

A scenic landscape featuring a bright sun partially obscured by soft, white and pinkish clouds. The sun's glow illuminates the sky and the tops of the trees. In the foreground, there are lush green trees and a wooden fence running across a grassy field. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# *The Advocate of Truth*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



PAGE

The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

## POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

THE CHURCH OF GOD  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
P.O. Box 328  
Salem, WV 26426-0328

Telephone: 304-782-1411  
Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: [cogsevday@aol.com](mailto:cogsevday@aol.com)

Web site: [www.churchofgod-7thday.org](http://www.churchofgod-7thday.org)

Del DeLong

David DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills ..... Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Volume LXVI

Number 4

September 25, 2017

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

<b>WWJD</b> .....	<b>3-4</b>
Asking the question: "What would Jesus do?" is more involved than it seems.	
<b>Thoughts About Our Light</b> .....	<b>4-5</b>
Let us look at four sources of light.	
<b>Helmet Of Salvation</b> .....	<b>6</b>
This part of our armour is placed upon our head by the Lord.	
<b>The Fear Of Man</b> .....	<b>6-7</b>
Let's not let the fear of man keep us from serving the Lord.	
<b>Living Water</b> .....	<b>7-9</b>
This water has special properties which brings life and healing wherever it flows.	
<b>Seven Ways God Speaks To Us</b> .....	<b>9-10</b>
The Lord never leaves us without a message from Him.	
<b>The Mirror Of God</b> .....	<b>10-13</b>
God's great Law, His Ten Commandments, is His mirror.	
<b>The Signs Of The Times</b> .....	<b>14-15</b>
This month we look at Global Warming and other topics.	
<b>Questions And Answers</b> .....	<b>16-17</b>
Name some verses that prove that the Ten Commandments are in force in the New Testament.	
<b>The Church Around The World</b> .....	<b>18-19</b>
This month we look at Myanmar.	
<b>The Children's Pages</b> .....	<b>20-23</b>
<i>Sabbath School Lessons</i>	
<i>A Story - "Janie And The Instructions"</i>	
<i>Games and Puzzles</i>	



# WWJD

by David Royer

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: [The phrase “**What would Jesus do?**” (often abbreviated to **WWJD**) became popular in the United States in the 1990s and as a personal motto for adherents of Christianity who used the phrase as a reminder of their belief in a moral imperative to act in a manner that would demonstrate the love of Jesus through the actions of the adherents.]

Bracelets were made with the **acronym** WWJD imprinted on them. (An acronym is a word made up of the first letter of each word in a phrase.) As their popularity grew, the initials were applied to many other mass marketed items.

WWJD is used today as a guide to answer every day, spur of the moment, questions or to address/cure society’s ills. Examples: accept a certain job; which movie to watch; what clothes to purchase; who to date; which party to attend; support anti-abortion or lifestyle marches; capital punishment; solving homelessness, etc.

WWJD originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and used by ministers Charles Sheldon and Charles Spurgeon to answer difficult moral questions and social issues by asking: What would Jesus do if He were in my shoes? At first, this sounds great. But how is this possible? Far too often, WWJD means, to some people, whatever *they think* it means, without study.

**What Would Jesus Do?** To really answer this question, we first need to know Jesus. There is no way to

know His mind until we understand His life and mission. For we are told in **Philippians 2:5**, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” Learning what Jesus did in His life (instead of just guessing) will provide a solid basis for answers. Also, not just reading about His life and activities in the Bible, but a personal, humbling acceptance of His dying for us. (Read John 3:16). Knowing His purpose, instructions, sayings and examples, forms a spiritual bond; to not just know of Jesus, but for us to call Him our Lord and Savior.

Supporters of WWJD, say that the philosophy behind their slogan is Bible based. The Bible does offer several verses directing us to following Jesus’s example. But please remember to think about any phrase or statement within the constraints of its biblical **CONTEXT**. (Context are the words around the verse that provide specific meaning and shed light on its meaning.) Read the following verses and you will see that the sentiment of WWJD ignores the context of the verse.

## **John 13:15**

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

## **1 Peter 2:21**

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

## **1 John 2:6**

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Asking the WWJD question is not the same as prayer. In fact, it doesn't address Jesus personally and He has been reduced to a motto which does not have Him as the main subject.

The internet provides other acronyms to substitute and clarify this question, when seeking direction or answers in our life:

WWJE	What Would Jesus Expect?
WWJD	What Would Jesus Demand?
WDJE	What Does Jesus Expect?
WWJS	What Would Jesus Say?
WEDJG	What Example Does Jesus Give?
WDBS	What Does the Bible Say?
WWJP	What Would Jesus Pray?
WWJHMD	What Would Jesus Have Me Do?
WDJB	What Does Jesus Believe?
JWSID	Jesus, What Should I Do?
WDJD	What Did Jesus Do?
WWYD	What Would Yahweh Do?

Using any of these questions for determining answers to our life's issues, is arguably better than looking to the world or justifying our selfish desires. However, it is not a fully accurate representation of how God wants us to live our lives. The correct approach and application of WWJD can provide powerful, life-changing answers for those who truly know Jesus and have surrendered their lives to Him. Learn more about Jesus and pursue a closer relationship with Him. Pray to God (in Jesus's name) that the Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom of what Jesus and His Father would truly want us to do. Doing so, will bring everlasting joy, peace and purpose into our life!



## THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR LIGHT

Bond Tennant

Let us consider four lights:

1. *God is our light* – “The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory” (Isaiah 60:19).

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

“For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light” (Psalm 36:9).

“If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me” (Psalm 139:11).

“Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee” (verse 12).

“...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (I John 1:5).

2. *The Word is our light* – David said, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple” (verse 130).

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (verse 11).

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD” (verse 1).

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word” (verse 9).

“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (verse 103).

“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10).

3. *Jesus is our light* – Jesus said, “...I am the light of the world...” (John 8:12).

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the

world” (John 9:5).

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness” (John 12:46).

4. *The church is our light* – “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid” (Matthew 5:14).

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (verse 16).

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” (Romans 13:12).

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light” (verse 14).

“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” (I Thessalonians 5:5).

*NOTE:* Paul saw the light, and he was never the same! Read Acts 9:1-5.



## ***WELCOME TO THE FUTURE***

By Betty Whetstone

*I welcome you dear stranger,  
Won't you come in and rest for a while?  
It's easy to see from your movements  
That you've traveled many a mile.*

*I'll get you a cup of cold water,  
And bread and meat you may eat;  
It's no trouble at all to serve you,  
I'm so glad that we chanced to meet.*

*I welcome you into this real world,  
Where everything is shiny and new;  
And we are so happy to have you,  
Please, stay and dwell with us, too.*

*You need have no fear of our animals,  
For they, too, are enjoying the rest;  
We have no need of the sunshine  
It no longer sets in the west.*

*For the light of our God and Savior  
Provides everything we could want;  
The smile on their faces will light us  
For there is no longer a Satan to haunt.*

*You see, we are now in the Kingdom  
Where there is nothing but kindness and  
love;  
And the Father and Jesus live with us,  
They no longer reside up above.*

## HELMET OF SALVATION

By Jerry Womble

As we put on the armour of God we have several pieces of equipment for our protection. We are equipped with truth, righteousness, the good message, faith, our sword (the Bible) and the helmet of salvation. The word that jumped out at me is the word "take" when taking the helmet of salvation. This word in the original meant "I am giving you something and you must reach out and receive it." When a soldier was preparing for battle and his armor bearers would help him put on his entire armor, the last thing to put on was the helmet. Since the soldier had on so much armor he could not bend over to pick up the helmet and the armor bearer had to give it to him and he had to receive it. Paul uses this example to show us that we cannot take salvation for ourselves but it is a gift of God. We cannot earn salvation nor do any physical thing to attain it. No one can come to the Father except by Jesus. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that salvation is a "gift of God"; He offers it to all people but the only ones who will have it are the ones who reach out and take it.



## The Fear of Man

By David DeLong

Many a person has not followed the Lord, or fully followed Him, because of the fear of what another person might say or think. Let us read Isaiah 2:22: "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" We should never let another person have such influence on us that it reflects a negative response on our part in serving the Lord.

Unfortunately, even the Apostle Peter was influenced negatively by some of his countrymen when it came to his relationship with Gentile believers. Paul wrote in Galatians 2:11-18: "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Peter was swayed by the fear of other Jews to cause the Gentile believers to not live according to the teachings of the gospel concerning the Mosaic law.

Paul didn't want the fear of man to keep him from witnessing to others about Christ. He wrote in Ephesians 6:18-20: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Paul even wrote to Timothy to live out and preach the word boldly to all, even to those who were older than he was. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:12-16).

Our great example the Lord Jesus Christ paid no attention to men's words of honor for Him. He said in John 5:41-44: "I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"



Almost all water has living properties as can be attested to by the many types of life forms on planet earth. When the Lord caused a mist to go up from the ground in the beginning (see Genesis 2:6), to the rain that we enjoy today, water has been essential for life. Even from the

The fear of man will affect our relationship with the Lord. We should also not regard their honor of us, nor should we fear their criticism of us. Like the Apostle Paul we need prayer that we will have the boldness to do God's will concerning our lives in spreading the gospel. This involves witnessing to family members who are not in the realm of faith. Furthermore, it involves using our gifts and talents in bringing testimonials and specials to the church congregation.

Gifts and talents not used in the church because of one's fear of what others might think, has kept more than one individual from sharing those gifts and talents. Let us not be one of them. If we have the gift of teaching, let us teach. If we have the talent for music, let us faithfully use that talent for the Lord. If we have the gift of giving...well, you get the point.

The fear of man will sometimes drive church members to form cliques in the church. This is because we feel more comfortable around those who think and believe as we do. But a church with cliques, or groups that only associate with certain members, will destroy a church.

And then there is the fear of what others might expect of us if we volunteer our services in the church. For instance, if we volunteer our services one time, there may be the fear that the leadership will expect us to continue those services for a long time to come. But let us look to what the Lord expects from us and not be filled with fear of what others expect of us. This fear of man may cause us to never volunteer our services in the church, and rob us of our joy in serving the Lord.

# Living Water

By David DeLong

Garden of Eden, a river flowed out to water it, and was parted into four heads. But, mostly in this article, we will be discussing special water, with special living properties.

In Psalm 46:4 we learn of such a water source. "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of

God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High." Where does this river originate? Let us turn to Revelation 22:1-2: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." This river of water of life flows out from God's throne in the New Jerusalem. It apparently will cascade down from the New Jerusalem and flow onto the sanctuary in the old Jerusalem in Israel.

Ezekiel tells us more of this river which flows out from the sanctuary in Jerusalem. "Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from

Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine" (Ezekiel 47:1-12).

Zechariah gives a little more information about these living waters that flow from Jerusalem. "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be" (Zechariah 14:8). The water that flows out of the sanctuary about which Ezekiel told us travels to the former sea and the hinder sea (probably the Mediterranean and Dead seas). When the living waters reach these seas, the waters shall be healed. Remember, that the waters in these seas are not only polluted now, but during the seven last plagues they shall become as the blood of a dead man (see Revelation 16:3-4).

There is another source of living water, from which if a person drinks, will become the source for eternal life. We read in John 7:37-39: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

Jesus had a conversation with a woman from Samaria in John, chapter 4. Verses 10-14 inform us: "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this

water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

I Corinthians 10:1-4 tells us that the spiritual drink that the Israelites partook of in the wilderness was from the Rock, Christ. "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did

all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

We partake of Christ, today, through the emblems of the Lord's Supper, the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. The fruit of the vine is a type of living water (representing the blood of Jesus) which, along with the unleavened bread, will give us eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Seven Ways God Speaks To Us

By David DeLong

The Lord has many ways that He can communicate with us. I would like to introduce seven ways that He does so. The first way is through nature. The book of Romans, chapter 1, verses 18-20 informs us: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse". This passage of Scripture tells us that the things which God has created gives people a testimony about Him and who He is. So, nobody has an excuse for not knowing about the Lord. Even the ones who believe in materialistic evolution have no excuse. Nature shouts its message to the world: there is a Creator!

A second way that God speaks to His people is through their minds. In a prophecy relating to Jesus we find: "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned

away back" (Isaiah 50:4-5).

The Lord impressed upon the mind of His Son what to speak, to those who needed the message, every day. Jesus was wakened every morning to the words of God, instructing Him what He should say to others. I believe that He will do the same for us if we are attentive to His voice. Perhaps the message will come through prayer time as we communicate with the Lord.

Another way the Lord communicates with us is through dreams. Of the prophet Daniel the Scriptures declare: "and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams" (Daniel 1:17). Daniel was given knowledge from the Lord by the method of dreams. Eliphaz the Temanite, when speaking to Job said this: "Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men" (Job 4:12-13). Even Joseph, the step father of Jesus, was instructed in dreams. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David,

fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:18-20; see also chapter 2:13-15).

The Apostle Paul made it plain that he, along with all others, are to live their lives with a clear conscience. The Lord speaks to us through our consciences. Paul said in Acts 23:1: "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Furthermore, he said in Acts 24:16: "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." Paul even said that to wound a person's weak conscience is sin. In I Corinthians 8:12 he said to the Corinthians: "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ."

A fifth way that the Lord speaks to us is through the counsel of other believers. We find in the book of Proverbs, chapter 19, verse 20: "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end." In fact, this is a safe way of obtaining the correct answers to the problems of life. Proverbs 11:14 tells us: "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." It is a humbling experience to receive counsel from others, but it is also safe. We are wise to seek out the counsel of our brothers and sisters in Christ

to some perplexing problem.

We mentioned earlier about communicating with the Lord through prayer. This is the sixth method I wish to bring to our attention. We know that the Lord definitely speaks to us through prayer. Jesus made constant use of this method to speak to the heavenly Father, and to be spoken to by Him. We learn in Mark 1:35-39: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils." By praying to His Father, Jesus not only received instructions from Him, but He received the strength for His ministry.

Finally, a seventh way that the Lord speaks to us is through His written Word. Christ is the Word of God in His person and being. In speaking of the Word of God, Christ said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." The written Word of God is the most clear way that the Lord speaks with us. May we ever follow Him.

## The Mirror Of God

(Taken from a tract)



Did you ever have a friend tell you that you had a spot of smut, grease, or dirt upon your forehead? Of course you could not see your own forehead, so, in order to locate the spot, you would have to glance into your looking glass. As your reflection was cast back to you, you could see for yourself that what your friend had said was true: you did have a spot upon you. Did continuing to gaze into the mirror remove the spot? Or, did you have to apply soap and water until the smut had disappeared? Yes, truly you did, and as long as the cleansing agent had not been applied the looking glass still condemned your

appearance. But, as soon as the cleansing agent had been used, and you gazed again into the mirror, the looking glass did not condemn, but rather, it approved.

What would you think of your friend, to whom you had pointed out a smut upon his face, and who had verified it in the mirror, and then after having removed the spot, threw the mirror away, saying that there was no further need of a looking glass? Would you not think such a person insane? Just because our friend removed the spot, and the mirror approved of his appearance, was no reason that mirrors should be abolished. There might be

other smut spots to be reflected. Or, other persons might want to use the looking glass.

Just as we know that the mirror is useful, whether it condemns our appearance, or approves, so in like manner, is the law of God, His Ten Commandments, useful. It is likened unto God's looking glass, His instrument which shows us ourselves as He sees us. Just as we cannot see the spots upon our forehead, without the aid of the mirror, so in like manner we cannot see the sin spots upon our souls without the aid of God's looking glass, His "*Perfect Law of Liberty*." Our friends may tell us we have sin stains upon us, but only God's mirror, His perfect law, will verify the truth of their statements.

Of God's looking glass, James hath said, "*For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*" (James 1:23-25).

Some friend may tell you that you sin in some of your ways, another may tell you that you sin in some of your words, and still another may say that your omissions are sin; but unless you look into God's looking glass you really cannot tell of your own self. You may think they knew, and act accordingly. You may give them the benefit of the doubt, and conclude that you are wrong; but only by looking for yourself into God's mirror can you see your own reflection, just as your neighbor sees you; but, above all, just as God beholds you.

Which one of us will go out into the street without taking a glance into our mirror to see that we have a clean, tidy appearance; yet few look into God's mirror at all to see how they are in God's sight. We would be ashamed to appear before men and women with smut spots upon our faces or with our garments wrinkled and soiled; yet, sad it is to say, many walk boldly before their neighbors and friends with sin spots upon them, their garments soiled with things of this world. Should we not seek to please God, rather than man?

Just as we cannot know for sure the spots upon our faces without looking into a looking glass, so, in like manner, it is impossible to know what sin is without looking

into God's Law. This law is found in the 20th chapter of Exodus, verses 1 to 17 inclusive. The first commandment forbids our having other gods before Jehovah; the second forbids to make graven images, or likenesses, or to worship such as idols; the third forbids to take God's name in vain, or to no purpose; the fourth commands us to cease from our work upon the seventh day of the week, Saturday, but to labor on the six days preceding the Sabbath; the fifth command exhorts us to honor our father and our mother; the sixth forbids our taking life of another in murder; the seventh forbids us to commit adultery; the eighth forbids to steal; the ninth forbids to lie, or bear false witness; and the tenth tells us not to covet, that is desire unlawfully, that which is not ours. These are known as the Ten Commandments, God's mirror. It reveals unto us what sin is, for "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law*" (I John 3:4).

Some might say that the law is not needed to show us sin, but Paul, the apostle, says that it is needed, "*...for by the law is the knowledge of sin*" (Romans 3:20). In other words, we would not know sin without the law which points it out. Paul said in another place, "*...I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet*", that is, by the tenth commandment (Romans 7:7).

Some say that the law is not in force now, in other words, God's looking glass is not working today. Well, if it is not used now, but has been destroyed, then there is no sin now, for as we read above, "*sin is the transgression of the law*", consequently, "*...where no law is, there is no transgression*" (Romans 4:15).

As some would teach us, just break the looking glass and there will be no more smut spots upon us. Take away the mirror and we will not be shown our sins. Dear one, will you say that we do not need looking glasses today just because we are not condemned by them? Should we not rather love to look into a mirror or a law, which approves of our life instead of condemning it?

*Some might say that the law is not needed to show us sin, but Paul, the apostle, says that it is needed, "...for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).*

As we look into the mirror and behold our soiled natural face, does the glass remove the spots, or does it not rather reveal that we may apply the cleansing agent? As we look into God's law, the transgression of which is sin, and see the sin spots upon us, in whatsoever commandment we have broken, whatsoever precept we have transgressed, what shall we do? Will just looking into the law, just hearing the precepts, ever remove the sin, or cleanse us from our transgressions? No, we know that such is not the way of the Lord, "*For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified*" (Romans 2:13).

What then shall we do? What cleansing agent is to be applied? What makes us right again, that God's looking glass will not point out the spots? There is only one cleansing agent, only one remedy: the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the means whereby our sins are erased. Though our "*...sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*" (Isaiah 1:18). How? Through Christ, "*...through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus*" (Romans 3:25,26).

**What then shall we do? What cleansing agent is to be applied? What makes us right again, that God's looking glass will not point out the spots? There is only one cleansing agent, only one remedy: the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the means whereby our sins are erased.**

Do we do away with the need of the mirror when we wash our natural face with water and soap, and erase the spots? We know that it is not so! Do we then abolish God's law, His commandments, by using the blood of Christ through faith to wash away our sins? No, the two are similar, the natural mirror, and God's law. Paul asks the question, and answers the same that all may know, Listen! "*Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law*" (Romans 3:31).

We have heard it said that Jesus came to destroy the law of God, the looking glass, but Jesus denied the charge, saying, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets...but to fulfill*", that is, to obey... "*Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:17-19).

Listen to what Paul says of God's looking glass: "*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good...For we know that the law is spiritual...I delight in the law of God after the inward man.*" Romans 7:12,14,22.

Does it make any difference whether the law of God is spiritual or not? Yes, very much so; "*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*" (Romans 8:6,7).

Do not listen to those who tell you that God's mirror has been found out of date, that it was done away with, was taken away in the time of Christ being nailed to His cross; for the law is still with us; it is still "*holy,*" and each command remains "*holy, just, and good*" as the day that Paul wrote these words. It still measures sin: it still condemns the sinner: it still points out to the transgressor the need of the blood of Jesus: it still reflects back unto us our lives, and lets us see ourselves as God sees us.

**Listen to what Paul says of God's looking glass: "*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good...For we know that the law is spiritual...I delight in the law of God after the inward man.*" Romans 7:12,14,22.**

The Psalmist said, "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul...*" (Psalm 19:7), but some say it was imperfect, and therefore one command was taken out, and another placed within; that nine are perfect as they were spoken but now we do not need to keep holy the seventh day (Saturday), but rather a seventh day (Sunday). But can one improve upon a perfect law? Can one

make better a perfect looking glass by cutting out a piece and fitting in another? No, dear ones, God is no respecter of persons. He has not changed (see Malachi 3:6). What was once sin is still sin. *"Sin is the transgression of the law,"* just as it ever was. *"...Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law"* (James 2:10,11). Now, dear one, if you do no adultery, and do not kill, neither take God's name in vain, nor break any of these Ten Commandments of God, except the fourth, please remember that He that said, *"Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill,"* but in addition, the entire code of Ten Commandments including, *"Remember the sabbath, day to keep it holy...the seventh day (not a seventh day) is the sabbath of the LORD thy God..."* (Exodus 20:8-11).

*"Sin is the transgression of the law,"* even in one point, and *"...the wages of sin is death..."* (I John 3:4; Romans 6:23).

Dear one, take a look right now into God's looking glass and see yourself as the Lord sees you. If you have even one sin spot upon you, if you are a transgressor even in one point of God's law, place it under the blood through faith in Christ. Wash away the sin spots, and then keep clean through His grace, and then when you gaze into God's perfect mirror, and your reflection comes back to you, you will find that, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (Romans 8:1).

God's looking glass will show you to be just what you are. If you are a sinner, it will condemn. If you are a saint, washed white in the blood of Christ, and an observer of all God's commandments, it will approve. We then delight in the law of God after the inward man, and the Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

May God bless you, dear one, as you obey. Amen.



## The Early Disciples

By David DeLong

In the days of the disciples  
Who were taught by the Lord;  
They had all things in common,  
And they lived in sweet accord.

Some were cast into prison,  
But released by God's strength;  
For He sent some mighty angels  
Who delivered them at length.

They were ordered not to preach  
In Christ's righteous, holy name;  
But, they knew that God came first,  
And they shared in Christ's own shame.

For the Christians, then, were beaten,  
They refused to hold their tongue;  
But they preached about the Lord  
To the crowds they were among.

And many were converted,  
While the Church of God did grow;  
They kept the Apostles' doctrine,  
While their faith, they did show.

They fellowshiped together,  
And from house-to-house did eat;  
They shared each other's needs,  
And provided each one's meat.

They were filled with God's Spirit,  
And they boldly spoke God's Word;  
They did witness to the world  
Of what they'd seen and heard.

And today we are so blest  
Because of faithful, holy men;  
And the women, too, who witnessed  
Of the risen Lord, back then.



# 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.*

## GLOBAL WARMING

The following is an article by Seth Borenstein which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. The title is *Scientists warn of more dangerous levels of global warming if U.S. quits climate deal.*

**WASHINGTON** – Earth is likely to reach more dangerous levels of warming even sooner if U.S. retreats from its pledge to cut carbon dioxide pollution, scientists said. That’s because America contributes so much to rising temperatures.

President Donald Trump, who once proclaimed global warming a Chinese hoax, said in a tweet Saturday that he will make his “final decision” this coming week on whether the United States stays in or leaves the 2015 Paris climate change accord in which every nation agreed to curb its greenhouse gas emissions.

### Computer scenario

Leaders of seven wealthy democracies at a summit in Sicily urged Trump to commit his administration to the agreement but said in their closing statement that the U.S. for now, “is not in a position to join the consensus.”

“I hope they decide in the right way,” said Italy’s prime minister, Paolo Gentiloni. More downbeat was German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who said the leaders’ talks were “very difficult, if not to say, very unsatisfactory.”

In an attempt to understand what could happen to the planet if the U.S. pulls out of Paris, the Associated Press consulted with more than two dozen climate scientists and analyzed a special computer model scenario designed to calculate potential effects.

Scientists said it will worsen an already problem and make it more difficult to crossing a dangerous global temperature threshold.

Calculations suggest it could result in emissions of up to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide a year in the air.

When it adds up year after year, scientists said it is enough to melt ice shelters faster, raise seas higher, and trigger more extreme weather.

“If we lag, the noose tightens,” said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer, co-editor of the peer-reviewer journal *Climate Change*.

One expert group ran a worst-case computer simulation of what would happen if the U.S. does not curb emissions, but other nations do meet their targets. It found that America would add as much as half a degree of warming (0.3 degrees Celsius) to the globe by the end of the century.

Scientists are split on how reasonable and likely that scenario is.

Many said because of cheap natural gas that displaces coal and growing adoption of renewable energy sources, it is unlikely that the U.S. would stop reducing its carbon pollution even if it abandoned the accord, so the effect would likely be smaller.

### Comment

No! I did not forget how old this article is! As a matter of fact, you have heard that President Trump announced some time ago that the United States has pulled out of the Paris climate deal. There is both criticism and praise for this action. Some within the White House disagreed with withdrawing from the Paris climate deal. Many corporations also voiced their concern.

I do not know much about climate change. I only know that the climate is becoming warmer. I really do

not know to what extent, if any, humans are responsible for this change by releasing harmful pollutants in the air. Some think that quitting the Paris climate deal will add many jobs. Others believe jobs will be lost. The facts in the above article are the opinions of the scientists. These facts may or may not come to pass! We shall see what will happen. We had a saying at the warehouse where I once worked that went something like this, “We shall see what we shall see.”

Let us not be troubled by the effects of climate change. We may experience these effects if they should happen, but God will comfort us. Let us remember the chorus of the song God will take care of you. “God will take care of you, Thru ev - ry day, O’er all the way; He will take care of you, God will take care of you.”

### **APPLE PICKING ROBOTS**

I read that technology has come up with apple picking robots. An article said that human pickers are getting scarce, and young people do not want to work in farms. The robotic pickers don’t get tired and can work 24 hours a day. At least two companies are rushing to get robotic fruit-picking machines to market.

### **MIDDLE EAST DEAL**

I heard, while listening to the news, that President Trump has said that his administration may be able to broker a Middle East deal.

#### **Comment**

No deal devised by man can bring about peace in the Middle East.

### **BIBLE READING**

The following are a few reasons why people don’t read the Bible. They were taken from an article entitled *Where’s your Bible* that appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

- Don’t prioritize it.
- Don’t have time.
- Have read it enough.
- Disagree with what it says.
- Don’t read books.
- Don’t see how it relates to them.
- Don’t have one.

#### **Comment**

Reading the Bible is a must for all who say that they are children of God. However, just reading the Bible cannot cause one to be a real child of God. The

requirements set forth by God in His Word must be obeyed.

Most carnal men have a sense of what the difference is between right and wrong. They are like those described in II Timothy 3:5 which says, “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” Just simply living a moral life cannot save anyone.

The material that one reads in the Bible must be studied. II Timothy 2:15 tells us, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

### **DEPORTING ONE IMMIGRANT**

I read an article in the **USA Today** that it costs almost \$11,000 to deport one immigrant. The article also said that there’s nothing hard and fast about such estimates. The location, length of detention, country of origin and other factors can significantly add or subtract from the price tag, as some deportations show.

### **NOT COMFORTABLE**

I saw an estimate which stated that 44 percent of Americans would not be comfortable riding in a self-driving vehicle.

### **ISRAEL’S BORDERS**

Fifty years after the six-day war in the Mideast, Israel’s borders are contested to this day.

#### **Comment**

We can rest assured that Israel will have her rightful territory when Jesus intervenes and she is secure when in the one-thousand year reign of Jesus upon the earth!

### **OLDER AMERICANS**

A news article reported that more Americans 65 and over are still punching the clock.

### **THE OLD TESTAMENT**

I read a newspaper article entitled *The Old Testament: Is it dying?*

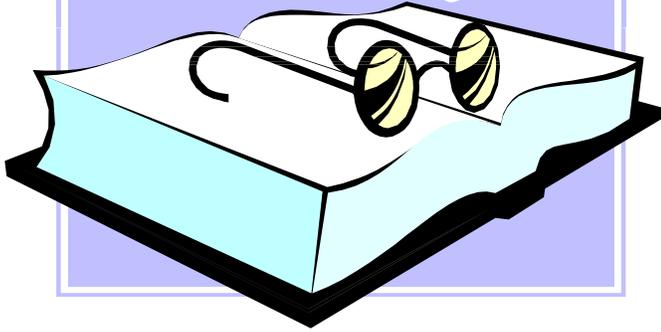
There are many who believe that studying the New Testament is all that is necessary. However, to get a complete picture of the plan of God, both Old and New Testaments must be studied.

For instance, Genesis 14:18 speaks of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:1 says, “For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings...”

A prophecy about Jesus found in Psalm 110:4 says, “The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** Will you please name some verses that prove that the Ten Commandments are in force in the New Testament?

**ANSWER:** Yes, we will.

1. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

2. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols..." (I John 5:21).

3. "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

4. "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest... For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Hebrews 4:4-5, 8-9).

5. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)" (Ephesians 6:1-2).

6. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:21).

7. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath

committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).

8. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal" (Matthew 6:19).

9. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

10. "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" (Ephesians 5:3).

**QUESTION:** In what book of the Bible is there a prophecy which tells of a time coming when the nations will actually disarm, and when they will learn war no more?

**ANSWER:** The answer is Micah 4:1-4 which states, "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into

pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.”

**QUESTION:** I have a friend who really believes in tithing. However, she says that she has too many debts and can only give to God what is left over from her check after she pays her bills. What advice can you give to her?

**ANSWER:** The problem that your friend faces is a common one in our society for those who would give God His tithe but feel they cannot afford to do so. I can visualize that she has an insurmountable and often continuous pile of debt obligations. These excessive debt drains are draining away her income leaving her little or nothing to give to God.

Abuse of credit is a plague in our land and a curse from Satan on church members. It is a scheme that Satan perpetrated on Christians. Abuse of credit drains multiple millions away from God into the world’s businesses. This prevents souls from being blessed and saved.

Since tithing is God’s way of funding the church ministry, Satan forms a formal attack to defeat that. Sadly, he is winning through many Christians who wish to obey God’s tithing truth. His successful attack plan is to immerse the church member into so much debt that by the time he goes to church he has only a dollar or two left over for God. It is sad to work six days a week and then go to church and be broke.

The following are six suggestions to your friend and those who have multiple debts who wish to obey God’s tithing (10 percent of income) command:

1. No one is happy being under insurmountable debt. This shows that it is wrong. Therefore, the first step is to stop making more debt than you can afford. Never exceed that limit again!
2. Good financial management requires planning. Make and keep a personal family budget. You can find help on the internet if you do not know how to do this.
3. When necessary make arrangements with your creditors to clear up your debts. Explain to them what you are doing and what payments you can make to clear up your debt. When you reach an agreement with them, stick to it, and make your word good.

4. Try to find ways to cut back on your spending habits. You can live on less. Being out from under that mountain of debt can make you happier. Being out from under that mountain of debt may feel like you have just been released from prison.

5. When you pay off a charge account, close it permanently. When you pay off a credit card, destroy it and do not get any more of them. If you think that you must have a credit card, one with a small line of credit is enough. If, for some reason, you cannot keep your checking account in balance, close it and open up a new one. Your goal should be that you reach a place where you live on a cash basis. You will then be in control of your finances.

6. If you have unusually high debts, you may consult a financial counselor.

**QUESTION:** Will you please summarize the Book of Lamentations?

**ANSWER:** The Book of Lamentations was written by the Prophet Jeremiah. It contains little prophecy, but rather, as its name applies, is largely lamenting over the calamities which had come upon Israel in being taken captive to Babylon. The book was written by one who speaks with the vividness and intensity of an eyewitness of the ministry which he bewails. The fact that Jeremiah had prophesied this tragedy did not make it less a cause for deep sorrow and weeping.

He does not complain against God in allowing this trouble to come upon his people. He recognized that the nation was merely experiencing its just punishment for sins. Speaking representatively for the whole nation, Jeremiah wrote, “The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity” (Lamentations 1:18).

In his sorrow, the prophet maintained his trust in the Lord, and recognized that in Him was his only source of hope. “The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” (chapter 3:24-26). Thus, the prophet expressed his confidence that salvation and deliverance would eventually come to Israel.



## Myanmar

A congregational meeting of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.





**Meeting and preaching in Myanmar.**

LESSON I

CAIN AND ABEL

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:1-13.

Golden Text: Genesis 4:13.

“And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.”

1. What were the names of Adam and Eve’s sons, and what was their work? Genesis 4:1-2.
2. Why did Cain become jealous of his brother? Genesis 4:4-5.
3. What did God say to Cain about his offering? Genesis 4:6-7.
4. What did Cain do to Abel? Genesis 4:8.
5. What other sin did Cain commit? Genesis 4:9.
6. In what way did the Lord punish Cain? Genesis 4:11-12.
7. What was Cain’s reply to this? Genesis 4:13.

LESSON II

WICKEDNESS OF MAN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:5-14.

Golden Text: Genesis 6:8.

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

1. What kind of people did God find on the earth in the time of Noah? Genesis 6:5, 11-12.
2. How did God feel about it? Genesis 6:6.
3. What did God say that He was going to do about it? Genesis 6:7.

4. What kind of man was Noah at this time? Genesis 6:8-9.
5. What did God tell Noah He was going to do with the earth? Genesis 6:13.
6. What did God tell Noah to do? Genesis 6:14.

LESSON III

NOAH BUILDS THE ARK

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:14-22.

Golden Text: Genesis 6:22.

“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

1. What did God tell Noah to build, and what was he to use in building? Genesis 6:14.
  2. What was the length of the ark that God told Noah to make? How wide and how high was it? Genesis 6:15.
- NOTE:** One cubit is about 18 inches long.
3. How many windows and doors were there to be in the ark? How many stories were there? Genesis 6:16.
  4. How was God going to destroy the people? Genesis 6:17.
  5. Who was Noah to take into the ark? Genesis 6:18.
  6. How many animals was Noah to take into the ark? Genesis 6:19-20.
  7. What else did he take into the ark with him? Genesis 6:21.

LESSON IV

NOAH AND THE ARK

Scripture Reading: Genesis 7:1-16.

Golden Text: Genesis 7:6.

“And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.”

1. How many of the clean beasts and fowls was he to take into the ark? How many of the unclean? Genesis 7:2-3.

**NOTE:** The Lord created the animals clean and unclean from the very beginning. Noah knew which animals were clean, and which were unclean.

2. How long did God say it would rain? Genesis 7:4, 7.

3. Did Noah do everything that God told him to do? Genesis 7:5; Hebrews 11:7.

**NOTE:** Even though Noah could see no danger, he obeyed God. We should also obey God’s commandments today even though we do not always understand why we are to do them.

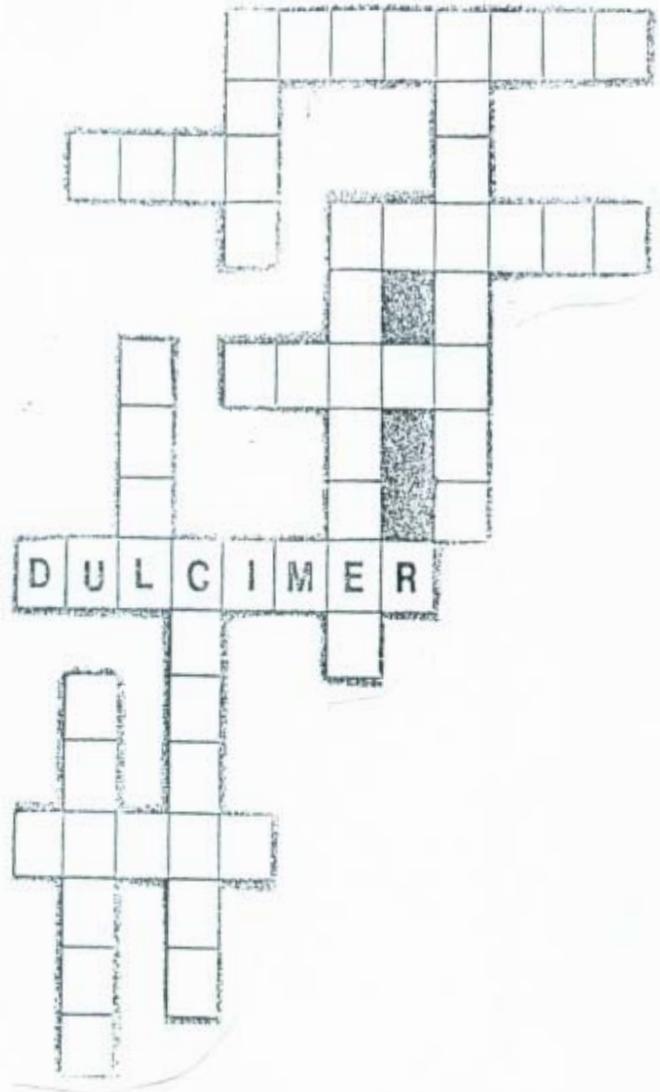
4. How old was Noah when the Flood came? Genesis 7:6.

5. How long were they in the ark before it began to rain? Genesis 7:10.

6. After Noah and his family and all the animals had entered the ark, what did God do? Genesis 7:16.

**People of Bible times loved music. They had many different musical instruments. Fill in the blanks with twelve musical instruments mentioned in the Bible. There is only one way in which they will fit correctly.**

Harp Pipe Viol Flute Organ  
 Cornet Tabret Cymbals Trumpet  
 Dulcimer Psaltery Timbrels





## “JANIE AND THE INSTRUCTIONS”

By Mary Brandeberry

Janie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. She was a child of God and had come to Jesus when she was thirteen years old. Her parents also were believers and loved God.

It was February 11, and the week before she had had her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Aunt Meg and uncle Tom had given her an angora sweater. With the sweater there was a set of instructions of how to take care of it so that it would wear longer. Janie had learned to follow instructions and as very careful with her things, as she always read the directions on everything and did just as they said. But Sally, her girl friend, was careless and never followed rules. She had washed a white blouse in hot water without taking off the red ribbon and had used a harsh soap. The blouse shrank, and the color of the red ribbon ran onto the blouse. That was the way Sally did everything, she never read the directions. Janie thought Sally was very stupid and careless. Secretly, she did not like to be seen with Sally at all.

The day before they had a fuss because Sally wanted to try on Janie's bracelet, and instead of opening the catch right she had tried to use force and broke it. Janie had stamped her foot and cried out, “Oh you stupid and careless girl! I never want to see you again! Do not come near me again! Sally's eyes had been full of pain and hurt. She had wept and said how sorry she was, and that she knew it was stupid but could not help it. Janie turned her back on her and ran home. She felt she was justified. Sally did not deserve nice things or nice girl friends, thought Janie, yet she had this guilty feeling. Well, why should she feel guilty! Now the day was ruined. Everything she did was meaningless, and before the supper dishes were done, she felt so hateful, she knew she would not be able to pray before bedtime. Every time she thought of Sally, she

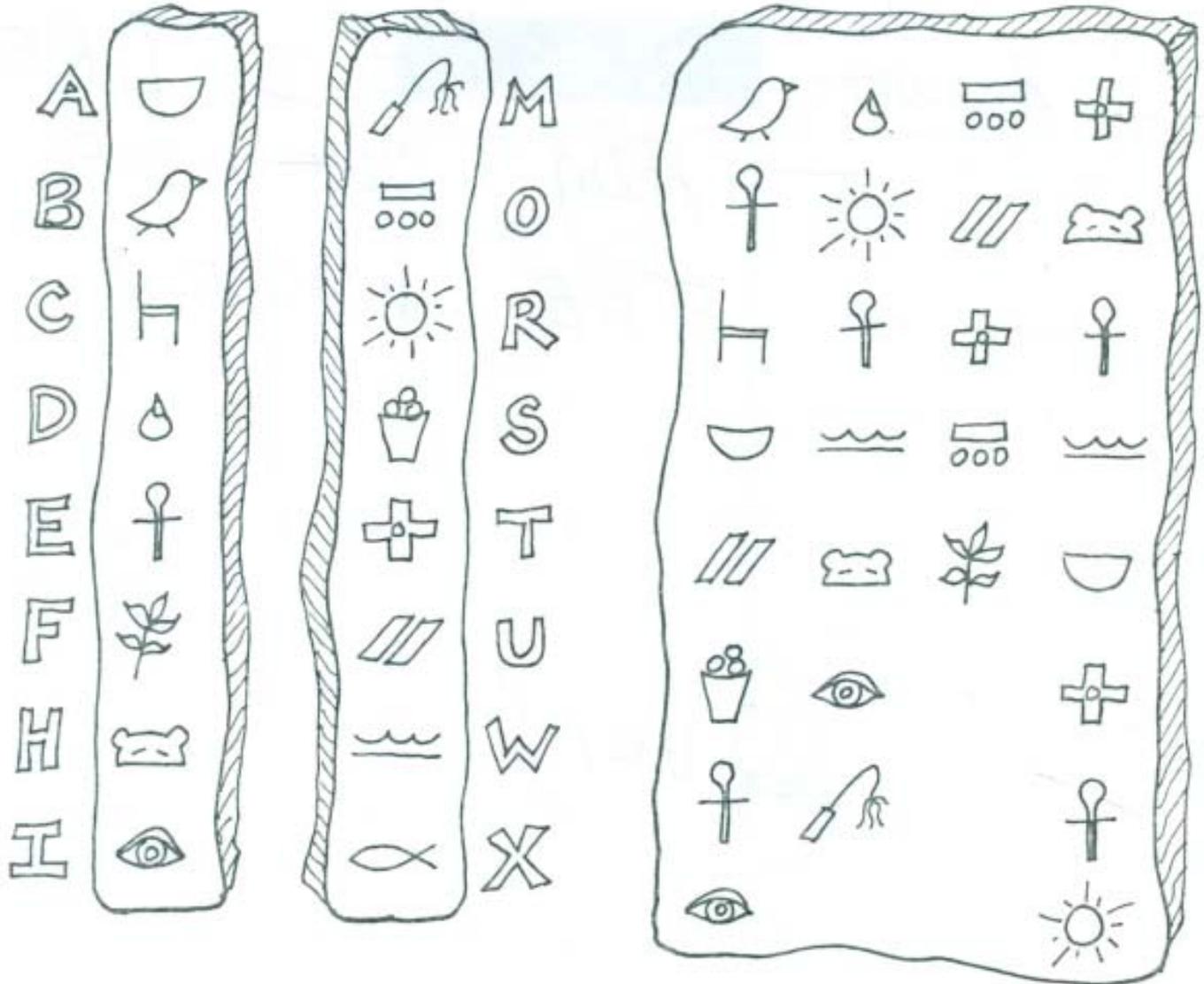
wanted to slap her. Mother saw something wrong and at last asked Janie the trouble, but Janie did not want to tell because she felt that Mother would blame her, but at last Mother heard the truth. She said, “I am not going to scold you honey, but I do want to reason with you. You hate Sally because she does not follow instructions. Is that right? “Yes!” said Janie. “Really Mother, she just will not listen to me when I try to tell her. She is stupid.” “Yes, she is, but you are foolish too,” said Mother. “What!” said Janie, “Why Mother! You know I always follow instructions, I really do!” “No,” said Mother. “You do not. You are God's creation. He is your Maker. His Spirit is in you, and He has forgiven your sins through the blood of Jesus. You are a new creation, and he has given a set of instructions, so that you can get the most of your new life, and also give the most. You should not have such a guilty feeling as you have now. That is what keeps you from being about to pray.” “A set of instructions, what?” asked Janie with deep interest. Mother said, “The Ten Commandments. You repeat them every Sabbath. They are the moral law, and they show what sin is. The law points back to the love and character of God your Father.” “Oh!” said Janie, “Oh! I never thought of them as instructions, but I cannot help the way I feel. I just cannot!” “Yes, you can if you follow the instructions. Jesus said to love God first. If you want to have a close friendship with her, follow God's rules, love her and do good to her when she is careless with you. Pick out her good points, and tell her of them. Make her feel at ease and an equal with you. Compliment her on the things she does better than you and ask her to help you do as good. In exchange, help her in her weak points, and because you follow the rules, you really will love her. Love begets understanding, for God is love and as His creation there is no other way to express ourselves rightly, for love is the fulfilling of the law.”

“We cannot let Satan rule our life, for he uses the emotions of hate, lust, fear and strife. God created us to use love, faith, peace and joy. If you follow these rules, you will be able to pray with a clear conscience. You can then be sure that God will answer.” It was a long talk Mother gave, and Janie had never before seen things so clearly.

“Oh, how stupid I have been, Oh, help me pray that God will forgive me and that I may be able to tell Sally how much I love her!” And that is just what Janie did.

The ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics.  
Pictures and symbols were used to represent words.

Use the picture code below to find out why the Egyptian princess gave the name  
"Moses" to the baby she found. Read down the columns - not across the rows.



-----

-----.

*The Advocate of Truth  
PO Box 328  
Salem WV 26426-0328  
Address Service Requested  
Return Postage Guaranteed*

*Periodicals  
Postage Paid At  
Salem WV 26426-0328*

***THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA***

*By Pat Evans*

*God judges the righteous every day,  
And he is angry with the wicked;  
It all started in the Garden with Adam and Eve,  
When they discovered that they were naked.*

*They had no knowledge of good and evil  
Until the Serpent became their friend;  
But the moment they partook of forbidden fruit -  
It was the beginning of the end.*

*Many tragedies happen and people always say,  
How could God possibly let this take place?  
Because Satan's in charge of the world as we know it,  
And in the end he'll be destroyed without a trace.*

*Man runs to and fro, trying to figure it all out,  
He thinks his fate is in his own hands;  
The world still refuses to recognize the fact  
That this is all part of God's holy plan.*

*Jesus didn't come to save all the world,  
And he went to prepare a special place;  
He is coming back here to gather up His own,  
To reward those who have run the good race.*

