

The Advocate of Truth





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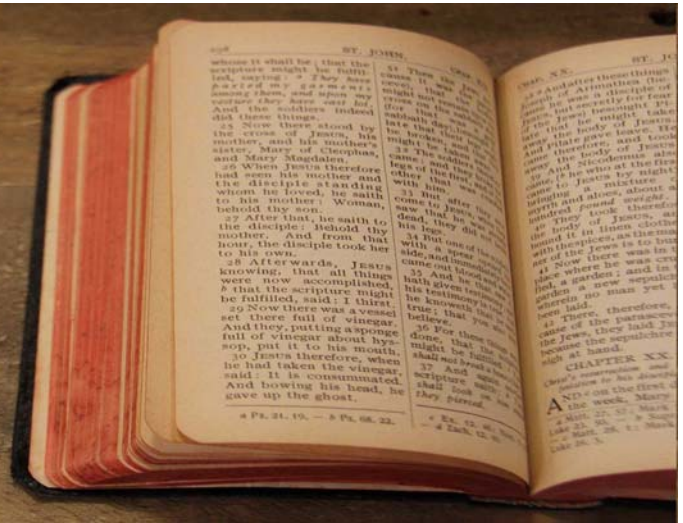
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Priesthood Theology

by Ben DeLong



Introduction

To understand how the Old and New Testaments work together in our everyday lives, we need to understand the concept of priesthood. In the fifth chapter of Hebrews, we find the following statement concerning Jesus:

“Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec” (Hebrews 5:10).

From this statement, we find two very important pieces of information about Jesus. First, he occupies the position of high priest. Second, His priesthood is after the order of Melchisedec. This is a very important statement and serves as the foundation to how we understand the Old Testament.

The Priesthoods

Before the children of Israel arrived at Mount Sinai, the people of God were served by an order of priests. We can see this in the 14th chapter of Genesis:

“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all” (Genesis 14:18-20).

Abraham, the father of nations, was served by the

priest Melchizedek. Melchizedek blessed Abraham and Abraham gave him tithes of all that he had. He was of an order of priests that served God on behalf of God’s people.

Later, after the children of Israel departed Mount Sinai, God gave them a different priesthood. This priesthood came from the tribe of Levi with Aaron being the first high priest.

“And the priests the sons of Levi shall come near; for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him, and to bless in the name of the LORD; and by their word shall every controversy and every stroke be tried” (Deuteronomy 21:5).

For many centuries, the priest associated with this priesthood served God and was over His people. However, the priesthood of Levi was not to continue forever. In the book of Psalms, we find this prophesy concerning Jesus (further explained in Hebrews):

“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” (Psalm 110:4).

“If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?” (Hebrews 7:11).

The Levitical priesthood ended when Jesus died and

witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Romans 13:9).

Practical Example from Leviticus

To see how this applies to us today, let’s look at a couple of laws given to the children of Israel in the book Leviticus.

“And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you” (Leviticus 11:7-8).

“Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard” (Leviticus 19:27).

Both of these are part of the added law. We follow this first one, but the second one does not apply. Why? Because the first one is also part of the law under the Melchizedek priesthood while the second one is not. We find the reference to this law in the book of Genesis, long before the Levitical law was given.

“Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female” (Genesis 7:2).

From this verse (and others in Genesis) we can see that the laws of clean and unclean meats existed as part of the Melchizedek priesthood. We keep the law of clean and unclean meats because it is part of the Melchizedek priesthood.

Conclusion

From the creation of the world, the people of God have been under one of two priesthoods, Melchizedek and Levitical. The Melchizedek priesthood reigned up until the time of the Exodus from Egypt. The Levitical priesthood reigned from that point until the death and resurrection of Jesus, after which, He was made high priest after the order of Melchizedek. As law follows priesthood, the commandments of God we are to follow today flow from this Melchizedek priesthood.

A WORD FOR FATHER

"What is a home without a mother?"

*"What is home," we also say
"With no father dear to guide us
In the strait and narrow way?"*

*Mother comforts us in sorrow,
Wipes away our falling tears;
And our father puts up with us
Through our adolescent years.*

*From his toil he hastens homeward
Hoping for our words of cheer;
And he's never disappointed,
for to us he's very dear.*

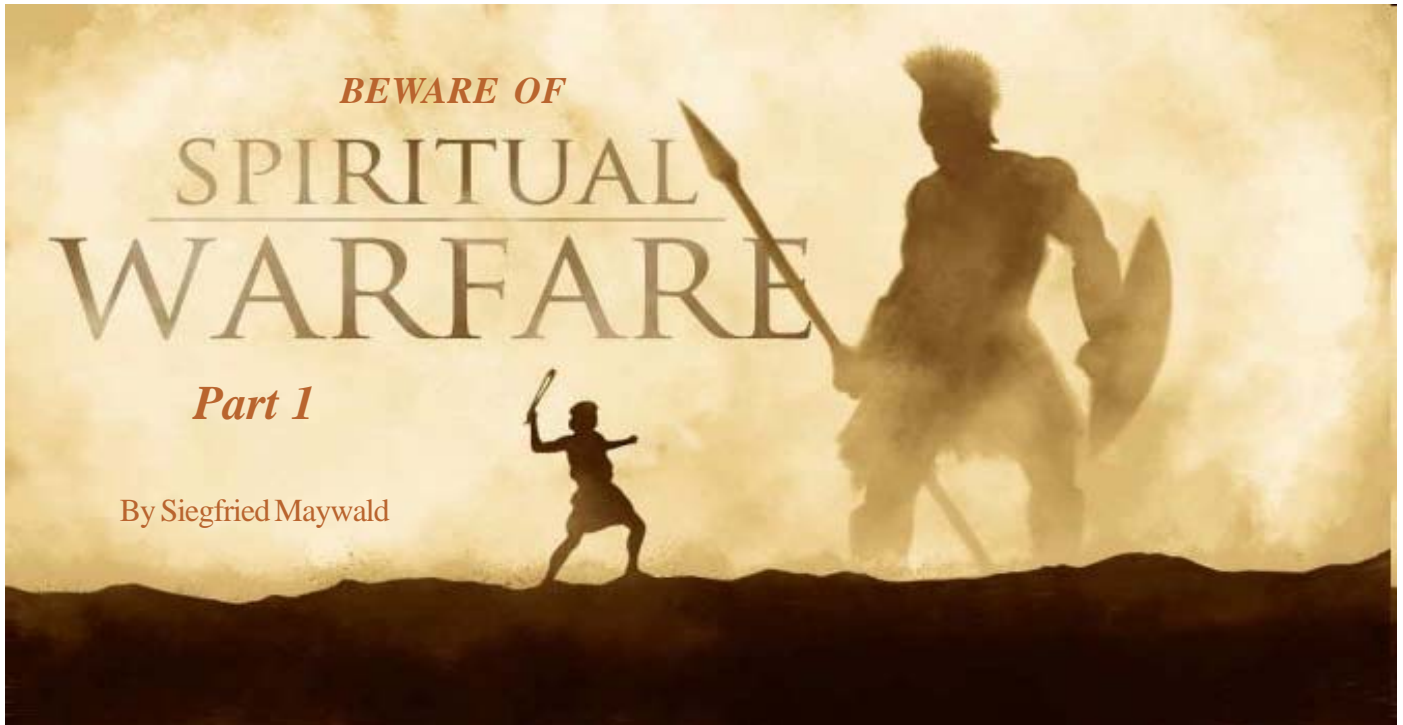
*Dinner over, dishes gathered,
Washed and wiped, and put away;
Then we all with Father gather
At the closing of the day.*

*Then he reaches for the Bible
After we've rehearsed the day;
And he reads to us distinctly,
E'er with him we kneel to pray.*

*Father, Dear, oh, how we love him!
And he loves us, too, we know;
With his arms around our shoulders,
Leisurely away we go.*

*Strong and firm, and yet how tender,
Is his touch, we do declare;
And another father never
With our own would we compare!*

-Mable Glenn Haldeman



It is true that widespread interest is kindled in spiritual matters. Many people profess conversion and churches may gain membership increases, but the results do not reveal an increase in spiritual growth. The sparks of light that were kindled in people's hearts grow dim and die. We see numerous evangelical crusades taking place, but genuine conversion to the real truth of God is rarely seen.

Why do the majority of evangelists avoid the real truth of the Scriptures? We do not see many Christian leaders standing up for the true Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures, because to take a stand for biblical, moral and religious truth causes them to become labeled as narrow minded, intolerant, prejudiced, bigoted or heretical. Therefore liberal ideas, tradition and political correctness take preeminence now. It pleases the people and is readily accepted.

What caused this to happen?

National attitudes have changed in many toward organized religion. Yet still there are some Christians who are set against the thinking that is sweeping our society. They oppose the issue of same sex marriage, the general idea that all believe in a "God" and that there are many different avenues that lead to Him. But their voices and concerns are not heard and the general practice of reli-

gion has become so debased that it has lost all meaning and purpose. The time has come where people depart from the truth and prefer to follow half-truths, fables and ideas of men.

Some Christian church leaders come up with the idea that no religion has preeminence above another. This type of thinking causes congregational disunity in some churches yet is promoted by modern theologians. These leaders reveal a complete disregard to the direct advice of the Scriptures and many people have left their faith and dropped out of organized religion altogether. There may also be other reasons why people lose interest in organized religion and seek spiritual experiences through other media.

The problem is that the Bible is now interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrepentant and the real truth of the Scriptures is omitted, or made of no effect. There is little distinction made between good and evil. This can mislead all who do not know the Scriptures. And especially those who look for miracles as a sign of divine intervention are in great danger of deception. For we read in Matthew 24:24 that by the means of "...great signs and wonders..." Satan will deceive, if possible, the very elect. Do not be fooled by those wonders they will be able to perform, but watch and see what the Word of God tells you, because their message is laced with lies

and traditions of men. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

How do you define spirituality?

Spirituality, which is often defined as one's personal relationship with a higher being, has become separated from religious organizations. People now seek new forms of spiritual experiences through other means like astrology, palm reading, yoga, tai chi, meditation, chanting mantras and other New Age interactions connected with physical movements. Some explore their spiritual side by doing good deeds like volunteering or listening to music and reading books and religious articles. Yet for others it is the participation on rituals and ceremonies.

Many people now search for a self-satisfying, self-esteeming, do it yourself salvation which ends up in self-deification. What many Christians do not realize is that the New Age movement is an offshoot of traditional Eastern mysticism that acts against every major Christian belief from God to Christ, to salvation, to purpose of life and prayer. It is a camouflaged spiritual onslaught that slowly overtakes people who do not know or reject the true Word of God. What we see happening is an apostasy of Christian churches.

We see spiritual thinking working in a variety of ways and the majority of people have no idea that these deceptive and manipulative ways are drawing and leading them away from the truth of God. This is Satan-influenced spiritualism which leads people on the road to destruction. All that follow this "new way" indulge in sinful tasks and character traits, which may appear to the causal observer harmless, but toward God is abomination. Many of their teachings are outright lies, men's traditions that are cherished and adhered to but have no foundation in the Scriptures.

In Matthew 7:13 Jesus tells us:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat".

Mark 7:6-9:

"This people (with the "Satan influenced spirituality") honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the

commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

They want to portray Jesus Christ, but in truth "eat their own bread," follow their own set of doctrines and disregard those of Jesus Christ. That is why we also read in Matthew 7:21-23: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Their worship is in vain, because they are teaching their own doctrines, the commandments of men (Matthew 15:9).

Jesus said in Matthew 7:24 and 26:

"...whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:...And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:" (Matthew 7:24, 26). The Word of God is our only guide to stay on the right track. Those who know God hear and heed His advice, but those who do not know God hear not. They rely on their own understanding and discard God's words and warnings. By this we distinguish the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (I John 4:6).

And in John 5:43 He tells us:

"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." We must read and study the Scriptures, God's Word, not that of others who come in their own name! "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12).

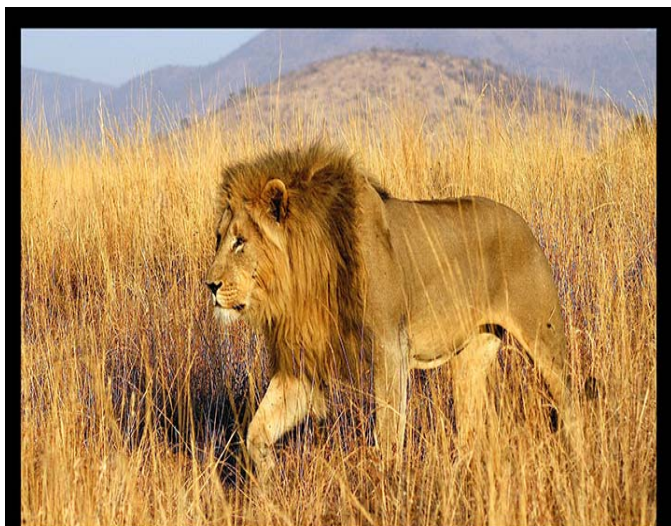
We all are traveling on our earthly journey. But I believe we ought to learn from the Scriptures and one another to be able to grow in the understanding of God's

Word. No man is an island to himself. If we want to maintain our path on the straight and narrow way we must be willing to take the time and investigate new evidence to find new light.

But there are many people in the world who close their eyes to the evidences and warnings that Christ has given us in His Word. He foretold of many plagues, pestilences and signs that will befall mankind before His Second Coming to earth. We are admonished to always watch and pray, that we may be found worthy "...to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). Again in Matthew 24:42 we are told: "Watch therefore (observe what is going on in the world): for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

May God guide you in the study of His Word and find you worthy to escape these things that are to come upon the world. May he give you wisdom and knowledge to be able to distinguish right from wrong and find the truth you are searching for.

Part II continued in July 2022 Advocate



"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Daniel in the Den

By David DeLong

There may come a time, in our future, when we are called to remain faithful to God's Law, even in the midst of seemingly certain death. This was the case with Daniel who was made the top of three presidents in the kingdom of Darius, who was over the Medes and Persians. The other two presidents with 120 princes sought occasion against Daniel through his keeping of God's Law.

Daniel 6:7-10 informs us: "All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

Would you be so bold as to disobey a king, a president, or some other ruler to keep God's Law, knowing that by doing so you very well could be killed? The only way for you to know that you would keep God's Law under such circumstances is to make up your mind today that you will do so. Of course we will need God's help in this matter.

Continuing with this highly inspirational story we learn: "Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which

altereth not. Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day. Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel" (Daniel 6:11-17).

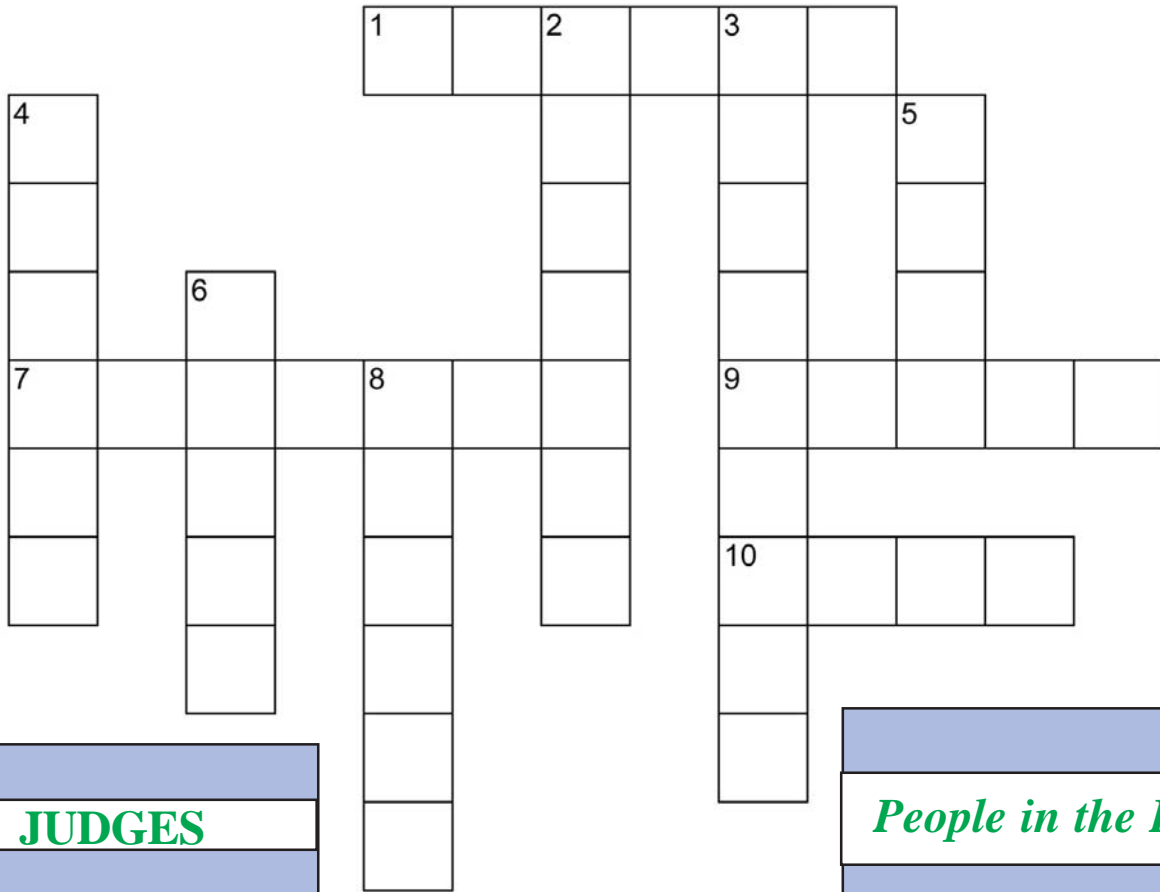
We know that the Lord's angel shut the mouths of the lions so that Daniel was not hurt. But think about the attitude of Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego just before they were thrown into a furnace of

fire: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:17,18). Whether they were delivered or not they were determined to follow God's Law.

The positive witness of Daniel and his three friends actually changed the minds of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius about the God whom they worshipped. A positive witness always brings about glory to God. We read in Daniel 6:25-28: "Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian."



Test Your Bible Knowledge



JUDGES

People in the Bible

ACROSS

- 1. Was a half brother to Isaac
- 7. Killed 600 men with an ox goad
- 9. King of Moab, was a very fat man
- 10. Second judge of Israel

DOWN

- 2. Only female judge in the Bible
- 3. Tried to be first king of Israel
- 4. Strongest of the Judges
- 5. Killed Sisera with a tent nail
- 6. Helped lead Israel against army of Sisera
- 8. Defeated Midianites with army of 300

Crossword Puzzle Answers found on page 11

*PROPHECY –
For our days...*

**COMMENTARIES
ABOUT II PETER 3:7-12**

By: Moises Torres M.

II Peter 3:7, says: “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.”

We know the old world was destroyed with water in a universal flood, but this verse says this time “the heavens and the earth, which are now,...are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

This actual world, heavens and earth, are kept or reserved by the same WORD OF GOD unto the fire against THE DAY OF JUDGMENT and perdition of ungodly men. This will be at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ who will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise. Let us read verse 10: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

NOTE: The phrase “With a great noise” refers to the sudden return of the Lord and his judgment on this world. (Read Matthew 25:6). The book of Hebrews makes a reference that gives more light on this: “Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also

heaven” (Hebrews 12:26).

When it says “and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” suggests all type of matter and useless energies (fuels, petroleum, gas, oils and all type of energies) that man has created and has polluted the earth. Everything that is corrupt, useless, polluted, spoiled, whether it is men or animals and all types of matter will be destroyed. Man has created devastating energies, harmful elements, matters, and chemicals that have poisoned God’s creation, and they will have to pay for that. (Revelation 11:18). The Lord will destroy all these “elements”. Let us imagine the “great noise” when all of this comes to happen in the “day of the Lord.” **This does not mean that the entire world as a planet will be extinguished or disappear from this universe**, but it will be changed “like a garment”. Everything will be renewed or restored. (Acts 3:21).

“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all **shall wax old as doth a garment**; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.” (Hebrews 1:10-12). Verse 13 in II Peter chapter 3 says: “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

The global warming, big fires, strong floods everywhere and many other kinds of disasters are a prelude of this prophecy fulfilment.

One last advice the Apostle gives to the church in this chapter is: “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (Verse 17-18).

**Answers to Test Your Bible Knowledge
crossword puzzle on page 10:**

**Across - 1.Midian 7.Shamgar 9.Eglon 10.Ehud
Down - 2.Deborah 3.Abimelech 4.Samson
5.Jael 6.Barak 8.Gideon**

AN IMPORTANT ROLE MODEL

By Carol Buechner

Every June in the United States, fathers are given special recognition on a day called "Father's Day." This is a time when families get together for picnics, give gifts to fathers and do other special activities. Have you ever thought about what makes a father so special and why he should have a day of recognition? What is a father's duty?

The Bible gives clear directions concerning the role of a father in raising a child. Study the following verses to find out how God expects a father to perform.

Ephesians 6:4: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Colossians 3:21: "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

In these three short verses, there are several key words that are important to understand. The first word is **PROVOKE**. It means to stir up feeling, incite or even tease by doing or saying things to a child in a cruel way. The result is the second key word, **WRATH**. Wrath is anger or indignation caused by something unjust or mean. The result is the third key word, **DISCOURAGEMENT**. This means to take away confidence or courage and to dishearten. The next key word is **NURTURE**. This action is fostering loving and affectionate care, attention and guidance. The next key word is **ADMONITION**. This is giving gentle and loving guidance and teaching those things that are right and wrong. The last key word is **TRAIN**. It means to teach and instruct. How can this be summarized? Fathers are to teach and train their children with love and affection, encouraging them to do what is right. There must be a balance of instruction and discipline that will encourage a child to develop his or her own talents and abilities. The balance will not provoke a child into rebellion but will help him or her to become a mature adult.

The father **MUST** be the right kind of role model for

a child. A role model is someone to turn to for guidance and direction. It is someone to emulate and try to be like. The father must therefore be living and acting in a godly way. You may have heard the expression, "Do as I say, not as I do." This is certainly not the way a father should react. The father must be the example in what he **DOES** and in what he **SAYS**. Have you ever seen a parent become angry and out of control, chastising a child verbally and physically and then become upset when the a child acts in the same manner? Father, are you the role model you should be for your child?

The earthly father has a role model to follow to help him be the right kind of father. This role model is the Father in heaven. "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" (I John 1:5). God is the one who will show the earthly fathers the right way to go because he gives the light to follow. Earthly fathers must strive to follow the path of God to be able to do an adequate job of raising a child. "Shew me thy ways **OLORD**; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day...All the paths of the **LORD** are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies" (Psalm 25:4-5, 10). If a father looks to the heavenly Father for guidance, his task of fatherhood will be more stable.

Contemplate how you would feel if the heavenly Father acted as many earthly fathers do. What if the heavenly Father was there only occasionally to listen to your prayers, took little interest in what you were doing, never made you feel good about yourself, never gave you words of encouragement and only paid attention to you when you were doing something wrong or misbehaving? It is said in the United States that the average child spends seven hours a day watching television but only five minutes a day with his or her father. Can fathers be doing an adequate job if this is true? Fathers, stop and think about

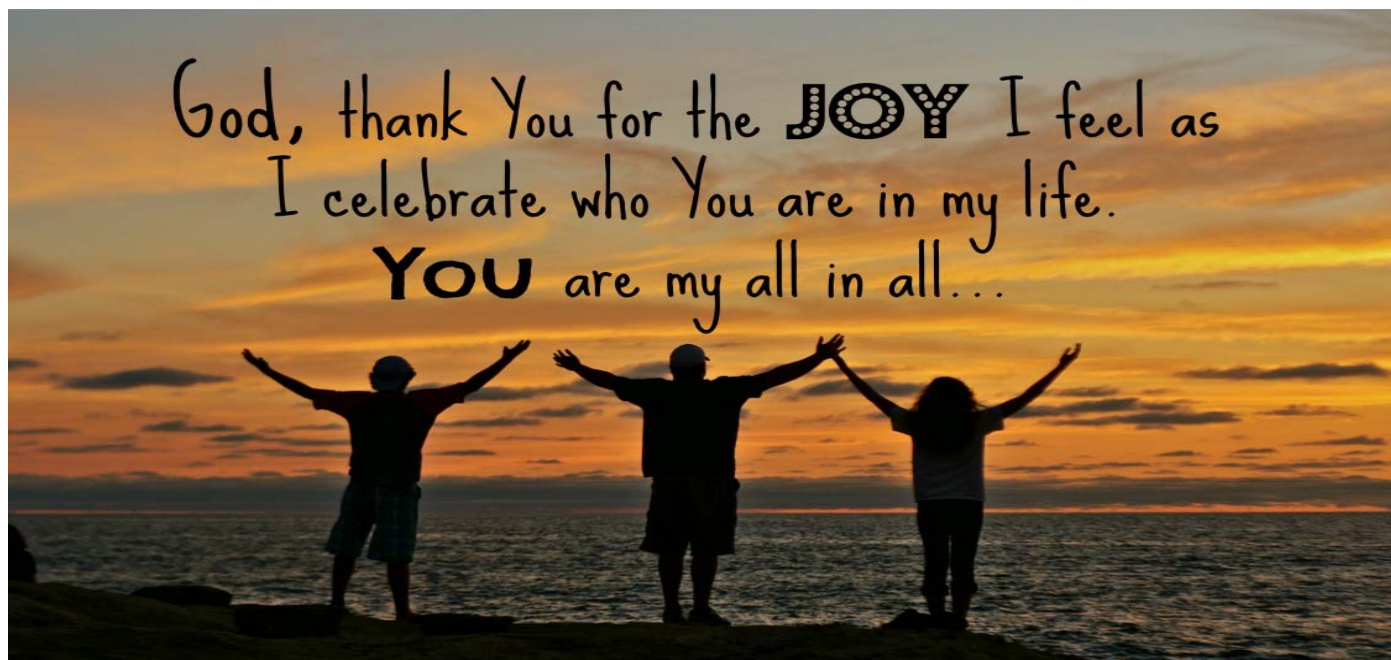
the time you spend with your children. Your heavenly Father is always available. Are you? Your heavenly father never leaves you or forsakes you. Isn't this comforting to know? Shouldn't your children feel the same comfort from you?

The Bible has two interesting examples of fathers that will show the contrast of fatherly care. The first father to consider is Jacob (Israel). How did he respond as a father? "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him" (Genesis 37:3-4). Jacob had twelve sons, but he favored Joseph. Apparently he lavished his attention on Joseph and neglected the other sons. Jacob even had a special coat made for Joseph to wear. This infuriated the brothers. As a result, they hated Joseph. The story continues that the brothers plotted to kill Joseph, but instead they sold him as a slave to a passing caravan. The brothers put animal blood on Joseph's beautiful coat so that Jacob thought his son had been killed by a wild animal. Jacob was devastated. Should Jacob or any father have favorites among his children? The results can be drastic.

The second father to consider is David. David lived a life of war and certainly must have been away from home frequently. Like all humans, David sinned. He was blessed with a son, Solomon. As Solomon grew up he probably

saw his father going before God asking for forgiveness. He probably heard many of the Psalms that David wrote and sang. It must have been inspiring to Solomon to hear his father praising and thanking God. When David knew that it was time for him to die and that Solomon would take his place as king David had fatherly advice for Solomon. David's parting words to Solomon must have filled his heart with courage and determination. "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it... And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD" (I Chronicles 28:9-10, 20). What son or daughter wouldn't be inspired with such admonition? Rather than using negative words that are used so often, try encouraging words. Encourage your child each day with words such as "Be strong and courageous, and fear not." Remind them that God is with them at all times.

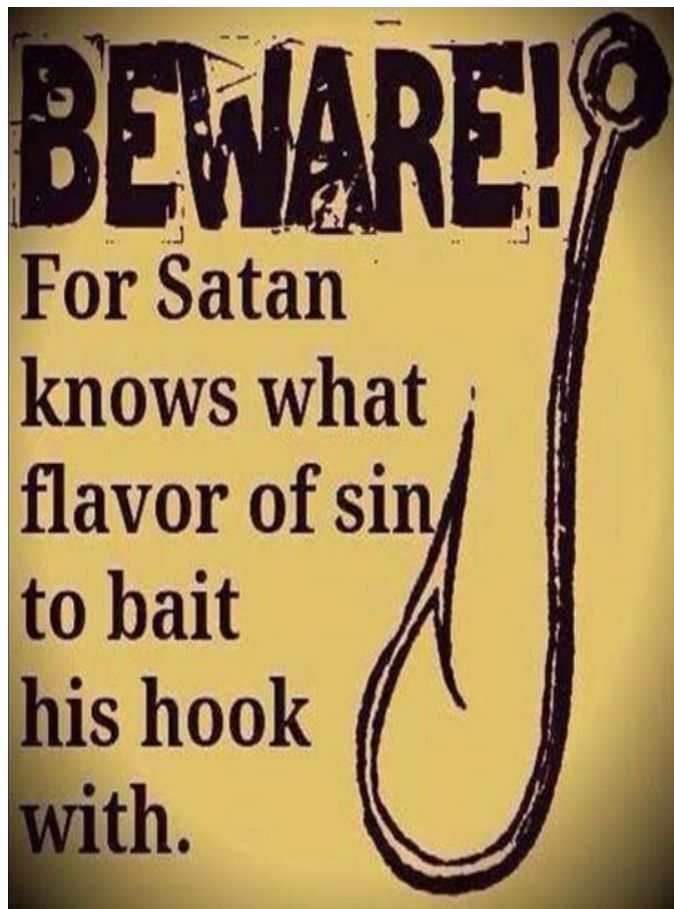
The trend today is absentee fathers. So many homes have only one parent, the mother. This leaves the burden



on the mother to raise the children, and it is such a difficult task. In many homes the father works more than one job so that the family can have more material things. This means that the father is not home very much to help with raising the children. This greatly affects the children's development. Which is more important--material possessions or being there for your children?

Fathers, are you the role model for your children that you should be? Are you training them and nurturing them with godly admonition? Are you living the example that you want for your children? Are you consistent? Do you show favoritism? Are your words positive more than negative? Is the heavenly Father your role model? Do you frequently read your manual of instruction, the Bible? Do you earnestly pray for your children? Do you pray for wisdom, understanding the ability to do your best? The years quickly fly by. Don't let the chance go to be the father you should be.

May God bless all fathers and give them the strength they need to raise their children in a godly fashion. May everyone praise God and thank Him for the fathers He has given them.



Walking After The Spirit

By David DeLong

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:5-14).

There are two natures in a child of God, one called the fleshly nature (old man) and one called the spiritual nature (new man). It depends upon which nature we follow, or walk after, to determine if we will live with God or die with the devil. In Romans 7:15-18 we see the struggle that the Apostle Paul (and thus all believers) are going through. "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

All believers will go through this struggle. We love God and the Lord Jesus Christ. We love the Bible and studying its precepts. We love going to church and fellowshiping with other believers. We know and want to do what is right. And yet, sometimes, we fail and do the very things that we hate. Paul wrote: "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." The "I" here refers to the new man. "Sin that dwelleth in me" is the

old man. The new man wants desperately to do what is right. The old man, however, still wants to do what is wrong.

Paul is saying that we are not counted as being in the flesh if the Spirit of God dwells in us. We read in Romans 8:9: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Verse one gives us this assurance: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." As long as God's Spirit indwells the believer, and the believer is making a sincere attempt to walk after the Spirit, then there is no condemnation to the believer. God knows that we will sometimes fail because sin also dwells within us at the present. But even so there is no condemnation to the believer. Christ's grace covers the believer so that God looks at His Son's righteousness in us, not ours.

That, however, does not give the believer a license to sin. God looks at the heart and He knows if the person is sincere in his or her attempt to walk after the Spirit. If a person decides to walk after the flesh the result will be death. Paul wrote about the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

When we sin, and fail the Lord, we must repent of the wrongdoing. This is to keep our fellowship with the Lord from being broken. For instance, the members of the Church in Ephesus had a number of good things that they were doing (see Revelation 2:2-3). However, they still had some things that the Lord Jesus held against them. We read in Revelation 2:4-5: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto

thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Repentance was necessary to keep their fellowship alive with the Lord.

Ephesians 4:30 tells us: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Surrounding this verse we read: "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers...Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice" (Ephesians 4:22-29,31). These sins grieve the Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote to the Galatians with these words: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law" (Galatians 5:13-18)

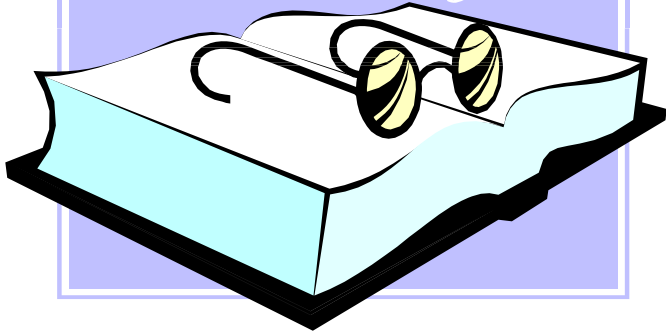
Is it Worth the Pain?

By David DeLong

Is it worth the thrill of sin that comes upon your soul?
Do you think that we have much to gain?
For all the pleasure it does bring, it really takes its toll,
So, ask yourself, now, is it worth the pain?
Disobedience to the Lord is at the heart of sin,
And death is but the wages that we pay;
So, can we ever truly think that we will ever win
By leaving God, and going our own way?
Down through time it has been tried, by each and every man,
Going to before the time of Cain;
So, we can see that since the first, when man's time began,
It must be questioned, was it worth the pain?

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Home Instructor Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 6 - THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

QUESTION: What is said of Christ's return?

ANSWER: "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:9-11).

QUESTION: Christ went away in a cloud, with what will he return?

ANSWER: "Behold, he cometh with clouds" (Revelation 1:7 first part).

QUESTION: Christ went away visibly; how shall he return?

ANSWER: "And every eye shall see him" (Revelation 1:7 middle part).

"Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:26-27). See also Isaiah 33:17.

QUESTION: Who specifically shall see his return?

ANSWER: "And they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Revelation 1:7 last part).

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:9-10).

QUESTION: To what shall he return?

ANSWER: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east" (Zechariah 14:4 first part).

NOTE: Everything prophesied in Acts 1:9-11 will be fulfilled. Christ's second coming will be in two phases. First to catch the saints into the air to escape the seven last plagues. At the last plague his feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives. He went away from the mount of Olives, and he shall return to the mount of Olives. See Lesson Numbers 7 and 13.

QUESTION: Do we know the time of his return?

ANSWER: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man,

no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36).

"When they therefore were come together, they asked for him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:6-7).

NOTE: In prophecy time means a year and times means more than a year. So according to the foregoing texts man will not know the day, hour, month, season of the year, or the year, of Christ's return.

QUESTION: How do we know that Christ's coming will also usher in his kingdom?

ANSWER: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (II Timothy 4:1).

QUESTION: Is there an appointed day for the Lord to come? Does anyone know when that day will be?

ANSWER: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only... Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:36,42).

NOTE: There is an appointed time for Jesus to return for the Saints at the reaping phase. This day is not known by anyone on this earth. Not even Jesus or the angels know the day; only God the father knows the appointed time.



Marks of a Christian

One of the outstanding marks of a godly person has always been his concern for his fellow man. God commanded it in the law (Deuteronomy 10:17-19; 14:27-29; 15:11). They were to open their hands wide to the poor and needy. They were to remember how they had been in need in Egypt. Jesus scolded the Pharisees because they kept the letter of the law, but did not show mercy (Luke 11:41-42, 46). He instructed His disciples to practice love to all - even to their enemies (Luke 6:35-38).

John said you can tell people who love God from those who do not by their love for others (I John 3:14, 17-18). James 2:20 tells us that "faith without works is dead."

What should be our attitude when we do give? Should we give just because we think we should or should we give gladly as unto the Lord? (Read II Corinthians 9:6-7). In Ezekiel 34 the Prophet reproved the "shepherds of Israel" because they did not help the sick and needy. The city of Sodom was destroyed because the people had plenty of bread but did not give to the poor and needy.

Have you ever written down your prayers?

I am Sister Rebeca Calzada Chavez (member of the Houston Texas Church). Here is a prayer I wrote some months ago. I wanted to share it because someone might benefit from these words that I wrote for my precious Jesus.

Dear Jesus, I'm here, I'm here knocking at Your door...it is me (no need to say my name because You know my voice through every prayer and every worship song). I am longing for Your holy presence not only to be here in my heart but I need You to blow me away with it; my heart needs more of you; my soul was made to be filled with You or else I won't function properly. Sometimes life gets foggy with everyday chores and burdens but when I stop and let my body rest, my soul perceives Your presence and all of a sudden I can hear You, I can feel You and there You are my precious Jesus. What a moment of awe finding You next to me embracing me in Your love!

Dear reader, fall in love with Jesus and you'll discover an unconditional love that will marvel you! He is just a prayer away. Jesus lives, He is in heaven on God's right side waiting to fill many with His love...a love that over-passes humans' understanding.



For those of us who are close and able to attend a local church service of the Church of God 7th Day, we can consider ourselves very blessed. We are thankful for all of the dedicated ministers who keep local churches operating. However, there are many church members who are not able to attend a church service in person. In these cases there are calls in Sabbath services that are available as well as on line sermons.

One such service is sponsored by a member of the Twelve, Warren “Bud” Randall and hosted by Pat Evans. Every week they host an interactive call in Sabbath School for those church members who are not able to attend a local church service in person. The call begins at 10:45 am EST on Sabbath morning. If you would like to call in to listen or participate in this Sabbath school service the call in number is 757-809-7356. The pin number you will be asked to provide is 0000#. The church is very grateful to Bud and Pat for providing this free service to those who want to study the Word of God.

Sermons are also available on our church web site

<http://churchofgod-7thday.org>

Gary Mills
Managing Editor of the Advocate of Truth

*And to all the Apostles, Ministers and Members of the Church of God 7th Day who write articles, poems and send in pictures to this magazine we say **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** as some members do not have a local church to attend, this magazine keeps them connected to us, **THE FAMILY OF GOD.***





Pictures below of a newly built church building in Tampakan, South Cotabato, Philippines



LESSON I

JONAH DISOBEYS GOD

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:1-17.

Golden Text: Jonah 1:3 (first part).

"But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa;..."

NOTE: Jonah was a minor prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II. He labored among the people of the ten tribes, and during this time he was suddenly called by the Lord to do a dangerous mission. We will study about Jonah and what happens to him when he disobeys God.

1. Who was Jonah, and what did God tell him to do? Jonah 1:1-2.
2. What did Jonah do to flee from God? Jonah 1:3.
3. What did God cause to happen to the sea, and what did the sailors do? Jonah 1:4-5.
4. What did the shipmaster say to Jonah, and what was decided to do at this time? Jonah 1:6-7.
5. What did the sailors ask Jonah, and what was his answer? Jonah 1:8-10.
6. When faced with this sin by the sailors, what did Jonah do? Jonah 1:11-12.
7. What did the sailors do to Jonah in chapter 1:13-16?
8. What did God prepare for Jonah, and how long was he there? Jonah 1:17.

A RIDDLE

I was a prisoner indeed. Yet when they brought to me another man to share my lot, I gave him liberty.

WHO AM I?

(The answer is found in II Kings 13:20-21).

LESSON II

JONAH IN THE FISH AND GOING TO NINEVEH

Scripture Reading: Jonah 2:1-10; 3:1-10.

Golden Text: Jonah 2:10.

"And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land."

NOTE: We last studied how Jonah disobeyed God and went on board a ship. God caused a storm on the sea, and Jonah was thrown overboard. God prepared a great fish that swallowed Jonah. We will now study what happens to Jonah while in the fish and on his journey to Nineveh.

1. What did Jonah do while in the fish's belly? Jonah 2:1.
2. Read Jonah's prayer, Jonah 2:2-9, and tell if he admitted his sin and promised to obey God.
3. What did God cause to happen after Jonah's prayer? Jonah 2:10.
4. What did God ask Jonah to do a second time? Jonah 3:1-2.
5. Did Jonah do as God asked this time? Jonah 3:3-4.
6. Did the people of Nineveh listen to Jonah and obey God? Jonah 3:5.
7. What did the king of Nineveh proclaim when he heard Jonah's message from God? Jonah 3:6-9.
8. Did God spare the city of Nineveh? Jonah 3:10.

WAITING FOR JESUS by Rae Cross

*Jesus will be coming soon,
I pray He will, each day;
And while I wait I'll do my best
To do what He would do and say.*

LESSON III

JONAH IS ANGERED

Scripture Reading: Jonah 4:1-11.

Golden Text: Jonah 4:1.

"But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that God rescued Jonah from the fish's belly, and Jonah went on to Nineveh to warn them of their destruction. The entire city heeded his warnings, repented, and turned to God. God showed mercy to her people and saved the city. We will now study about Jonah's anger and the lesson that God teaches him.

1. Jonah is angered because God saves Nineveh. What does he pray to God? Jonah 4:1-3.
2. What was God's reply to Jonah in Jonah 4:4?
3. Where did Jonah go? Jonah 4:5.
4. What did God prepare that made Jonah glad? Jonah 4:6.
5. What did God prepare next that made Jonah unhappy? Jonah 4:7-8.
6. What did God tell Jonah in Jonah 4:9-11? Discuss the comparison of the gourd to the city of Nineveh.

NOTE: We should also remember that God has love for all nations and that His forgiving peace is extended to all the people of the world.

LESSON IV

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE--EZRA

Scripture Reading: Ezra 1:1-11.

Golden Text: Ezra 6:15.

"And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the

reign of Darius the king."

NOTE: When we studied II Chronicles, we learned that the children of Israel were taken captive. In the book of Ezra, we will learn of their return from captivity. They were in captivity for about 70 years.

1. What Persian king captured Babylon? Ezra 1:1-2.
2. Who was the king of Babylon? Ezra 2:1.
3. How many Jews returned after the captivity? Ezra 2:64-65.
4. What was one of the first things the people did upon their return? Ezra 1:5.
5. Did they bring the vessels of the temple with them? Ezra 1:7.
6. What king stopped the work? Ezra 4:21-24.
7. Who reversed this order? Ezra 6:1, 7-8.
8. Who were the principal workers in this building? Ezra 5:2.
9. Who was Ezra, and what did he want to do? Ezra 7:1,6,10.

TO SHOW MY THANKS

Father often takes the time

To pitch a ball with me,

To make a kite, or fishing go,

or hike beside the sea.

I know my Father works so hard

To give me things I need,

Clothes and shelter, food and books;

He is my friend, indeed.

To show my thanks to my fine Dad

I try with all my might

To think and say and do the things

He's taught me to be right.

-Mary Howard Poole

OUR GOD-GIVEN FREEDOM

By Hope Caswell

Hi, boys and girls!!!

Here we are enjoying another summer vacation away from our school books and lessons, and free to play, ride bikes, swim, play ball, and to do the many other activities which are in the happy lives of children during their summer vacation.

As it is near the time for the 4th of July, we begin to think of noisy celebrations and loads of fun as always.

Well, let's think of what the 4th of July really is. It is really "Independence Day". Do you all know what that means? It means that on July 4, 1776, Americans obtained their full freedom. That is why we are all free to live as we please, as long as we obey the laws of the land.

It is hard for us to realize how thankful we should be to God for this freedom until we think of the many children in foreign countries who cannot even worship God as they please. In some of those countries, you would be punished. Just think how terrible it would be if we could not even read our Bibles and could not pray to God to thank Him for His kindness and listening to us, and to ask Him to guide, and bless us, and keep us always safe. It seems terrible, doesn't it, but that is the way some children are in those faraway countries. That is why we should think seriously at least for a while on the 4th of July. That is why we should give a small portion of that day to God in prayer, thanking Him for His goodness to us.

Let's all use this freedom God gave us to the best advantage. Let each one of us be a little missionary for God, letting our light shine and telling others of Jesus.

DAD

- 4 Years: My Daddy can do anything.
- 7 Years: My Dad knows a lot, a whole lot.
- 8 Years: My father doesn't know quite everything.
- 12 Years: Oh, well, naturally Father doesn't know that

either.

- 14 Years: Father? Hopelessly old-fashioned.
- 21 Years: Oh, that man is out of date, what did you expect?
- 25 Years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.
- 30 Years: Must find what Dad thinks about it.
- 35 Years: A little patience; let's get Dad's meaning first.
- 50 Years: "What would Dad have thought about that?"
- 60 Years: My Dad knew literally everything.
- 65: Years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.

Father's Day

Many times we do not realize how much our dear Daddy does for us. He works all the time and does hard work so the rest of us can eat and live. Daddys are really wonderful people, aren't they? Let's see just how much we can do for our Dad so that he can rest when He comes home from working all day for us. We could keep the lawn mowed, keep the porch cleaned off, feed the animals (if we have any to feed) and many other little chores which we could do to help him.

You must remember, too, that you have not only an earthly father, but also a heavenly Father, who watches over and cares for you at all time. He even does more for you than Daddy does because He is with you and protects you wherever you go, even if you don't know it. We might call every Sabbath Father's Day because it is the Lord's Day. On this day, we should try to do all we can for our heavenly Father. We can read Bible stories, sing little hymns, etc. for this truly pleases God.

Wouldn't it be fun to see just how much we can do for our fathers to make them happy and to make us better little children.

A good memory verse to learn is Exodus 20:12, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

*Listed below are words from the Bible story of David and Goliath.
Review this exciting story as you fit the words into the puzzle below.*

Use DAVID and GOD to help you get started.

Two-letter, three-letter words: Go, God.

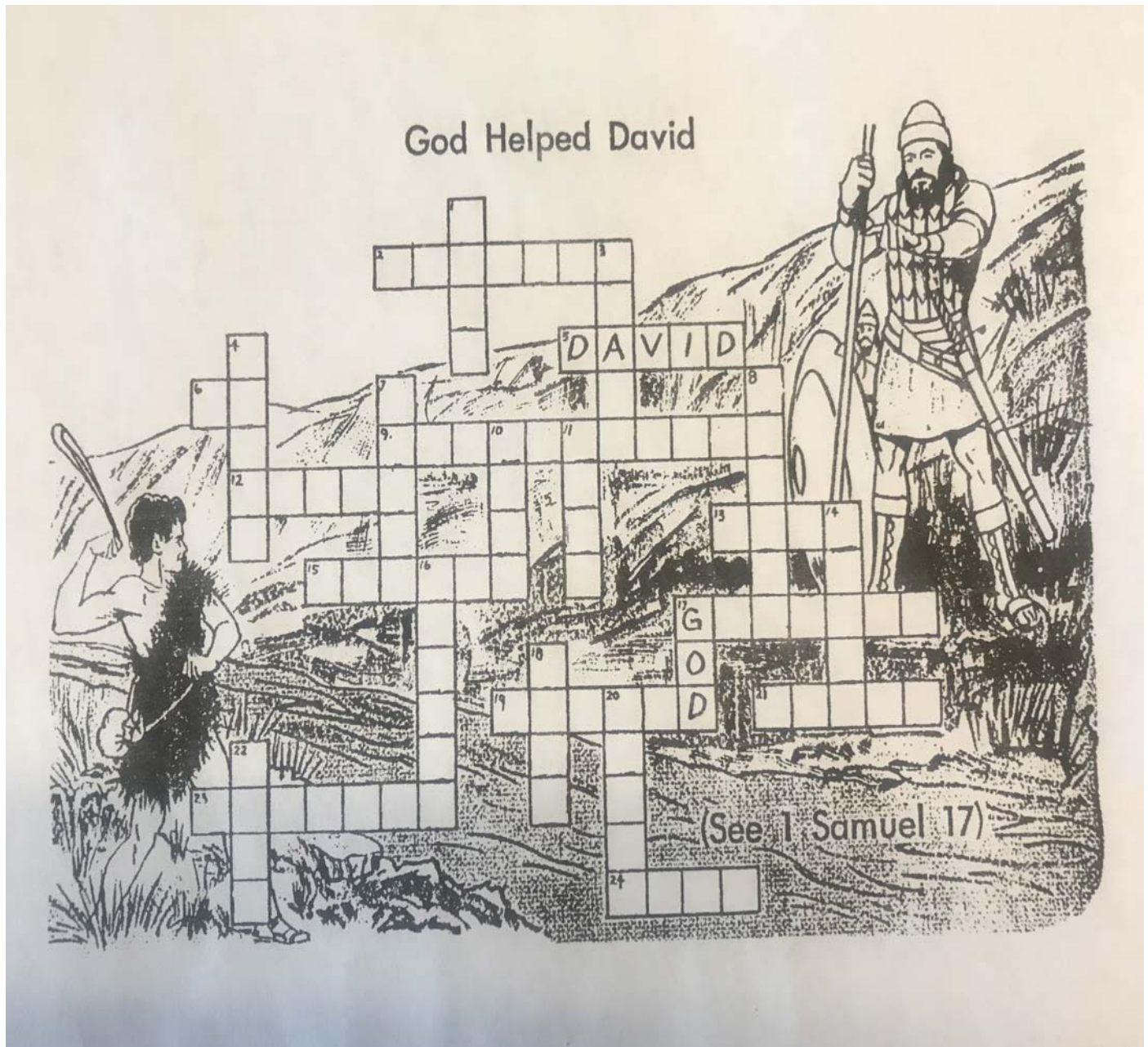
Four-letter words: Army, Lord, lamb, Saul, fell, sunk, Gath.

Five-letter words: Giant, David, youth, spear, three, brass, Jesse, sling.

Six-letter words: Israel, afraid, cursed, armour.

Seven-letter words: Morning, deliver, Goliath.

Eleven-letter word: Philistines.



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DAD'S GIFT

by Delwin DeLong

*A hammer, tool, or fishing line -
Are things Dads like to get
To build and fix in their spare time,
Or fish while getting wet.*

*We like to give our Dads a gift,
Because it's Father's Day;
And they are always there to lift
And guide us on life's way.*

*A godly Dad will lead his kids,
And keep them in God's plan;
His example shows his child just how
To live a life that's grand.*

*The greatest gifts that Dad can give
Are those found in his heart;
They help his child know how to live,
And how to stand apart
From all temptations and from sins,
And Satan's fiery dart.*

