

The Advocate of Truth

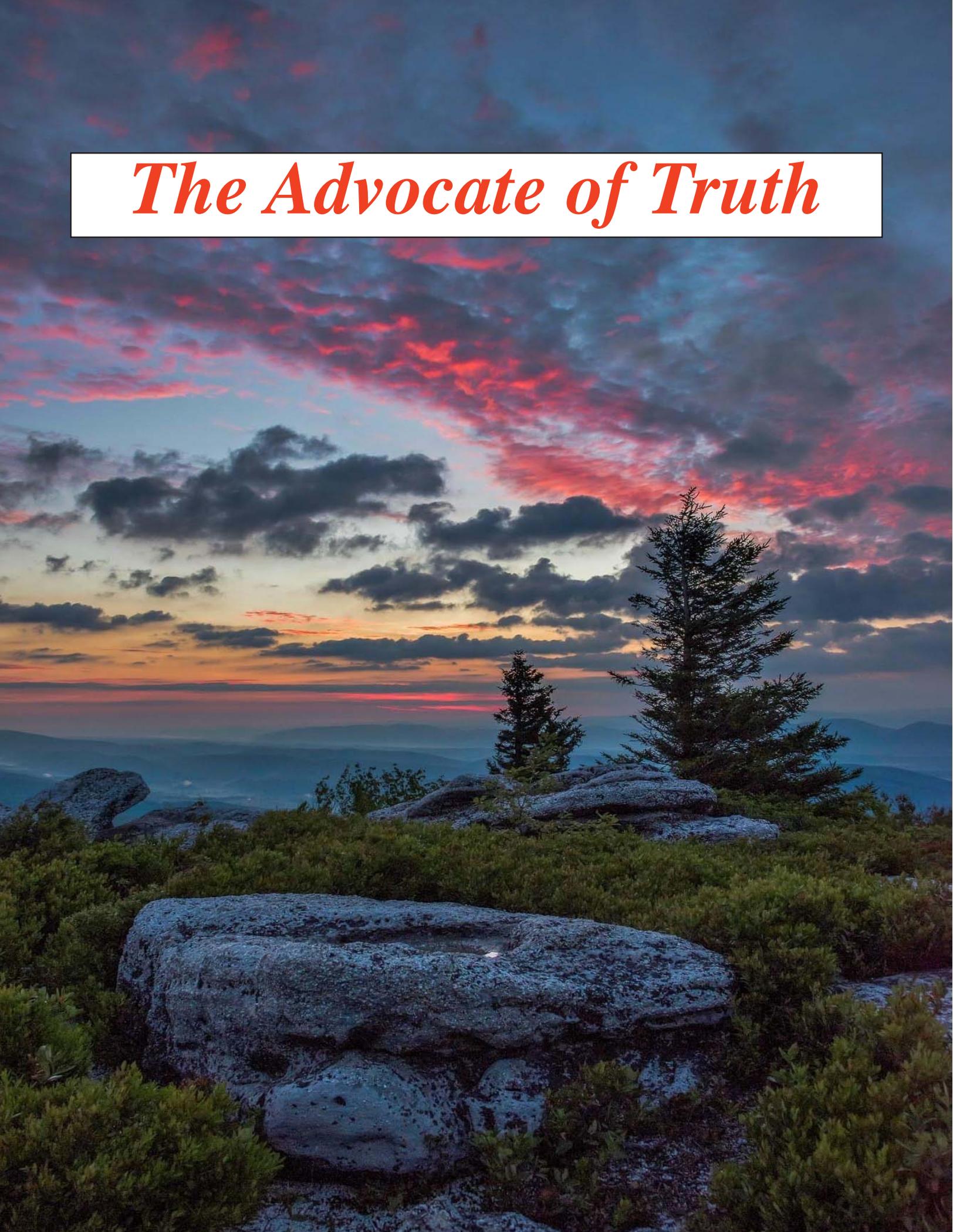




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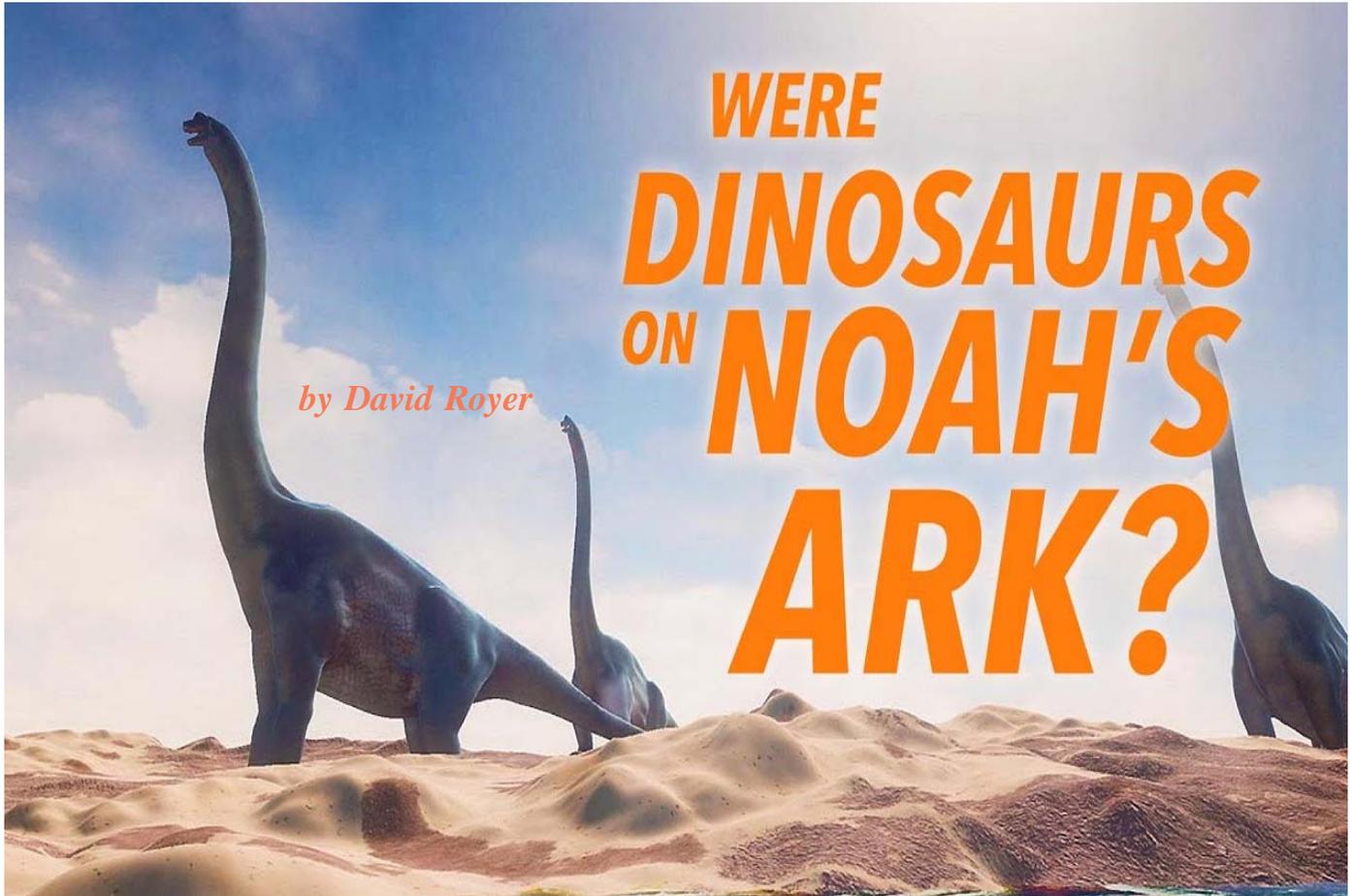
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"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (I Corinthians 11:28). The Apostle Paul penned these words of Scripture to the Corinthians (and to us), reminding them that before they partook of the emblems of the Lord's body and blood, that they first should examine their lives to root out any leaven that they found there.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Corinthians 13:5). Again, the Apostle Paul exhorts the Corinthians (and us) to examine ourselves so that we are sure that we belong to the body of Christ, the Church of God. If we have been baptized into Christ, we belong to Him, unless we have fallen away.



WERE DINOSAURS ON NOAH'S ARK?

by David Royer

Before answering this question, let's look at some options regarding the timing and wording of the Creation narrative in the Book of Genesis.

On the 6th day of creation (Genesis 1:28), God said to Adam and Eve, "...Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...". Replenish implies to "refill" or "make fresh". Could our world have, once upon a time, sustained life (like the dinosaurs) and then be destroyed to the beginning point of Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void...?"

Many theories have been offered, including that Satan was cast out of heaven onto a functioning "Pre-Adamic" earth, corrupting it with giant lizards and reptiles, winged reptiles, and bony, thick-scaled fish. If this gap theory were considered, this ancient world would have been unfit for human and other mammal habitation. Dinosaurs would have been destroyed millions of years before Noah built his Ark.

For their beliefs, I looked to the folks who created the NOAH'S ARK REPLICA. The organization that built Noah's Ark in Kentucky is Answers in Genesis (AiG), a "young Earth" creationist organization. This Ark is part of the Ark Encounter theme park in Williamstown, Kentucky.

As this organization's name implies, they believe in a "young Earth", advocating **biblical literalist**. In other words, the Creation narrative in the Book of Genesis is a historical fact, and the universe, Earth, and all life forms (including dinosaurs) were created approximately 6,000 years ago, contrary to the scientific consensus.

AiG's answer to "replenish the earth" above: When the KJV was translated, "replenish" was just a scholarly word for "fill" during the 13th through 17th centuries, per the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

CONTINUING WITH LITERALISM

Source: <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/dinosaurs-and-the-bible/>

In Genesis 1:29-30, the Bible teaches us that the originally created animals (and the first humans) were commanded to be vegetarian. There were no meat eaters. Furthermore, there was no death. It was an unblemished world, with Adam and Eve and animals (including dinosaurs) living in perfect harmony.

Sadly, it did not stay this way for very long. Adam rebelled against his Creator, bringing sin into the world (Genesis 3:1-7). God judged sin with death. The Bible teaches that there was no death of animals or humans before Adam sinned. (See Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; I Corinthians 15:21-22). This means there could not have been any animal fossils (and dinosaur bones) before sin.

NOTE: How can gap theories be valid if we believe that no death occurred until Adam sinned?

After Adam's sin, animals and people started to die. In Genesis 6:12, we read that all flesh (man and animals) had "corrupted his way upon the earth". Perhaps people and animals were killing each other; possibly, dinosaurs had started killing other animals and humans. In any case, the Bible describes the world as "wicked." God commanded Noah to build a great ship (the Ark) so that all the kinds of land animals and birds (which included dinosaurs) and Noah's family could survive on board while the Flood destroyed the entire Earth (Genesis 6:17-19).

Some think dinosaurs were too many or too large to go on this Ark. However, there were not very many different kinds of dinosaurs. There are hundreds of dinosaur names, but many were given to just a bit of bone or skeletons of the same dinosaur found in other countries. It is also reasonable to assume that different sizes, varieties, and sexes of the same kind of dinosaur have ended up with different names. For example, look at the many other varieties and sizes of dogs, but they are all the same kind—the dog kind! In reality, there may have been fewer than 50 kinds of dinosaurs.

God sent two of every (seven of some) land animal into the Ark (Genesis 7:2-3, 8-9)—there were no exceptions. Therefore, dinosaurs must have been on the Ark. Many creationists argue that the dinosaurs taken on the Ark were juveniles, which would have been smaller and more

manageable. This idea is supported by the fact that the average size of adult dinosaurs was comparable to that of a horse, and most would have been even smaller than a full-grown pig.

What happened to all the land animals that did not go on the Ark? They drowned. Many would have been covered with tons of mud as the rampaging water covered the land (Genesis 7:11-12, 19-21). Because of this quick burial, many animals would have been preserved as fossils. If this happened, you would expect evidence of billions of dead things buried in rock layers (formed from this mud) all over the Earth. This is precisely what you do find.

OTHER THEORIES

Our government, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), tells us that people and dinosaurs did not live together. After the dinosaurs died, nearly 65 million years passed before people appeared on Earth.

However, small mammals (including shrew-sized primates) were alive at the time of the dinosaurs. Some scientists who study dinosaurs now think that birds are direct descendants of one line of carnivorous dinosaurs, and some consider that they represent modern living dinosaurs. This theory remains under discussion and shows that we still don't know much about dinosaurs.

Another theory or simple answer is that "God snapped His fingers," and dinosaurs (and other exotic animals) walked aboard the Ark. This is how other non-natural events are often attributed to biblical narrations. For example, the complete annihilation of Sodom and Gomorrah; the Red Sea parting; the burning bush; the virgin birth; or the creation of an entire universe. If God is omnipotent, what is the point of thinking anything mentioned in the Bible is impossible?

This truth is always an answer for any implausibility you could find with Creation, the Ark event, or others. Not enough room on the Ark? SNAP! Sure there is. If one believes in the existence of an omnipotent being, how can someone be concerned or stymied by "challenges" to the Ark narrative?

SUMMARY

The great dinosaurs that once roamed Earth are now extinct; as to why, no one knows for sure. If one begins with an evolutionary view of [history](#) (for which there were no witnesses or written record), then this way of thinking will be used to explain the evidence that exists in the present. Thus, the evolutionary explanation for dinosaurs is described as the *secular worldview*.

However, suppose one begins with the biblical view of history from the written record, of an eyewitness (God) to all events of history. In that case, a different way of thinking will be used to explain what animals made it into the Ark. This biblical explanation is described as a *Christian worldview*.

A gap theory sounds plausible and intriguing but raises concerns about recreation, death, and infallibility of the Bible's written Word.

Some biblical scholars have interpreted the Creation and catastrophic Flood episodes as allegories. This approach sees Genesis as a symbolic representation of more profound spiritual and moral truths rather than a literal historical account. The Bible has many allegories: Jesus as a Shepherd or Bread of Life, and the many Parables are just a few.

But unless a text is clearly intended to be figurative, we take it literally. God's Word was designed to communicate, and communication requires a literal understanding of the words used. Biblical literalism goes hand-in-hand with regarding the Word of God as inerrant and inspired. For example, the "place" that Jesus said He is preparing for us in John 14:2-3 needs to be literal, or else we have no hope.

The Bible does not explicitly say what happened to the leviathan, cockatrice, dragon, behemoth, or other "large terrible reptiles" (coined DINOSAURS in 1842); speculation continues. So, my answer to the original question is: "I think so. I intend to ask for details when we hopefully meet our Creator."



Believe His Word, And Trust His Grace

By Bibi Shimon Allicock

Always believe God's words and trust His grace, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being;..." (Acts 17:28a). "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). He is not an individual who was made by art and man's device of wood and stone or any other material, but is a spiritual Individual who can be everywhere at the same time, and who sees and knows, feels and understands everything so that He can take us through any difficult situation, trial, tribulation, challenge, etc. "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device" (Acts 17:29). He feels our infirmities and knows what to do for us before we ask, because at times our trials are so much that we don't know the words which we should offer in prayer. But God can understand our groanings in times of deep distress and bewilderment. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:26-28). He can do so much for us. And all we have to do is trust in Him with all our heart and lean not unto our own understanding; In all our ways we must acknowledge Him, and He will definitely direct our path (see Proverbs 3:5-6).

When we look at the way Job handled his infirmities, and how God delivered him miraculously, he held his integrity with God. Despite the fact that God allowed Satan to tamper with all that he had: his children died, and everything else was taken from him; he was even covered with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown; and also his wife didn't understand Job's challenges, but

God did. And when his wife told him to curse God and die, Job rebuked her and said, "...Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (Job 2:10). The Apostle James emphasized the endurance and patience of Job: "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy" (James 5:11). And in the book of Job we see the end of Job's patience and tolerance, because although his friends came and saw his situation and sat down on the ground, and fasted with him, and couldn't speak a word unto him for they saw his grief was very great, yet he had to pray for them as instructed by God because they didn't exalt God as Job did. "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning:" (Job 42:10-12a).

Had Job died in the state he was in, his friends and relatives would have spoken all manner of things against him. But since he believed in the Lord and trusted His grace, and endured his afflictions, the Lord delivered him, and blessed him miraculously, and his friends and relatives returned unto him. But when he was in his low estate, and had nothing but sore boils, everyone scorned him and did all manner of things unto him. Yet in the end of it all, and they saw how miraculously God healed him, they returned unto him and even gave him a helping hand. Job complained of the things that had befallen him among

his friends and relatives. He said, "My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me. They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger: I am an alien in their sight. I called my servant, and he gave me no answer; I intreated him with my mouth. My breath is strange to my wife, though I entreated for the children's sake of mine own body. Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me. All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me...And now am I their song, yea, I am their byword. They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face...Upon my right hand rise the youth; they push away my feet," (Job 19:14-19; 30:9-10, 12a). Yet at the end of it all, God healed him and blessed him. "Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold" (Job 42:11).

When David was in his time of deep distress and reproach, when Saul was pursuing him to kill him, he wished he could have turned into a bird and flown away into the wilderness and been at peace. At times I, myself, feel that way but we just have to understand the words of God, stand still and let Him have His way. Even when David's own son conspired against him, he had to flee, but was kept by God's grace; and at the end of it all he was sorrowful at the death of Saul and his sons, and also at the death of his own son Absalom. "And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:... Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights," (II Samuel 1:17,24a).

When Absalom conspired against David, he had to flee for his life, and as he went he wept bitterly knowing what rage his son was in concerning his sister. He had already killed his brother and now he wanted to be king in the stead of his father. God had already given instructions who was to be king, therefore Absalom could not prevail although he took advantage of the situation. David humbled himself in the sight of the Lord, believed His words, and trusted His grace, and he prevailed after Absalom died. "And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up,

weeping as they went up" (II Samuel 15:30). David wept when Absalom conspired against him, and he wept again after he died, because Absalom was his son and he loved him despite the situation and the way he treated him. And so it must be with us as the Scripture declares: to love our enemies. God said that He will recompense our reward, and we have to trust Him on that. "And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (II Samuel 18:33).

So we see here how David felt for his son, but there was another instance where the father could not shed a tear, and that was when Nadab and Abihu died by kindling strange fire unto the Lord. In this case it was different because they sinned against God, and this was in contrast between the two situations. One situation was prophesied unto David by the Prophet Nathan, while the other was distorting the ordinance of God, and God dealt with it immediately. This shows us that different situations were dealt with differently, but in the end all died for dealing foolishly. Aaron had to believe God's Word and trust His grace and humble himself according to the instructions given by God to Moses to speak unto him. "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD...And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled. And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses" (Leviticus 10:1-2,6-7).

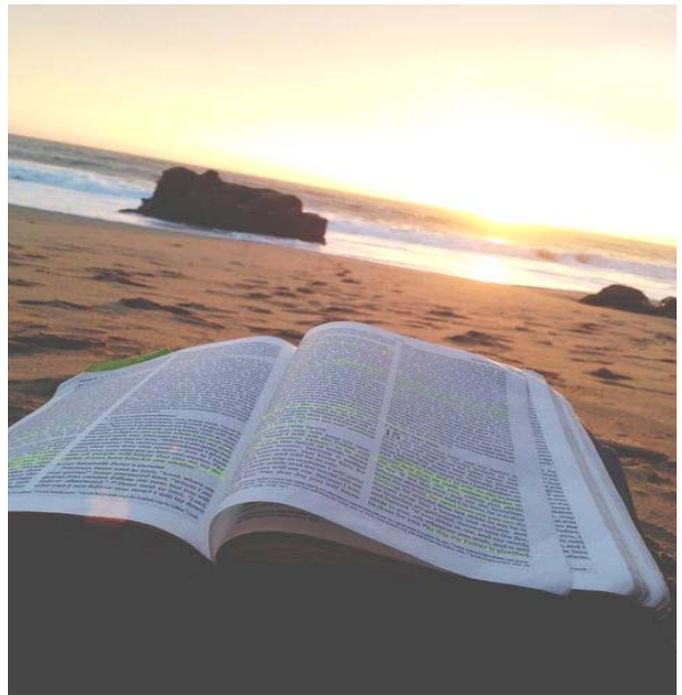
When Paul, who was also known as Saul, persecuted the people of God and got letters from the high priest to do such, went in haste, but the Lord met him near Damascus after He had seen it to be too much for God's people. And the Lord called out to him and said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4b). Thus at the sound of Jesus' voice he was sore afraid and trembling; asked the Lord what was his calling, and the Lord gave him

instructions and He also instructed Ananias what to do with Saul and He also told Ananias the things Saul would have to suffer for His name's sake because he persecuted the Church of God. "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. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias;...And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" (Acts 9:6-9,10a,11-20).

We see here what transpired with Saul before he became Paul: how the Lord brought him into subjection, and as he believed in the Lord and trusted in His grace, the Lord's grace and mercies were upon him mightily. Paul became one of the best preachers in his time. He preached so many wonderful messages, especially when he was in prison, and the reason for his imprisonment was that he was preaching the truth. And so it will be with us as well. But despite the situation we have to keep focused and

contend for the faith that was once delivered unto us. The Apostle Jude warned: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ...Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 4,3).

We must understand the Scriptures where the Apostle Paul declared: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13). Jesus told Paul when he besought Him for healing mercies that His grace was sufficient for him. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh," (or a certain ailment). "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul emphasized: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:7a,8-9a,10). Amen.



Philosophy and Vain Deceit

By David DeLong

The Apostle Paul warned the Church of God in Colossae to be aware of certain false doctrines and teachings. He wrote to them in Colossians 2:8: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." I would like to give examples, from the Bible, of such "philosophy and vain deceit" according to "the tradition of men".

The first philosophy of man which I will present is a perverted gospel. In Galatians 1:6-9, Paul warned the Galatian Church of God of just such a perversion. This passage reads: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

The gospel is a message about grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 informs us: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." However, many people look at grace and lawkeeping as being opposites, and thus they exclude the Ten Commandments as a part of the gospel message. But, even though we cannot keep the Ten Commandments to earn our salvation, it is still a part of the message of grace. The purpose of God's Law is to point out sin. Romans 3:20 tells us: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." And Ro-

mans 6:1-2 points out: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" So, perverting the gospel message would be to teach against the keeping of God's moral Law, the Ten commandments.

Another philosophy of man which is against the doctrines of the Bible is legalism. Colossians 2:16-17 warns of this practice. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." The practice of legalism is trying to keep the law to work one's way into God's kingdom. Most often, that law was the law of Moses which included circumcision. Acts 15:5 is a classic example of legalism. "But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." The apostles were against this. Many a person has become confused by the passage that we quoted from Colossians 2:16-17. They believe that the sabbaths listed in verse 16 are the weekly Sabbaths of the Ten Commandments, and thus they believe that these Sabbaths have been abolished. But a careful reading of Colossians 2:16-17 teaches us that these sabbaths, along with the rest of verse 16, actually are a part of the law of Moses, and not the Law of God. Meat and drink most likely refers to the meat and drink offerings given as a part of the sacrificial system. Holyday and new moon refer to the annual feast days and practices of the law of Moses. And "sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come;" are the yearly sabbath days such as the Day of Atonement and the Feast of unleavened bread which were

also a part of the law of Moses. The weekly Sabbath of the Ten Commandments is not a shadow of things to come, but is a part of the reality of God, as we have noted, which points out sin. (For the law of shadows as being a part of the law of Moses, see Hebrews 8:4-5 and 10:1).

Also given as a philosophy of man is the practice of mysticism. Colossians 2:18-19 reads: "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God." Apparently the Colossians were worshipping angels and practicing other forms of mysticism, to which the Apostle Paul had to warn them against. Today, there is a great fascination with angels and angel jewelry is a big rage. Paul's words to the Colossians are still valid for us today.

Also listed as a philosophy of man is given by Paul in Colossians 2:20-23. "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh." This is the philosophy of asceticism. It is a philosophy of much fasting and trying to kill the appetites of the flesh by withdrawing from the company of others. It is a philosophy "after the commandments and doctrines of men." This philosophy may sound good, but it is man-driven and not God-driven.

The Apostle Jude writes about the man-made philosophy of Gnosticism. Some of the elements of Gnosticism have already been mentioned such as angel worship, asceticism, and rejecting God's Law. Jude writes in Jude 1:4: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Denying the Lord Jesus Christ was probably from the man-made doctrine of docetism, which taught that Jesus was a two-fold being: Jesus being a man, and thus fallible, and Christ being His spiritual side, and thus infallible. Jude 1:10 says: "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves." This

likely refers to the Gnostic practice of slandering God as He was perceived in the Old Testament, who they thought was unloving, cruel, and merciless.

The Nicolaitans were apparently one of the Gnostic groups which were involved in man-made practices. They are spoken of in Revelation 2:6 and 15. Scofield has a note on them which says: "If the word is symbolic it refers to the earliest form of the notion of a priestly order, or "clergy", which later divided an equal brotherhood (Mt. 23:8), into "priests" and "laity." Referring to the Churches in Ephesus and Pergamus, we find written: "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate...So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate." We are not told by the Scriptures what that doctrine was which the Lord hated, but it almost certainly involved the breaking of the seventh commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

More is told about the practices of a woman called Jezebel in the Church of God in Thyatira in Revelation 2:20-23: "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Many of the Gnostic Christian Churches were involved with adultery and fornication because they rejected God's holy Ten Commandments. Again, the Ten Commandments are not designed to give us salvation. Only trusting in the sacrificial blood of Jesus can do that, and receiving Him as our Lord and Savior. However, the Ten Commandments point out sin, and breaking them can make a person be lost.

The last practice of man that I will give today is that of skepticism. Skepticism is not necessarily a religious practice of man, but I list it as a philosophy which is rampant in our day and age. Second Peter 3:3-7 reads: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the

word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." May the Lord bless you all not to be deceived by the philosophy of man. So that we are not deceived, we must be:

The Children Of Light

In John chapter 12, verses 35-36, we find Jesus speaking to the Jewish People: "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them." Believing in the light, of course, means believing in Jesus, Himself, and in His teachings.

Referring to Jesus as the Light, we turn to John chapter 1, verses 6-10: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

The teachings of Jesus are also declared to be light. In I John 1:5-7 we learn: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Jesus spoke about Himself in John 8:12-14: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go."

It was God, Himself who commanded the light to shine out of darkness. We read in II Corinthians 4:5-6: "For we

preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." And in Ephesians 5:8-14, we learn how the Ephesian brethren had come out of darkness to experience God's light. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

We must believe in the Light (Christ); we must accept and teach the light (Christ's doctrine); we must shine our light out of darkness (be a witness to the world); and if we are asleep, we must awake and rise from the dead to receive Christ's light. May our candles come out from under the bushels to give light to all who are about us (see Matthew 5:14-16).

So great is God's and Christ's light, that in the New Jerusalem there will be no need for the sun and moon. Revelation 21: 23-24 reads: "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it."



Children Of Light

Let us be children of light
Rather than creatures of night;
Let's let our lights shine,
as we live on the Vine,
And may they be ever so bright!

LESSON I
THE MURRAIN
OF BEASTS AND PLAGUE OF BOILS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9:1-12.

Golden Text: Exodus 9:6 (last part).

"...and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one."

1. The Lord has again told Moses to go unto Pharaoh and tell him to let his people go. What will the Lord do to the cattle of the land if Pharaoh refuses to obey? Exodus 9:1-3.

NOTE: Murrain means plague.

2. Would the cattle of the children of Israel die also? Exodus 9:4.

3. What time did the Lord set for this thing to happen, and did the children of Israel lose any cattle? Exodus 9:5-6.

4. Pharaoh's heart still was hardened. What did the Lord instruct Moses and Aaron to do? Exodus 9:8-9.

5. Did Moses sprinkle the ashes as the Lord told him to? What happened to man and beast? Exodus 9:10.

6. Was the boil upon the magicians? Exodus 9:11.

7. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go after this plague? Exodus 9:12.

LESSON II
THE PLAGUE OF HAIL

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9:13-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 9:24.

"So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation."

1. Some of the Egyptians feared God. What did they do and what did the Egyptians that did not listen to God do?

Exodus 9:20-21.

2. What did the Lord tell Moses to do, and what was to happen when he did this? Exodus 9:22.

3. What did God send with the hail? Exodus 9:23-24.

4. Where did the hail fall, and did it affect the children of Israel? Exodus 9:25-26.

5. Pharaoh sends for Moses and Aaron. What did he tell them? Exodus 9:27-28.

6. What then did Moses tell Pharaoh he would do about the hail? Did it stop? Exodus 9:29-30, 33.

7. What crops did the hail destroy, and which ones were not hurt? Exodus 9:31-32.

8. When the rain, hail and thunder stopped, what did Pharaoh do? Exodus 9:34-35.

LESSON III
THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 10:1-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 10:4.

"Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:"

1. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart, and what was Moses to tell his sons? Exodus 10:1-2.

2. What did Moses and Aaron say unto Pharaoh? Exodus 10:3-4.

3. Describe what the next plague would be like. Exodus 10:5-6.

4. What did Pharaoh's servants say to him? Exodus 10:7.

NOTE: Pharaoh talks to Moses and Aaron about letting the men go. But when they discuss that young and old, sons and daughters are to also go, Pharaoh refuses to let them go. Exodus 10:8-11.

**GENERAL QUESTIONS
FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

5. Did the Lord cause the locusts to come upon the land of Egypt? Exodus 10:12-14. From what direction did they come?
6. What did the locusts do to the land? Exodus 10:15.
7. What did Pharaoh say to Moses and Aaron when the locusts were in Egypt? Exodus 10:16-17.
8. Did the Lord take the locusts away? What did He do to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:19-20.

**LESSON IV
THE PLAGUE OF DARKNESS**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 10:20-21.

Golden Text: Exodus 10:22 (last part).

"...and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:"

1. Why did the Lord tell Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven? Exodus 10:21.
 2. How long did the darkness last, and could the Egyptians do anything during this time? Exodus 10:22-23.
- NOTE: The children of Israel had light in their dwellings.
3. What did Pharaoh tell Moses he could do and not do? Exodus 10:24.
 4. What did Moses tell Pharaoh that they had to take with them, and what were these things to be used for? Exodus 10:25-26.

5. Did Pharaoh agree to let the children of Israel go? Exodus 10:27.
6. What did Pharaoh finally tell Moses to do? Exodus 10:28.
7. What was Moses' response to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:29.

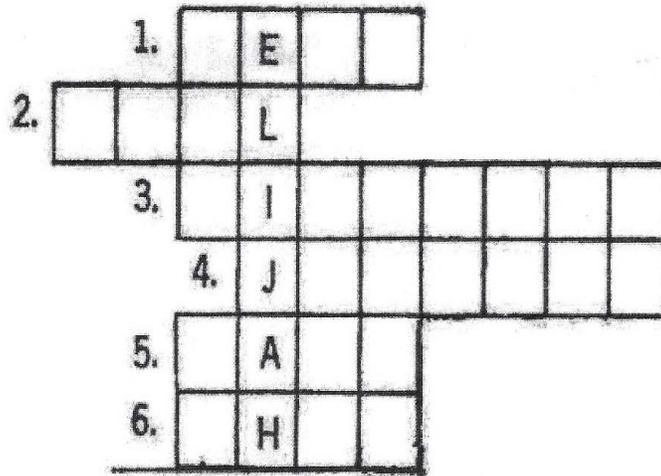
1. What high priest stopped a plague by swinging a censer between the living and the dead? Numbers 16:46-50.
2. What nation was saved by using moldy bread and worn-out shoes? Joshua 9:11-27.
3. Upon what mountain did Noah's ark finally come to rest? Genesis 8:4.
4. How was the bunch of grapes carried from Canaan to the children of Israel in the desert? Numbers 13:23.
5. What men were slain because they could not pronounce the letter "H"? Judges 12:6.
6. What great general was cured because he obeyed the advice of a little slave girl? II Kings 5:1-4.
7. What king asked a witch to help him out of his troubles? I Samuel 28:7-8.
8. Who put his hand on the ark of the covenant to steady it? I Chronicles 13:9-10.
9. Who wrestled all night without knowing whom he was wrestling with? Genesis 32:24-29.
10. Who played he was a madman to escape from his enemies? I Samuel 21:12-15.
11. What two cities were used to make the north and south borders of Israel? I Samuel 3:20.
12. Who heard a voice coming out of a whirlwind? Job 38:1.

Answers on page 14

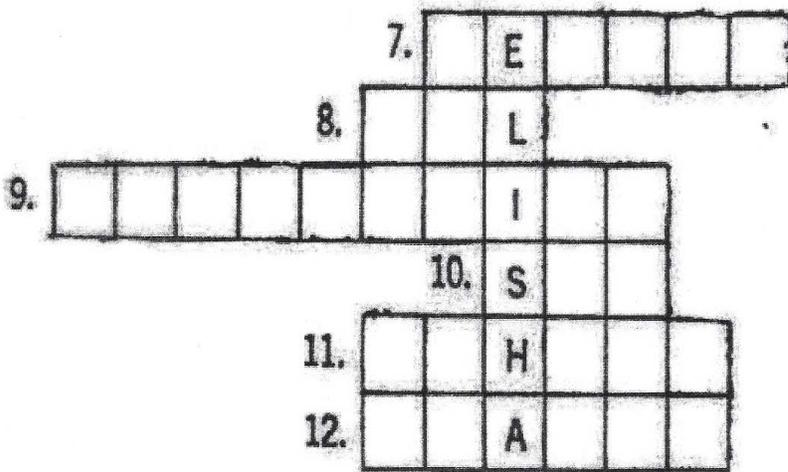
Answers to Elijah and Elisha on page 14

**1.tell 2.Baal 3.vineyard 4.Jezebel
5.rain 6.Ahab 7.heaven 8.oil
9.Shunammite 10.son 11.Gehazi 12.Naaman**

ELIJAH AND ELISHA



AND



- Answers to:
General Questions
Old Testament
from page 13*
1. Aaron
 2. Gibeon
 3. Mountains of Ararat
 4. Upon a staff between 2 men.
 5. Men of Ephraim
 6. Noaman
 7. Saul
 8. Uzza
 9. Jacob
 10. David
 11. Dan & Beersheba
 12. Job

1. What Elijah said to Obadiah to ____ Ahab (I Kings 18:8)
2. Jezebel and her 450 prophets worshipped ____ (I Kings 18:19)
3. Naboth owned a ____ which Ahab wanted (I Kings 21:1-2)
4. ____ was Ahab's wife (I Kings 21:1-2)
5. Elijah said there would be no dew nor ____ until he spake the word (I Kings 17:1)
6. God sent Elijah to speak His message to ____ (I Kings 17:1)
7. Elijah was taken to ____ in a whirlwind (II Kings 2:11)
8. God increased the ____ until all of the vessels were filled (II Kings 4:2-6)
9. The great woman at Shunem was called the ____ (II Kings 4:12)
10. Elisha said God would give the great woman a ____ (II Kings 4:16)
11. Elisha's servant was called ____ (II Kings 5:20)
12. ____ was a captain of Syria, but he was a leper (II Kings 5:1)



HE
PICKED
ME

by
Sherry
James

"Why are you staring in your cocoon?" Cassandra the caterpillar asked.

"I'm reading a message from God," said Bella the butterfly. "I've been chosen for a special task."

Cassandra stretched up tall and clapped her hands. "How exciting! I can't wait to hear about your adventure."

Through the long grass of the meadow Bella flew. Six ladybugs sat on bright red flowers with yellow star centers. They were sipping sweet smelling nectar. "Join us for a scrumptious meal," they said.

Bella's throat felt dry, and the nectar looked so good. She cleared her throat with determination. "I'm on a mission for the Lord. I'll be back soon."

"Congratulations," they squealed. "We can't wait to hear about your adventures."

Over the pond Bella soared five tiny brown frogs napped between beautiful pink flowers. The frogs stretched and sang to Bella. "Rest with us on these lovely petals."

The dark green lily pads would be a nice place to rest, thought Bella. She did feel a bit tired. Bella stopped flying and floated down for a landing. All of a sudden one of the frogs stuck out his tongue looking to grab her. Bella jerked and flew up just in time.

"You naughty frog! I'm on a mission for the Lord; I won't stop to rest with you."

Under the tree branches Bella flew. Four yellow spotted lizards bounced on creamy mushroom tops. "Come, jump with us," they yelled.

Bouncing was Bella's favorite game. It was tempting to

STORY

stop and play. Bella took a big breath, "I'd need to work first. I'm on a mission for the Lord."

"Good for you," they spoke. "We can't wait to hear about your adventures."

Beside a long bridge Bella sprinted. Three red ants were carrying big green leaves across. "Can you help us carry more leaves?" they asked. "We're helping a friend build a new house."

Bella thought about the mission and their mission. Both seemed like good joys, but if she stopped to help the ants, she wouldn't have enough time for her own task. "I'm sorry I can't help you," she said. "I'm on a mission for the Lord, too: and I can't spare the time."

The ants became very angry. One threw a rock at Bella. "You're being selfish," they cried.

Bella felt very sad. Maybe she misunderstood the message in the cocoon. Perhaps she should have helped the ants. Bella's wings slowed, drifting her around the barn. Two horses kicked and jumped for joy. "We're so glad to see you, Bella."

Bella was surprised they remembered her name. She had only been this way once before. She stopped to sit on the railing.

"Don't stop now," they said. "You're on a mission for the Lord."

Bella felt encouraged to continue. She waved goodbye. "Thank you, my friends."

With renewed determination Bella flew next to the bird bath, above the sleeping cat and beneath the porch. there she found Katie with fresh tears on her cheeks.

Bella landed carefully on Katie's tightly folded hands. Bellas opened and closed her wings very slowly two times. Katie smiled and Bella jumped into the air performing a spiral dance for the little girl. Katie held out her hand and Bella landed again.

"Thank you, God," the little girl whispered.

Katie quickly ran inside the house. "Mom! God sent me a butterfly. He's answering my prayer."

Sheer joy rippled through Bella's heart. She was glad God picked her for this mission.

Bella flew out from beneath the porch, above the cat, next to the bird bath, around the barn, beside the bridge, under the branches, over the pond and through the meadow back to her home. There gathered together were all her friends eager to hear about her adventures.

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Just Out Of Reach

*The obstacles being short does make,
Even the teasing that we must take.
We must reach up for what we need
As we go through life and we do each deed.
It seems like most things are just out of reach,
Oh, my, the lessons being short does teach.
We must get a stool to reach the shelf,
As we try our best to reach it our self.
Sometimes we must call upon a friend,
To reach the things at the very end.
It seems they are making things higher each day.
Which makes more obstacles in our way
Bertie I. Adams*

