



The Advocate of Truth



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Predictably Faithful

by David Royer

In our relationships with family, employer, friends, neighbors, country and especially God, we strive to be predictably faithful. In other words, we want to be known as someone conscientious, trustworthy, consistent and dependable.

We have several examples of predictability: “Old Faithful” geyser in Yellowstone National Park erupts every 60 to 110 minutes; state and federal taxes are due every year; the sun rises every morning; laws of science and mathematics.

The Bible offers examples of some who were predictably faithful: Daniel, who prayed daily, openly to God for seventy years and despite being cast into the “lions’ den”, remained faithful to God, at the risk of death; Jesus Christ was preordained to be our living sacrifice and He was faithful to this mission until the end of His earthly life.

Today, Christians (generally in Muslim countries) are being killed because of their faith. For most of us, however, we are required only to maintain our faith until we die. Jesus said it best, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

Faithfulness to God is the most significant element in our Christian life. It requires each of us to study His Word and carry out what is required and expected. We are

fortunate to have the Church of God (7th Day) enumerate doctrines as our study guide. A broad summation is offered in Revelation 14:12: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

God is already predictably faithful as shown in:

Isaiah 25:1: “O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”

Titus 1:2: “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

I John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Hebrews 10:23: “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”

I Corinthians 1:9: “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

In closing, our faithfulness is a commitment to adhere to the one true, faithful God; keep His commandments; and believe in His son, Jesus Christ, as our savior and pathway to eternal life. When the Lord returns for His saints, let us be found predictably faithful.



**THE BASIS
FOR
TITHING**

“Will a man rob God?...” (Malachi 3:8)

The gentle entreaty in the first part of this verse, made by our Lord through the mouth of His prophet Malachi and followed immediately with a wonderful promise that God will abundantly reward us if we obey His injunction, leaps out from the pages of God’s Word and acts somewhat as ointment rubbed into a wound. Chastisement of the keenest sort has just been administered by the Lord in the preceding verses where He accused the people of withholding from God that which is due Him, namely, tithes and offerings. After chastising them, however, He immediately followed with this promise that forms the basis of the text for the subject.

From the words of Malachi, it is evident that the abundant favors of God had been withheld from the people, and they were ready to accuse God of not being as good to them as they felt He should be. They forgot, however, that it was their own negligence and their own infidelity to God’s eternal commandments that were withholding God’s blessings from them. God gently points out to them that if they will follow His commandments, abundant blessings will be forthcoming.

Leanness in our souls today may be the result of withholding that which God has instructed us to give unto Him, and the blessings that we feel should be ours have

been withheld because of our dereliction of duty. Might it not be well for us to search our hearts and see if we are obeying that which God has set forth in His Word? If an honest search reveals that the withholding of the tithes and offerings may be the result of missed blessings, would we not do well to obey God’s blessed truths and enjoy the fullness of God’s blessings?

Tithing and the giving of offerings should proceed from a grateful heart as an expression of thankfulness for the bountiful blessings of God extended to us. There are those who object to tithing by stating that it is an old Mosaic law which no longer needs to be obeyed in this day and age. A careful search of the Scripture, however, will reveal that long before the Law, grateful men and women, because of God’s unmerited favors and grace toward them, gave tithes of their possessions and of that with which God had blessed them.

I should like to call to your attention some of these men who God blessed; and because of His blessings, they showed their gratefulness to Him by giving unto the Lord that which was due Him. In the days of Abraham and Lot, misfortune befell the household of Lot. His women and his goods were confiscated by the raiding kings. When Abraham heard of the misfortune that had befallen Lot, he took his own trained servants and pursued the enemy until he overtook them and overcame them, regaining Lot, the women, the people and the goods. After his victory, Melchizedek, king of Salem, came to meet him. The Scriptures say that he was priest of the most high God, and he blessed the most high God and Abraham. The Scriptures record that Abraham gave Melchizedek tithes of all. This act was so outstanding that Paul in writing to the Hebrews recorded this great event in Hebrews 7:2,4: “To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; . . . Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.”

I should like to call your attention to another splendid occasion and example where one felt that he should render to the Lord that which was due Him. This dates back prior to the days of Abraham and of Jacob, back in the early history of mankind. A young man by the name of Abel, who was a keeper of the sheep, a herdsman for the Lord, brought an offering to God. This offering was brought out of a willing heart, and out of a grateful one,

and was offered to the Lord because of His goodness unto him. From the Scriptures it is reasonable to suppose that this which Abel gave was a tithe unto the Lord. He brought the firstling of his flock. One writer has, in writing about this verse of the Scripture, said, "This firstling was usually the first one-tenth." If this is true, then this was a tithe that Abel brought to the Lord.

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia states that the custom of giving a tenth part is a very ancient one among most nations. They further state that the Jews had this custom long before the institution of the Mosaic Law and that the payment of tithes was so ancient, and was so deeply rooted in the history of humanity, that it seemed a very simple and a natural thing for the Hebrew people to believe and practice tithing long before the days of Moses, and the Levitical Priesthood.

--Reprinted



FEW HAPPY LOTTERY WINNERS

We hear about people winning the lottery and suddenly having massive amounts of money. However, winning the lottery was not a long-term positive experience in most cases. Happiness is not found in money. With taxes taking 40 percent of the money, relatives demanding gifts, financial advisors offering bad investments, and greed tearing up relationships, the aftermath of winning a lottery is pretty negative. *The Week* magazine (February 12, 2016, page 11) reports that lottery winners are disproportionately likely to wind up bankrupt. One winner is quoted as saying, "I wish we had torn the ticket up." The lottery itself is defined as "a shell game" and "a tax on stupidity" as the money from the lottery is not spent on education, but to prop up badly conceived political budgets. Christians need to realize that there is a reason we should not support any sin industry. There are too many good things to do with our resources that ultimately bring greater joy and satisfaction.

--From "Does God Exist?"

THE UNFINISHED TOWER

--Reprinted



Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, had a great work to do. A clean, beautiful world lay before them, and God had told them to rebuild and replenish the earth. God had sent a great flood and had destroyed every living thing that had been left on the earth when the Flood came. Only Noah and his wife, Noah's three sons and their wives, and of course the animals he had taken into the ark before the Flood, were still alive.

They obeyed God and began to build homes and plant gardens. God was good to them and gave them children, and it was not long before there were a lot of people on the earth again. The people traveled from one place to another trying to find a good place to live. Finally, they came to the plain of Shinar where they settled.

"Let us build a city and great tower that will reach into the heavens. We must make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the face of the earth." It was not long before the people set about to build the tower. It was an easy thing to do for they had the bricks and other materials they needed right there in the plain of Shinar. Some prepared the bricks and mortar, still others carried them to the place where they were building the tower.

Everything went along fine for they were all of one language. They understood each other perfectly and were all looking forward to the day that the wonderful tower would be finished.

One day God came down to see the tower. He was saddened by what He saw, for the people were only thinking of the beautiful tower they were building. It seemed that they were having less and less time for God. Something had to be done. "We must confuse the language of the people so that they will not be able to understand one another," thought God. This is just what God did, and now the people could not understand what their neighbor was saying. What a great disappointment this was, for how could they work together when they could not understand the thing they were to do. Everything was in a terrible mess, and they could no longer go on with their beautiful tower. It was not long before the people began to move to different parts of the country seeking for someone who could understand them. They had forgotten about the building of the tower. From that time on the city where the tower was, was called the city of Babel, which means confusion.

There are many records such as this all through the Bible. God interrupted the plans of the wicked people many times, for they were drifting away from God and were causing others to drift also. It pays to obey and do God's will all the time. We must depend on God for His guidance in all that we do. **God's way is the Best Way.**



Chorus:
*God's way is the best way,
 God's way is the right way,
 I'll trust in Him always,
 He knoweth the best.*

by Lida Shivers Leech



"Lesson in Unconditional Love"
 (By Brenda)

I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree. The last class I had to take was Sociology. The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called "Smile". The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reaction.

I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say hello anyway.....so, I thought, this would be a piece of cake (literally).

Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonald's, one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special play time with our son.

We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch...an overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved.

As I turned around I smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell...and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman, close to me, he was "smiling" ...his beautiful sky blue eyes were full of God's Light as he searched for acceptance.

He said, "Good day" as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second

man was mentally deficient and the blue eyed gentle man was his salvation. I held my tears.....as I stood there with them.

The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all Miss" because that was all they could afford (to sit in the restaurant and warm up they had to buy something...they just wanted to be warm).

Then I really felt it...the compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me...judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot.

I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Thank you". I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, "I did not do this for you...God is here working through me to give you hope". I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son. When I sat down my husband smiled at me and said, "That is why God gave you to me honey....to give me hope". We held hands for a moment and at that time we knew that only because of the Grace were we able to give

We are not church goers but we are believers. That day showed me the pure Light of God's sweet love.

I returned to college, on the last evening of class, with this story in hand. I turned in "my project" and the instructor read it....then she looked up at me and said, "Can I share this?" I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class. She began to read and that is when I knew that we as human beings share this need to heal.

In my own way I had touched the people at McDonald's, my husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student. I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learn....unconditional acceptance.....after all....we are here to learn!

THE RESURRECTION HOPE

--Bond Tennant

The resurrection was the hope of Job centuries before Jesus was born. "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job 14:14).

The resurrection was the hope of the Apostle Paul. Eight times in I Corinthians he speaks of the surety of Jesus' resurrection and its meaning for us. "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (I Corinthians 15:16-19).

The resurrection was Isaiah's hope. "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast" (Isaiah 26:19-20).

The resurrection was Daniel's hope. "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).

The resurrection was David's hope. "Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me" (Psalm 49:14-15).

The resurrection was Peter's hope. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:3-5).

"Obedient In All Things"

By David DeLong

The Apostle Paul penned these words: "For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things" (II Corinthians 2:9). As Church of God (7th Day) folks we enjoy the characterization of being called "commandment keepers". It brings us much satisfaction that we keep the Ten Commandments of God as well as His other commandments such as tithing and the law of clean and unclean. But, we must not stop there. As commandment keepers we must be sensitive to, and be willing to keep, every commandment that the Lord gives us, Old Testament as well as New.

Let me give an example. in Psalm 96:1 we find this commandment from the Lord: "O sing unto the LORD a new song; sing unto the LORD, all the earth." Be honest with yourself. When was the last time you sang a new song unto the Lord? There is nothing wrong with singing to Him our old songs, over and over again. But to be fully obedient to the Lord we must, at times, learn new songs with which to praise Him.

In the book of I Thessalonians 5, a long list of commands are given to the saints through the writing of the Apostle Paul. Let us quote verses 12 through 27: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for

us. Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren."

Nearly every verse in the above passage is written in the imperative form, and as we learned in High School English class the imperative form is actually a command. Are we looking to commands such as these to be obedient to the Lord? Are we being at peace among ourselves? Do we warn the unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men? Do we rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, give thanks in every thing? Are we making sure not to quench the Spirit, that we despise not prophesyings, are we proving all things and holding fast to that which is good, are we abstaining from all appearance of evil, are we sharing the Scriptures with the holy brethren?

Sometimes these verses seem to be more of suggestions, but they are actually commands of the Lord for His people to do.

I don't make very many New Year's resolutions, but this year I decided to keep a notebook handy so that I could write down the verses where commands such as the above are located. Then, I plan to review these commands often so that they become more established in my mind, and I give them the consideration that I would give such commandments as the Ten Commandments, tithing, and the law of the clean and unclean.

You may be thinking, "There are many of these types of commandments in the Scriptures. Will the Lord keep me out of His kingdom if I don't do every one of them?" There is a precious verse in Romans 8:1 which reads: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." This verse tells us that as long as we are walking after the Spirit there is NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Walking after the Spirit is trying to be obedient to the Lord in all things. Walking after the flesh is willfully being disobedient to the Lord. As long as we are sincerely trying, with God's help, to be obedient in

all things, we are not under condemnation. II Corinthians 8:12 reads: "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according

to that he hath not."

May we try our best to be obedient to the Lord in all things.

The Space Of God's Grace

By David DeLong

It appears, from the Scriptures, that the Lord allows a certain amount of time for people to repent of their sins before His judgment falls upon them. This amount of time is known only to the Lord. For instance, we learn in Genesis 15:16, where the Lord tells Abram (Abraham) about his descendants coming into the land of promise: "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." After the iniquity of the Amorites became full, they were judged severely by the Lord.

When the Lord made an appearance to Abraham with two of His angels, He was on the verge of investigating the sins of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which had been mounting unto heaven for a long time. Genesis 18:17-22 tells us: "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD."

We know that before the Lord sent the great Flood of Noah's day to destroy all flesh upon the face of the earth, that He gave the wicked people about a hundred years to repent while Noah was constructing the ark and preaching to these people (see Genesis 6:5-7; II Peter 2:5).

In the book of Revelation a wicked woman named Jezebel is given a certain amount of time to repent of her sins. Revelation 2:20-23 tells us about events in the Church

of Thyatira: "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."

In every one of these situations the chance to repent was not used by the people involved: the Amorites did not repent of their sins, the folks of Sodom and Gomorrah did not repent, the people before the Flood did not repent, and Jezebel from the Church of Thyatira did not repent. And yet, the Lord was merciful, and faithful, in giving them the space of His grace. Even when the Lord sends upon the earth the fullness of His wrath during the seven last plagues, people still won't repent. We see this from Revelation 9:20-21: "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

Let us not be like these hard hearted people who throw away God's mercy and grace until all that is left to them is His judgment. May we ever use the space of God's grace as a time to look within our hearts to see if we need to repent from our sins and to let the blood of Christ cleanse us. May we be like the Psalmist who wrote: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).



WHAT SMELLS?

--Reprinted

Can sharks really smell a drop of blood in the ocean? Does a vulture sniff its prey from high in the sky? Do we smell bad to a skunk?

While you set reading this article, all around you animals are conversing in a silent scent dialogue. A dog is sniffing a signpost for a message. A female moth is exuding a perfume to lure males from miles away. Ants are laying down scent trails and rabbits are building odor fences. *“And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good...And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good”* (Genesis 1:21, 24, 25). We hope that presenting the wonders of God and His creation – *“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who CREATED all things by Jesus Christ”* (Ephesians

3:9). *“For the invisible things (the smells) 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”* (Romans 1:20).

If you were to put down this “Advocate” and take a walk in the woods, literally hundreds of creatures would smell you coming and dive into burrows or scamper up trees to get out of the way.

Each animal – including you and me – has a unique aroma composed not only of a species but also of a family and personal scent. In addition, all animals – with just a few exceptions - have a sense of smell, and for most it is the most basic and useful sense.

Smell and taste are called the chemical senses because particles of odor and flavor substances must be dissolved in liquid to be recognized. That is why the nose and the mouth are bathed in fluids like mucus and saliva.

In some creatures, taste and smell receptors are so close together that scientists argue whether or not they are one combined sense, but in two highly developed forms of animal life – insects and vertebrates (those with backbones, including us) – the senses of smell and taste are clearly distinct. We smell with our noses and taste with our tongues. Bees smell with their antennae and taste with their mouth parts.

No matter how an animal does it, take for instance a snake, when it puts forth its tongue and wiggles it around, it is using it to smell what is up ahead or on each side of it, however, smell has advantage over taste. Identifying something by taste requires direct contact, whereas things can be smelled from great distances. This gives the sense of smell an advantage over touch as well. In order to touch something, you have to be close to it. In a world where an enemy may quickly gobble you up when given a chance, it is better to keep safely away until you know for sure the other creature is friendly.

The sense of smell is also more useful than sight in most animals. The majority have poor eyesight, and some are even created blind. Furthermore, sight is not very helpful in the dark or in thick foliage. or in muddy waters.

Two objects may look very much alike and often the only way to tell them apart is to smell them.

Sounds are hard to detect in a noisy environment. And if an animal uses audible signals to communicate with others of its kind, it may give away its exact location to enemies. Odors may not be so precise. Smells can permeate a wide area, day or night, and they have the added advantage of remaining to leave a message behind after an animal has gone.

But above all things, the chemical sense of smell (sometimes combined with taste) is needed by almost all animals to ensure proper nourishment. How else could a creature analyze foods – which are composed of chemicals – and determine which were good to eat?

Therefore, it is not surprising that the ability to smell is thought to have been the first sense created by the Wonderful Creator (Philippians 4:18; Psalm 115:3, 6).

Those animals which are great smellers have a greater portion of “nose brain” – the microsomatic, such as the bloodhound and the rabbit – have large brain areas which receive smell messages. Those animals which are lesser smellers – the microsomatic, such as humans and birds – have smaller brain smell areas. The whale and the dolphin, which are believed to have lost their sense of smell entirely, have almost no “nose brain” at all.

But even in creatures which are considered microsomatic, the sense of smell is still wonderfully powerful. We humans, for instance, can detect 0.000,000,000,000, 071 of an ounce of skunk odor in the air.

Despite its importance, the sense of smell is the least understood of all the senses. No one is sure, for example, just how odor particles floating around in the air can be picked up by an animal’s nose, transformed into electrical signals which are transmitted to the brain and then interpreted as “That smells like a rose” or “That’s garbage.”

Nevertheless, despite these mysteries, humans have always manipulated scents. The ancient Egyptians employed perfumes to send messages. The Chinese had

a perfume clock with a different fragrance for each hour. The great African general, Hannibal, used his elephants not only to cross the Alps but to create a stink. He knew the stench of the huge beasts would send the enemy’s horses into uncontrollable panic even before the armies met on the battlefield. Incidentally, elephants swing their trunks when walking to smell their way along. Their tiny eyes are not much good to them. Skunks, of course, are even bigger stinkers than elephants. When those white-striped, busy-tailed creatures let loose their scent, even their most ferocious opponents beat a hasty retreat.

Odor repellents and attractants in nature have long been observed by humans, but the beginning of modern scientific study of smell messages probably began with the eighteenth century naturalists. They were puzzled by the ability of virgin female moths to attract male moths from great distances, and they wondered if the females used a scent. Human noses could not detect any moth scent at all.

The critical experiment demonstrating that the attractant was, indeed, a self-made moth odor was described in 1879 by Jean Henri Fabre in his book, *Souvenirs Entomologiques*. The Frenchman wrote that when he picked up a female moth and put her under a glass hood, male moths that flew into his house through the open window ignored her and went, instead, to the spot where she had most recently been resting.

Other experimenters showed that male moths smelled the females with their antennae. When the antennae were removed or covered with varnish, the winged suitors were no longer interested in the come-hither perfume.



The Weightier Matters of the Law

--By Tim Buechner

Jesus gave a warning to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 concerning their priorities. He goes as far as calling them hypocrites because of the prioritization of God's law they had taken it upon themselves to choose.

Jesus chastised them for being specific in their calculation of tithe while completely ignoring, omitting, other aspects such as judgment, mercy and faith (Luke specifies the love of God). While Matthew uses the word "omitted", Luke uses the words "pass over". To pass over something is to recognize it as being present, that it is there, but, consciously choosing to ignore it. So, the scribes and Pharisees were aware of the need to demonstrate judgment, mercy and faith, but, chose to omit those from their practice.

What made the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees even more offensive was that the items they had chosen to ignore were more important than the items they had prioritized. Jesus said that judgment, mercy and faith were "weightier" than tithing. So, they had consciously made the choice to ignore what Jesus described as being more important.

Mint was an herb mentioned in the Scriptures two times. It appears to have been used to scatter on the floors of their houses and for seasoning. Anise is an herb not mentioned anywhere else in the Scriptures and was apparently used for a spice or in medicine. Cummin appears in the Scriptures a total of three times. It was a seed used as a condiment. It was on these relatively insignificant items that the scribes and Pharisees made sure they paid close attention to. They wanted to make sure they were comprehensive in the calculation of their tithe.

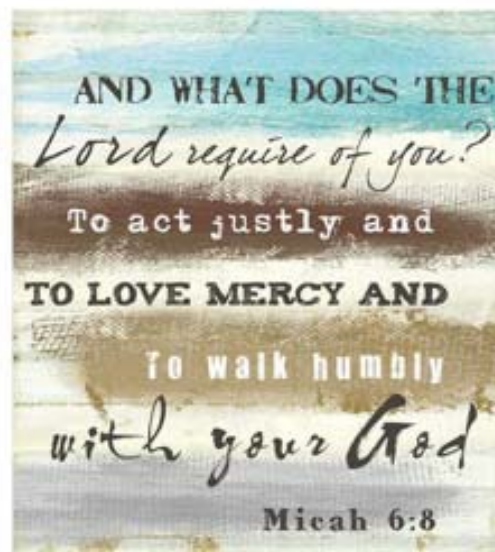
Judgment, mercy and faith are mentioned numerous times in the Scriptures. It is hard to ignore the importance of these based on the frequency they are referred to. Yet, the scribes and Pharisees chose to completely ignore them. Following the laws of God they had chosen themselves to focus on had become their relationship with God and

subsequently man. It had become a relationship of focusing on the rules and regulations instead of the intended results of the law in their lives. They substituted the focus on the rules for a true heartfelt relationship with God that would have resulted in them executing righteous judgment, mercy and faith.

It can be easier to focus on the things of God that are more tangible and physically evident than the "softer" attributes that actually require us to have more discipline and focus to execute. Which is easier, the calculating ten percent of your income or demonstrating mercy to someone who has offended you?

To be clear, Jesus was not saying that they shouldn't pay attention to the appropriate calculation of their tithe. He said that they should have focused first on judgment, mercy and faith and not leave the calculation of tithe undone. They just had their priorities mixed up.

How about you? Do you find it easier, more comfortable or convenient, to focus on keeping the commandments, the clean and unclean, tithing, etc. while not placing judgment, mercy and faith first? I dare say that there are many of us who are ready and quicker to chastise someone for breaking a commandment than for not demonstrating judgment, mercy, faith and the love of God. Do you find yourself in the same place of the scribes and Pharisees? Woe!





THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD PROVIDING MANNA

--Bond Tennant

When the children of Israel murmured that there was no food in the wilderness, God spoke to Moses saying, "I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God" (Exodus 16:12).

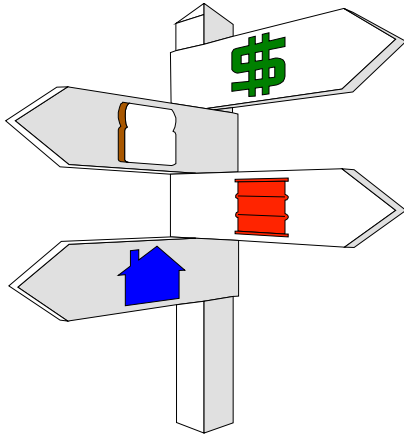
"And it came to pass, that ... in the morning the dew lay around about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was..." (Exodus 16:13-15). We may note from the previous Scripture that the Hebrew word translated "manna" means "what is it?" Moses answered their question when he said, "This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat". Israel should be satisfied and

grateful to God for providing this manna. Not a single day passed for forty years that they did not have manna to eat, which would meet their nutritional needs and satisfy their hunger. Without this miraculous provision for food they would surely have died in the wilderness.

The Scriptures tell us what this manna was like. In the verses previously quoted, we are told it was deposited at night, like the dew. Its color was white, which indicates that it was not a growing tree, plant, grass, grain or herb. See verse 31. Therefore, it was not something that grew out of the earth naturally. The fact that the manna was white further illustrates its provision as a direct miracle of God.

In Psalm 78-23-25, it is called "angels' food." In Exodus 16:31, manna is described as being "...like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey." Coriander seed is a globular, white, aromatic fruit about the size of a peppercorn. Manna was "like" it, but it was not coriander seed itself. In another account we are told, "and the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium" (Numbers 11:7). Bdelium is thought by some to have been a white aromatic gum or resin from certain balsam trees. Others believe bdellium refers to the white pearl found in oysters. Whichever of these may have actually been referred to in the previous verses, bdellium was white, which was also the color of the manna.





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.

2020 STATUS OF THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK

The Doomsday clock has twice been featured in this Signs Of The Times. I wish to feature another article about it which tells of its current setting.

The following is an article which appeared in **USA Today**. It is entitled *Doomsday clock ticks closer to destruction*. It has a subheading of *Global emergency is 100 seconds to 'midnight'*.

“The world is 100 seconds to “midnight.” According to the Doomsday Clock, closer to destruction than at any point since the clock was created in 1947.

Each year, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a nonprofit group that sets the clock, decides whether the events of the previous year pushed humanity closer or further from destruction. The clock ‘conveys how close we are to destroying our civilization with dangerous technologies of our own making,’ according to the group.

This year, the group moved the clock from two minutes to 100 seconds to midnight. The closer to midnight we are, the more danger we’re in according to the Bulletin.

“We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds – not hours or even minutes,” said Rachel Bronson, president and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. “It is closer the closest to Doomsday we have ever been in the history of the Doomsday Clock.

“We now face a true emergency – an absolutely unacceptable state of world affairs that has eliminated any margin for error or further delay.”

In a statement, the Bulletin said, “Humanity continues to face two simultaneous existential dangers – nuclear war and climate change – that are compounded by a threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts society’s ability to respond.

“Civilization-ending nuclear war – whether started by design, blunder or simple miscommunication – is a genuine possibility,” the group said. Climate change that could devastate the planet is undeniably happening. And for a variety of reasons that include a corrupted and manipulated media environment, democratic governments and other institutions that should be working to address these threats have failed to rise to the challenge.”

The furthest the clock has been from midnight was 17 minutes in 1991, near the end of the Cold War.

The Doomsday Clock has moved closer to midnight in three of the past four years.

The Doomsday Clock did not move in 2019 after its minute hand was set forward in 2018 by 30seconds, to two minutes before midnight.

The clock has been maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists since 1947.

The group was founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who helped develop the first nuclear weapons in the Manhattan Project.

The scientists created the clock in 1947, using the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and a nuclear explosion (countdown to zero) to convey threats to humanity and the Earth.

The decision was made by the board of the Atomic Scientists, along with input from a board of sponsors that includes 13 Nobel Laureates.

Comment -The facts mentioned in this article about the state of the earth are very true, but they are signs of the times which are foretold in God’s Word. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists knows nothing about Bible prophecy or they would not be concerned about civilization being destroyed.

Jesus said, “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity (no way out); the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21:25). He also said, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22).

ABOUT PUERTO RICO

Prior to the writing of this column, Puerto Rico was affected badly by Hurricane Maria. It was reported that they did not get the aid from the United States government they needed in an orderly manner and enough of it. As a matter of fact, I understand that many on the island have not recovered from Hurricane Maria, and its infrastructure is still in poor shape.

To add to that, just recently Puerto Rico suffered a string of earthquakes. A newspaper article gave some of the damages these earthquakes caused. It reported that many were sleeping outside and were without power.

The article stated that the worse quake recorded a magnitude of 6.4. It killed at least one person and injured at least nine. It caused a power outage that left half a million people in the U.S. territory without electricity.

It was stated that more than 250,000 were without water, according to the island’s water authority, and hundreds of buildings were damaged or were close to crumbling which forced the people to pull their beds into the streets in fear that an aftershock could flatten their homes.

Comment - Those earthquakes in Puerto Rico are just another sign of the times. Yes. It is very sad that many have to be the victims of them. Jesus said these earthquakes would be in diverse (different) places, and we can attest to that!

I am sure that many sincere people (those who are not willfully wicked) may wonder why they were born if their life is only destroyed by an earthquake or another natural disaster.

We must trust and obey God, no matter what! He has a plan for those who are not willfully wicked. We know that it is by far not the same plan that the footstep followers of Jesus have, but He will not forget them.

Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

CORONAVIRUS

You, no doubt heard about the coronavirus that originated in China. It was declared a worldwide emergency. According to the U.N. health agency, a worldwide emergency is an “extraordinary event” that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated response.

Americans were told to leave China, but some said they wanted to stay. Airplanes were sent to bring them home. There were, and maybe still are, other problems originating from coronavirus.

Let us pray that this coronavirus epidemic is contained before it spreads to many victims.

DELAYING MARRIAGE

I saw an article which stated that some young adults won’t say ‘I do’ with outstanding debt.

The article stated that about one-third of respondents, to a survey, between the ages 18 and 34, say they might postpone marriage, or already have done so until student debt is paid off.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Is the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 a statement of fact or a parable?

ANSWER: Those who advocate the teaching of the eternal torment theory insist that the account of the rich man and Lazarus is not a parable at all, but a statement of fact. They call attention to the fact that Jesus did not refer to it as a parable. They also refer to the statement, “a certain rich man,” claiming that Jesus was telling a story of a man who actually lived and who, when he died, found himself being tormented in a literal lake of fire.

This story of the rich man, it is claimed by the eternal torture proponents, teaches that the wicked, unconverted sinners go to a place of torture when they die, and the righteous believers in Christ go to heaven. However, since the story by their own claim, is a literal statement, it does not prove these points at all. Nothing is said in this statement about the rich man being an unbeliever, or even a sinner. It simply states that he was rich, “fared sumptuously every day,” being evidently well fed. Moreover, the story does not inform us that the beggar was righteous, or a believer in Christ, but merely a “certain beggar.” It also does not say that he went to heaven when he died. However, it does say that he was “carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom.”

We know of no group of professed Christians who believe that the righteous are carried to Abraham’s bosom by the angels when they die. According to the professed beliefs of those who teach the eternal torment theory, that part of the story is not a statement of fact and, therefore must be a parable. We also know of no religious group who believes that Abraham can be addressed by those suffering in the flames of eternal torment, and that he is able to talk back to them, as occurs in this story. These verses also must be parabolic in nature.

There are other details of the story which would be equally unreasonable if we considered them to be literal statements. It is very evident that the whole account is a parable, even though Jesus did not so designate it.

NOTE: Send for our free tract **THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS**

QUESTION: One of my favorite biblical subjects is prayer, and I pray often. What are some of your thoughts about prayer?

ANSWER: Prayer is not an attempt to change God’s mind. Real prayer is communion with God. By it, we express our trust in Him, seek to know His mind on the decisions of life, subject to His will, and resist in His name

the efforts of the devil to frustrate God's loving purposes in human lives.

At times, we do not understand God's ways. It is then that we must trust Him implicitly, knowing that one day we shall understand. Years later we may see the purpose of some situation that at one point seemed to remain unchanged despite much earnest prayer.

Some who pray for the restoration of loved ones to mental sanity and perfect balance feel that this is the answer the Lord has given them. Others who pray for the conversion of some member of their family feel the same. God takes time to humble human pride and to bring men to an end of themselves. He does not treat us as puppets. He who is all-powerful in the outworking of His purposes has chosen to respect the will which He has given His creatures. He awaits His time, where we in our impatience and fear, would rush in and break another's will against our will. We are slow to pray with sincerity that the Lord will bring us around to do His will at all costs.

George Mueller prayed sixty years for the conversion of a friend. When Mueller died, that man was still unconverted. But a few weeks later, the old man turned to Christ. George Mueller must have felt that God was not answering his prayers. However, all the time the answer had been, "Yes, but not yet."

The Bible gives a number of references to unanswered prayer. The Psalmist David speaks of his prayer returning to his own bosom (35:13), or as some people would say, "My prayer only got as far as the ceiling."

In Isaiah 1:15, God said to backsliding Israel, "...when ye make many prayers, I will not hear ..." Jeremiah complained, "...when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer" (Lamentations 3:8).

In Daniel 10, we read of Satanic opposition to fervent believing prayer, and of the answer to prayer being held up by opposing powers of darkness, principalities, and powers arrayed against God's purposes and therefore against His servant (vv. 10-14, cf. (Ephesians 6:10-12).

In John 11, we read of the divine overruling of fervent believing prayer. The answer to the prayer of Mary and

Martha for the healing of Lazarus was delayed because the Lord purposed to do something better than they asked.

"The glory of God" (John 11:40) does not figure largely enough in our prayers. God wants to teach us to pray that, whatever else may happen, He will get the glory and honor due His great name. When His glory is the supreme aim of our prayers, things can happen which are hindered from happening when our own comfort, joy, convenience, or even the blessing of others hold too large a place in our thinking.

God grant us a genuine concern for His glory which will affect all our thinking and all our praying. When we have this, no part of our lives will be unaffected. We will live our lives on a higher plane, as well as entering into new depths of prayer communion.

QUESTION: In my daily Scripture reading, I just finished reading Matthew 26. Do you believe that Peter was actually yelling profanities in verse 74?

ANSWER: Matthew 26:74 states, "Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew."

When Peter began "to curse and to swear" denying that he ever knew Jesus, he did not yell profanities. He was really taking a false oath that he was telling the truth.

On the night when Jesus was arrested, Peter was asked twice if he was one of the disciples. He denied it both times. The third time he was questioned, "...he began to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not this man of whom ye speak" (Mark 14:71). As we see, the King James translation adds the verb, *saying* here as an interpolation. This is an intended clarification, but it actually obscures the meaning of the sentence for readers. Peter was not uttering profanities or swearing like a sailor in the modern sense of that term. He was really saying something like, "I swear to God I never knew the "man" or "Let me be accursed if I ever followed Jesus."

The Revised Standard Version presents Peter's response more clearly: "But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, 'I do not know this man of whom you speak.'"



India, Part 2

A meeting of the brethren in the newly dedicated church in Balarajugudem Village.





LESSON I

DAVID ACCEPTS GOLIATH'S CHALLENGE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:12-37.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:32.

"And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Goliath was a giant of a man and challenged the Israelite armies. The Israelites were afraid, but we will now learn of David's courage.

- 1. How many of Jesse's sons followed Saul into battle, and where was David at this time? I Samuel 17:12-15.*
- 2. What did David's father instruct him to do? I Samuel 17:16-19.*
- 3. Did David obey his father? I Samuel 17:20-22.*
- 4. When David reached the army, did he hear about the challenge made by Goliath? I Samuel 17:23.*
- 5. Were the men of Israel afraid of Goliath, and what did the king promise the man who killed the giant? I Samuel 17:24-25.*
- 6. What question did David ask when he met the Israelites? I Samuel 17:26-27.*
- 7. Who became angry with David when he spoke to the men of the army? I Samuel 17:28.*
- 8. Saul sent for David. What did Saul say to him? I Samuel 17:31-33.*
- 9. How confident was David that he could slay the giant? I Samuel 17:34-37.*

LESSON II

DAVID'S VICTORY OVER GOLIATH

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:38-58.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:50 (first part).

"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone..."

NOTE: The Philistine army with Goliath has challenged the Israelites. All the men of Israel are afraid to fight Goliath even though the king has promised great riches and his daughter in marriage to the one who killed the giant. David is confident that he can slay the giant. Let us see if he is successful in doing so.

- 1. how did Saul arm David for battle? I Samuel 17:38-39.*
- 2. David did not wear the armor. What does he get to prepare to fight Goliath? I Samuel 17:40.*
- 3. When the Philistine looked upon David, what taunting remarks did he make to him? I Samuel 17:41-44.*
- 4. What was David's reply to his remarks about him? I Samuel 17:45-47.*
- 5. When the Philistine arose and came nigh to David, what happened? I Samuel 17:48-50.*
- 6. After he has smitten the giant with the stone, what did David do next? I Samuel 17:51.*
- 7. Did the Philistines flee from the Israelites after this? I Samuel 17:52-53.*
- 8. What did David do with the head of the Philistine? I Samuel 17:54-57.*

LESSON III

SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID
(PART I)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 18:1-16.

Golden Text: I Samuel 18:12.

"And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied how David was successful in defeating the giant who was with the Philistine army. David trusted fully in God, and he knew the Lord would help him to slay Goliath. David is now before Saul. Let's study more about the life of David and how Saul becomes jealous of him.

1. Who became a good friend to David? I Samuel 18:1-3.

NOTE: Jonathan is Saul's son.

2. What did Jonathan give to David? I Samuel 18:4.

3. What prompted Saul to become jealous of David? I Samuel 18:5-7.

4. Did this displease Saul? Did he watch David closely after that? I Samuel 18:8-9.

5. An evil spirit came from God upon Saul. How did he say he would smite David? I Samuel 18:10-11.

6. Was Saul afraid of David? I Samuel 18:12.

7. What position did Saul give to David? I Samuel 18:13.

8. Did all Israel and Judah love David? I Samuel 18:16.

LESSON IV

SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID
(PART II)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 18:17-30.

Golden Text: I Samuel 18:29.

"And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that Saul was jealous and feared David because the Lord was with him. As we continue this lesson, we find what Saul tries to do to David.

1. Why did Saul want to give his eldest daughter to David for his wife? I Samuel 18:17-18.

2. Did he marry Merab? I Samuel 18:19.

3. Which one of Saul's daughters loved David? I Samuel 18:20.

4. Why did Saul willingly offer Michal to David for his wife? I Samuel 18:21.

5. What did Saul command his servant to do? Did they tell David? I Samuel 18:22-24.

6. What did Saul want David to do and why? I Samuel 18:25.

7. Did David slay the Philistines as Saul desired? I Samuel 18:26-27.

8. Why was Saul yet more afraid of David? I Samuel 18:28-30.

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving..." (Psalm 95:1-2).



THE LILIES AND THE WEEDS

by Ida Ogren

Unbidden tears quietly ran down the lovely cheeks of the fifteen-year-old girl, as she sat in her aunt's sitting room thinking of the fact that only three more days and her vacation would be ended. "If only this vacation would last. I'll miss the friends, the wonderful church services, the ..," Betty said almost aloud. Just then there was a knock on the door.

Quickly brushing the tears from her eyes, she ran to the door to see who it could be so early in the morning. "Oh, it's you, Patty do come in. I'm so happy you came!" "Is...is there something wrong? I -- I mean -- well you look rather sad. I hope nothing has happened," finished Patty as she observed Betty's sad mood.

"Oh, no... nothing has gone wrong...I've only been thinking of my vacation. I have only three more days to stay. "I'll be so terribly lonesome without you and the

church services. I've grown to love the meetings more than I could tell you. The gang I used to chum with never attended any kind of church services. We thought it was smart to be rude, keep late hours and go our own ways. It'll be hard for me when I get back there. They'll expect me to join them again -- but I've changed -- I know now what it means to be really happy," replied Betty.

"Don't be so discouraged about going back. How about getting your coat and we'll solve your problem while we go out to a field a little distance down the road -- we'll get some pretty flowers to help us." suggested Patty.

"Oh, that'll be grand - I just love to go flower hunting!" Betty gasped excitedly as she ran for her coat.

As they reached the field, both were refreshed from their brisk walk in the cool morning air and had almost forgotten their purpose of coming out there.

"Oh! Look at all those pretty Bluebells over there!" Betty almost shouted with glee. "Oh, this will be fun. Where I come from, we don't have any chances such as this. We just have to be in that old city with the noise of the street cars, traffic and factories all day."

"I'm sorry. I really wish you could stay here with your aunt all the time," sympathized Patty "Do you see that beautiful tiny white spot over there?"

"Yes, what is it?" asked Betty, puzzled. "Lilies," replied Patty "They are here every year."

"Out here in these weeds? How can lilies grow here amongst so many weeds?" Betty wanted to know as they reached the little white spot which was so inhabited with weeds.

"That is what we came out here for, Betty. Notice how firm these lilies' stems are...so strong, firm, and straight. The weeds do not disturb the lilies. In fact, I think the lilies take deeper root so they can grow strong. Also notice how beautiful they are! Not a speck, not a trace of the ugly weeds by which they are surrounded. They are pure, white, and strong as also we must be each day. You will now go back to your home. When your former friends do things which you know are not right just remember these white lilies -- for that is the way you will have to stand."

"Thank you, Patty, I'll never forget this," replied Betty happily. "Now I won't mind going home. Now I know there is work to be done, and I'll do my duty as the lilies do theirs."

FATHERS AND SONS

First match the names of these fathers and sons. Then find the names of both in the puzzle.

FATHERS

1. ____ Adam
2. ____ Abraham
3. ____ Jesse
4. ____ Kish
5. ____ Terah
6. ____ Zebedee
7. ____ Nun
8. ____ David
9. ____ Noah
10. ____ Joseph
11. ____ Manoah
12. ____ Shaphat
13. ____ Aaron
14. ____ Isaac
15. ____ Nebat
16. ____ Solomon
17. ____ Zacharias
18. ____ Haran
19. ____ Saul
20. ____ Jacob

A	B	R	A	H	A	M	R	T	O	C	E	S	S	E	J
D	M	I	R	A	C	B	O	G	A	D	H	L	U	O	O
A	A	T	U	R	V	I	R	N	D	E	S	A	S	B	S
M	D	V	K	A	O	N	E	A	M	O	L	H	F	R	E
H	N	C	I	N	M	A	V	Z	H	B	U	I	L	J	P
L	U	A	S	D	U	I	N	O	U	A	G	T	S	O	H
A	N	H	H	C	D	L	E	S	E	P	M	E	O	H	M
R	J	A	M	E	S	A	U	I	J	A	C	T	L	U	A
E	C	R	H	A	P	R	M	O	N	V	E	R	O	K	N
I	M	E	L	U	N	S	N	O	C	I	A	L	M	H	I
S	E	T	H	Z	I	A	A	R	O	N	F	L	O	T	O
A	R	I	L	R	T	H	S	S	M	U	W	J	N	K	C
A	K	O	P	H	L	U	A	S	K	R	G	A	L	J	D
C	U	R	A	S	T	I	H	R	E	H	O	B	O	A	M
A	I	N	Z	I	R	A	N	L	G	H	I	I	H	C	N
A	L	O	T	A	P	U	S	H	M	O	T	H	L	O	O
S	M	U	H	H	R	O	A	G	H	U	S	U	C	B	S
I	Y	C	A	U	C	N	E	B	A	T	L	Y	E	H	M
K	A	T	I	J	E	R	O	B	O	A	M	T	K	R	A
Z	E	B	E	D	E	E	H	Y	N	O	M	O	L	O	S

SONS

- A. Abraham
- B. Solomon
- C. Samson
- D. Manasseh
- E. Esau
- F. Isaac
- G. Lot
- H. Abihu
- I. Rehoboam
- J. Jeroboam
- K. Seth
- L. Jonathan
- M. Shem
- N. Gad
- O. David
- P. John
- Q. Elisha
- R. James
- S. Joshua
- T. Saul

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GOD'S WAY IS BEST

**I know not where my Lord may lead --
O'er barren plain or grassy mead;
Through valley, or on mountain crest;
But where He leads, I know 'tis best.**

**I know not what a day may bring
Of perfect health or suffering;
Of rich delight, or deep distress --
Keen disappointment or success.**

**Nor do I know at morning sun
If life shall last till day is done;
But this I know -- come toil or rest,
God always sends me what is best.**

**God often sends me joy through pain,
Through bitter loss, Divinest gain;
Yet through it all - dark days or bright --
I know my Father leads aright.**

**And when life's evening shadows fall,
And I shall hear the final call;
I'll lay my head upon His breast,
And say: "Dear Lord, Thy way is best!"**

--Unknown

