submission to their husbands if those husbands are not Christians. However, the Apostle Peter wrote otherwise. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear" (I Peter 3:1-2; see also verses 3-6). For those husbands who like to "boss" their wives around, Peter also had words of instruction. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (verse 7).

Children are commanded to honor their parents. This is not optional, as are none of God's commandments. Paul quoted from the fifth commandment when he wrote: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour

thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3). Paul then addressed a responsibility that fathers have to their children. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (verse 4).

Colossians 3:18-21 sums up the family's authority and submission structure: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

### **Our Churches**

We now come to the fourth area of submitting ourselves to the authority structure which God has set up--our churches. The Lord Jesus set up the Church of God (see Matthew 16:17-19; 18:20). Moreover, the Lord set apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, deacons, etc. in the church for leadership (see Ephesians 4:11-16; I Timothy 3:1-13; Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:27-30). This leadership is to be submitted to by the membership of the church. For instance, Hebrews 13:7,17 informs us: "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...Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

There seems to be less and less accountability in our churches today. Few church members, it appears, enthusiastically and joyfully obey and submit to their leaders. Jesus set up the method of discipline for church members which, it seems, few follow. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican" (Matthew 18:15-17).

Paul even declared that disputes pertaining to brethren in the church should be handled by the church. "Dare

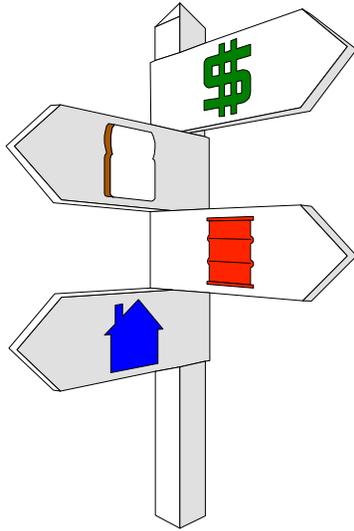
any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" (I Corinthians 6:1-3).

Of course, the leadership in the church must do their job well, too. Romans 12:8 reads, "...he that ruleth, with diligence..." I believe that most leaders in the Church of God are very sincere and diligent brethren. However, there are exceptions to this. Even in the Apostle John's day there was "...Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them..." (III John 1:9). Jeremiah warned against pastors who used the flock for personal gain. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:1-2).

The leaders in the Church of God are called upon to lead (their flocks) by a different standard. Jesus showed this in Luke 22:24-26: "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve."

The Apostle Peter wrote of this leadership attitude in I Peter 5:1-5. "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

May we ever be under the authority structure of the Lord!



## Personal Talking Things Over

There are six phenomenon in society and the world which cause stress for many people. This is especially true in the developed countries such as the United states. Children of God must be aware of these six things. Let us consider them now:

1. **The world is shrinking.** Technological inventions like satellite communication and the Internet now allow businesses to expand across national borders. This phenomenon is called globalization. Globalization has the advantage of creating a global market for companies to trade their products. On the other hand, it could cause millions of people to lose their jobs as work is outsourced to other countries where labor costs are cheaper. We have seen this happen! Many people are wondering if they will have jobs in the future.

A stock market crash or banking crises in one country can quickly spread to other countries because nations around the world are linked economically. We have seen this happen!

Terrorism used to be a problem primarily in the Middle East. This is not true today. Terrorists have taken advantage of technology such as international travel and the ability to communicate with their networks around the world. Many are uncertain about what could happen.

# THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.*

2. **The sense of community is disappearing.** Many have become increasingly disconnected with friends and neighbors, and they are less involved in civil groups or recreation clubs. As a young boy, I remember many family friends that came to our house to visit, and we visited their houses often.

Why is there this loss of community? One expert said it is because of our busy lifestyles. Many work long hours and on weekends. Therefore, many have less time for chats with the neighbors.

Another factor is that for many social networking sites, chat rooms and other on-line technology have become their “community” of choice.

3. **Many challenge “Traditional” beliefs and values.** Religion has been on the decline especially in the Western world. Assumptions by scientists have invalidated many traditional systems of faith. Many no longer hold to a system of ethics and concrete values. This has confused many families and upset moral structures.

We now live in a society where everything goes and nothing is certain. We see a tolerance of evil in promiscuity, adultery, couples living together outside of wedlock, homosexual relationships, lying, cheating, alcohol and drug use. These are just a few of some of society’s evils of which we know.

Another factor is that most of the new technological media is listened to or viewed in isolation. Parents have no way of knowing what their children are listening to on their i-Pods or what they are looking at on the Internet.

Therefore children are not getting any direction to what is wrong with these messages. Many parents seem to not care!

**4. Many have redefined the definition and structure of family.** Beginning in the 20th century the God ordained structure and definition of the family with Dad, Mom and the children has been replaced by many by new configurations which include same-sex parents, single parents and unmarried couples with children.

The divorce rate in the United States is now around 50 percent. We can assume that it has increased in other countries. The stigma associated with divorce has largely disappeared. This has weakened the institution of marriage.

More women are entering the workforce. Many women need to work out of necessity. But many women work just to sustain their lifestyles. Today, three out of four households have two working parents. This is according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In our day, the family has changed still further. Mothers and fathers are working longer hours outside the home. They have less time to spend at home with the children.

In these days when many parents and children are home together they may be too tired to be involved in conversation with their children and to have family worship. In the past, people had to talk to those under the same roof whether they liked it or not. Today, family members, especially in the developed nations, can tune into their i-Pods, talk and text on their cell phones and view their laptops. This tunes Mom and Pop out. Therefore, the children can be with whomever they choose.

**5. Life seems to be more complex and complicated.** Yes, our daily lives are more complicated and complex than they were not many years ago. We must make many purchasing decisions. The number of decisions of which to buy is increasing in many items and products. A couple of items which we must decide which to purchase are pet food and selecting a cell phone and plan.

When seeking out information, we can become overloaded. For instance, we may do a search of a subject

on the Internet. We may get information on this subject from many experts and writers. It is up to us to decide whose information we can use and which we will discard. Many times we may come across conflicting information which can be very confusing.

The technological devices we have in our homes are intended to make our lives easier. However being so complex, they can really add to our stress levels. Some technological innovations are really hard to figure out. I know those who do not know how to use important features on their computers which would help them. I am included in this group of people! They simply have not taken a class on computing or had the ability to understand any written instructions on that subject. It takes a lot more time to type an article or letter on a typewriter. But the old typewriter never crashed or bogged down, and it never was prey to viruses.

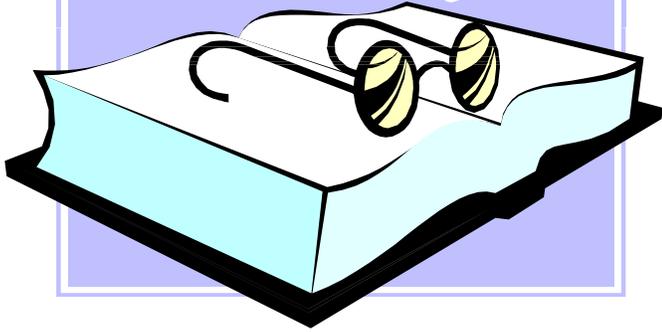
**6. We are busier than ever.** One reason that we are busier than ever is because technology allows us to do our work faster and more efficiently. Many are expected to do more in less time. Some multitask. That means they try to do two or three things at a time. They may eat lunch and conduct business calls on their cell phones while driving or checking their e-mail.

Rapid and portable communication has made it possible for employees to be reached anytime and anywhere. People can not seem to get away from work anymore. On the weekends, many are bombarded with e-mails and calls from the office. I have seen many people working at their laptops or texting messages on their cell phones when at the park on the weekend with their families, and many bring their work home with them.

No matter how complicated the world gets, we can count on God to strengthen us and guide us. No doubt children of God will face difficult times ahead. However, our Heavenly Father will give us the strength to make it through. "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. Selah." (Psalm 46:1-3)

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** What is true happiness, and how may I obtain it?

**ANSWER:** Happiness is the constant search of mankind. Much time is devoted to its search, and a great amount of money is spent on it. Many, many experiments are tried to obtain happiness. But none of these things can bring true happiness. True, they bring a sort of happiness which endures for a brief time, but there is nothing real and lasting to it. Conditions and circumstances change, and things collapse and are swept away, and their happiness has evaporated and is gone.

True happiness is not found in things seen and temporal, neither can it be known and enjoyed in the experience of worldly and sinful pleasures. These things are empty and deceive. What reality can there be about the dance, the wineglass, the card table, the opera, the moving pictures, or any one of these pleasures? The gratification of the carnal mind and the fleshly nature only leaves its deluded captive all the more empty of true happiness. Such gratification is a robber rather than a benefactor. It brings nothing into the life but takes a lot out of it.

The Lord Jesus disclosed the secret of true happiness in the Beatitudes with which He opened the Sermon on the Mount. In these Beatitudes, He declared certain characters “blessed” (Matthew 5:1-12). The word rendered “blessed” in these Beatitudes really means happy,

for it represents the Hebrew **ashrey**, and not **baruk**, and **ashrey** means “blessed.” According to the teaching of our Lord in these Beatitudes, true happiness consists in being and enduring, and not in possession of things and the experience of certain gratifying pleasures.

The world’s standard of happiness differs very greatly from that of our Lord. They call the person our Lord calls “happy”, rather, very “unfortunate”, very “unhappy”. They can think of happiness only in having lots of money, an abundance of pleasure, and worldly enjoyment. They conceive of happiness as consisting in fame, honor, applause, and standing high upon a pedestal of worldly fame and the ranks of society. They conceive of happiness as consisting wholly in the possession of things.

The Lord calls the person happy who is possessed of a different spirit from that of the world. The Lord calls the man happy who is in the right relationship with Himself, and denies self and worldly interests, and who lives with his eyes and heart set upon the things beyond and in the coming age and ages. The truly happy man is the man who finds his present portion and future prospect in Christ Himself, and who lays up treasure in heaven by living for Christ and the gospel. He rejoices in being reviled and persecuted for Christ’s sake, for the reward it will bring from heaven.

But this person is a Christian. A sinner sees no beauty in Christ, neither can he conceive of any prospect beyond this world and life. He has no capacity for spiritual things, and therefore also no appreciation of them. He is dead in trespasses and sins and also utterly blind to spiritual realities. Before he can discuss and appreciate spiritual

realities, he must be given by the Holy Spirit a vision of himself in his lost and ruined condition. He must see himself lost and utterly undone in the sight of a holy God. Having been given the vision and sense of his lost and sinful condition, he is in a proper state of mind and heart for a vision of Christ in the gospel. Having been given a vision of Christ in His Saviourhood and Lordship by the Holy Spirit through the gospel, and by faith receiving Christ as his personal Savior and Lord, he is made a partaker of the Holy Spirit and obtains a spiritual capacity for eternal realities. He will then be able to discern spiritual realities and also to appreciate them. From henceforth his conception of Christ and spiritual things will be entirely different, and if he yields to the Holy Spirit, he will be led to know and understand the blessed portion that is in Christ Jesus and also the glorious prospect which lies before him. As these things fill his vision and heart, he will find true and lasting happiness in Christ and things spiritual, and the things of time and sense will lose their attraction and will fade away.

Let us remember that true happiness is found only in being in right relationship with God through Jesus Christ the Lord. Christ alone can truly satisfy the human heart, and He does it when He is truly known and loved.

**QUESTION:** One of my friends refuses to forgive me for something I did that hurt him. What do you suggest that I do about it? Aren't we supposed to forgive others when they hurt us?

**ANSWER:** If your friend truly refuses to forgive you or have anything to do with you, there really isn't much you can do about it except to forgive him for his attitude and continue to pray for him.

You do not tell us in what way you hurt him, but one reason he may not be willing to forgive you is because he does not think that you take what you did seriously enough.

Do not give up! Keep praying that you will be reconciled, and let him know how sorry you are whenever you can through letters, e-mails or other means.

Most of all be sure to seek God's forgiveness. Christ died to make forgiveness possible.

**QUESTION:** Did Jesus ascend to His Father before He was constrained by Cleopas to stay at his house for the night?

**ANSWER:** Yes, Jesus was seen first by Mary Magdalene

after sunset on Sabbath the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the first month (Mark 16:9). Jesus said to Mary, "...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17). This was at the beginning of what we call Sunday. "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, 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" (John 20:19).

Jesus met with the disciples in the upper room and said "Handle me." He also met with Cleopas going to Emmaus. Here the two brethren "constrained Jesus" to stay with them. This was about 9:30 p.m. Jesus must have gone to see His Father in heaven.

Remember that Bible days begin with the darkness of the day, at sunset.

**QUESTION:** In what sense was Judas a devil?

**ANSWER:** Little is known of the life of Judas before his appearance among the apostles. He may have been drawn by John the Baptist's preaching, or by his own ambitious hopes of the coming of the Messianic kingdom in which he thought that he could play an important part. He seems to have declared himself a disciple of Jesus as the others did. As he was entrusted with the finances of the little company, he enjoyed a measure of confidence, although this seems to have been undeserved. Please read John 12:6. John 6:64-71 makes it clear that Jesus knew the heart of Judas from the beginning. Jesus also knew of Judas' plan to betray Him. Our Lord knew Judas' innermost thoughts. The act of betrayal was not the outcome of a sudden impulse at the Last Supper, but was the closing scene of a long career of deceit and treachery. Judas was ambitious, and like several other apostles believed that Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom in which he himself might have an influential part.

**QUESTION:** Why was twelve the number of the apostles?

**ANSWER:** All of the apostles were Jews. A main thought is that the reason there were twelve apostles is based upon the analogy of the twelve tribes. They were mostly Galileans, taken from the common people.



## *Seagoville, Texas*

*The young people at the Church in Seagoville did a large fund raiser for the Church by selling popcorn, pickles, candy, and they served dinners. Special offerings were also collected each week. The youth did a wonderful job in helping the needy.*





*Youth teachers*



*Sister Mary Herrera*

*Sister Debbie Smith*

*Sister Amalia Telesca*

LESSON I

AARON'S ROD IS TURNED INTO A SERPENT

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7:1-14.

Golden Text: Exodus 7:3.

"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt."

1. What did the Lord speak unto Moses, and what was He going to cause Moses and Aaron to do? Exodus 7:1-2.
2. What did God cause to happen to King Pharaoh, and would Pharaoh hearken unto Moses and Aaron? Exodus 7:3-4.
3. Why would the Egyptians know that He was the Lord? Exodus 7:5.
4. How old was Moses and Aaron at this time? Exodus 7:7.
5. What did the Lord tell Moses and Aaron to do with the rod, and did they do as the Lord commanded? Exodus 7:9-10.
6. What did the magicians of Egypt do? Exodus 7:11.
7. What was Aaron's rod able to do that the magician's rod could not do? Exodus 7:12. This shows that God is more powerful than Satan.
8. Was Pharaoh's heart hardened, or did he let the people go? Exodus 7:13-14.

LESSON II

THE RIVER TURNED TO BLOOD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7:15-25.

Golden Text: Exodus 7:21 (last part)

"...and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of

the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt."

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses and Aaron to do, and what were they to take with them? Exodus 7:15.
2. What was Moses to say to Pharaoh, and what are they to do with the rod? Exodus 7:16-17.
3. What will happen to the river and the fish that are in it? Exodus 7:18.
4. Read Exodus 7:19 and then tell in your own words what the Lord said unto Moses.
5. Did Moses and Aaron do as the Lord commanded? What happened to all the waters? Exodus 7:20-21.
6. What did the magicians of Egypt do, and was Pharaoh's heart still hardened? Exodus 7:22-23.
7. What did the Egyptians do for water to drink? How long did the river stay in this condition? Exodus 7:24-25.

LESSON III

THE PLAGUE OF FROGS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 8:1-15.

Golden Text: Exodus 8:4.

"And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants."

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Exodus 8:1.
2. What did the Lord say He could do if the king would not let His people go? Exodus 8:2.
3. Describe the plague which would come upon the people in Exodus 8:3-4. How extensive was this plague to be?
4. What did the Lord instruct Moses to have Aaron do? Did Aaron obey? Exodus 8:5-6.

5. Did the magicians of Egypt also cause frogs to come upon the land of Egypt? Exodus 8:7.

6. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. What did he say to them? Exodus 8:8.

7. Moses cried unto the Lord to take the frogs out of the houses, villages and fields. Did the Lord do as Moses asked? Exodus 8:12-13.

8. Did Pharaoh again harden his heart, or did he let the people go as he promised? Exodus 8:15.

7. Pharaoh again wanted the Lord to take the plague away from him. Did Moses ask the Lord to do this? Exodus 8:28-30.

8. The Lord did as Moses asked and removed the flies from Pharaoh and his servants. Did Pharaoh let his people go as he promised? Exodus 8:31-32.

**LESSON IV**

**THE PLAGUE OF LICE AND FLIES**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 8:16-32.

Golden Text: Exodus 8:24 (first part).

“...and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt...”

1. What was Aaron told to do with his rod, and what happened to the dust of the land when he obeyed? Exodus 8:16-17.

2. Did the magicians also bring forth lice? Did the magicians realize that God was working through Aaron and Moses when they failed to bring forth lice? Exodus 8:18-19.

3. Pharaoh's heart was still hardened. What warning was Moses to give to Pharaoh if he did not release his people? Exodus 8:20-23.

4. Did the Lord do as he had warned Pharaoh? Exodus 8:24.

5. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. What did he say to them? Exodus 8:25.

6. How did Moses answer Pharaoh? Exodus 8:26-27.



**PLAYING A BIBLE STORY**

A chair may be your boat. Or you may have a large box in which to sit. If you make a picture of some fish and lay it on the floor, you may pick up the picture at the end of the play to show the fish caught in the net.

Fishermen four went fishing one night;  
Rowed (1) in their boats with all their might;  
Threw (2) out their nets in the water -swish!  
And drew (3) them up, but found not a fish.  
They threw (2) and pulled, (3) threw (2) and pulled (3)  
some more.  
Till their shoulders (4) and backs and arms were sore.  
When Jesus said, "Throw," they let down (2) the net  
hoping at least a few fish to get.  
This time the net took four men to pull!  
Shining fish piled up till both boats were full! (6)

**MOTIONS:**

- (1) Row with large sideward strokes.
- (2) Throw out the nets.
- (3) Draw up the nets and look carefully for fish.
- (4) Rub sore shoulders and arms and back.
- (5) Pull the net in with great effort.
- (6) Indicate the full boat with your hands.



*Fellowship meal in Myanmar*

## SNATCHY SUZZANE

By G. H. Clement

Suzzane was a little girl with a bad habit which made her greatly disliked by all the children in the neighborhood. Everything she saw, she wanted. Maybe some little reader might say, “That’s not a bad habit, Mister, that’s only natural.” Well, Suzzane not only wanted everything she saw, but she snatched from other children things that belonged to them. If she liked what they were playing with, she would just take it, and play with it herself. Her mother, and nearly every mother in the district, had scolded her for doing this, but she still kept right on snatching things, that others had, which she wanted.

One day a little boy came to the playground with his bubble pipe. He was blowing beautiful, light bubbles out of the pipe and sending them up in the air. When Suzzane looked up from the sand box where she was playing and saw these colorful bubbles floating out of the pipe, she

got up and told the boy that she wanted that pipe. She grabbed it right out of the little boy’s hand. She put it to her mouth and blew, and blew and blew, until her face was red. But not a single bubble came out of the pipe. She tried again after she had gotten her breath, but still no bubbles. Suzzane was puzzled and disappointed.

“I guess it’s broken,” she said, as she handed the pipe back to the little boy. “No, it isn’t” said he.

“And if you had only asked me to loan it to you, instead of snatching it out of my hands, I would have shown you how it works. You can’t make bubbles with nothing in the pipe.”

Then she noticed a little bottle of soapy water in his other hand, but by then he was out of the playground and on this way home.

Still, Suzzane had not learned her lesson not to snatch things, for the next day Johnny, the boy next door, came to her backyard playing with a Yo Yo. He was making it do all kinds of tricks. Before he knew it, Suzzane grabbed it, and shot it out in front of her. But instead of it doing a nice circle as it had for Johnny, it sprang back and hit her right on the knuckles.

“Ouch,” she cried, “But watch me do it right this time.”

She spun it up in the air, and if she hadn’t ducked quickly it would have hit her right on the forehead. She handed it back, disgusted and a little shamefacedly too. She remembered the bubble pipe of yesterday.

“I’m sorry I grabbed this Yo Yo from you,” she said. “Won’t you show me how it works?”

Johnny looked surprised. He had never heard Suzzane say she was sorry for anything before. And neither had he ever heard her ask for anything she wanted. He was glad to show her, and what fun they both had together.

Suzzane never snatched anything after that. She found she was a much happier little girl, too, and her playmates now seemed so glad to share their toys with her. It wasn’t long before Suzzane was also sharing all her things with her playmates, too, and the result was that the children no longer called her “Snatchy Suzzane.”

Jesus said that true happiness comes from giving and sharing, and not from wanting everything for oneself. Boys and girls who have followed what Jesus said in this respect have proven just like everything else Jesus said, that it works.

**Word Search**

**Men Mentioned in the Old Testament**

NOMOLOSSKBEOBRE  
ELIJAHECQUBOOAH  
SHDHBMADAWJACGA  
AHIAUVOAYAOWALN  
SAVHEKHPDSEJEO  
OOABHAERWAEICIJ  
MNDWIACLMAPZANM  
APLAQUCSNHHEEAA  
KLSLACOIAKFELDH  
GIDEONWIMZXUGDA  
NESESOMLDOAUPHR  
DOPWLEUMASCPANB  
MCOERSPLWVTNSKA  
AOLEIKEZENOWMOS  
QUJOSHUACJOELEP

ADAM

DAVID

SOLOMON

JEREMIAH

JOSHUA

JOEL

SAMUEL

SAUL

ABRAHAM

ELIJAH

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

SAMSON

MICAH

NOAH

ISAAC

JACOB

MOSES

GIDEON

JONAH

NAHUM

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## **LISTEN**

*Brother Benjamin (Trinidad)*

*Listen to God and receive his direction, guidance, love, strength and all that He has for us.*

*Take time to listen. You must set aside time to spend with God. You cannot hear God unless you take time to concentrate on Him. Sitting with the television is not fit for listening to God. Think about how well you listen. The last time you heard a sermon, did you really hear it at all? It is so easy to let your mind wander off to something else and miss what has been said.*

*Practice sitting quietly and concentrating all your thoughts on God. For God is Lord.*

*"LOVE TO COMPLETE YOUR LIFE."*



