



The Advocate of Truth



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MEDIATOR

By David Royer

Throughout the Bible we read about various men who revealed or relayed the spoken words of God; men chosen by God for their position of authority and/or righteousness. We also find special selected individuals who were MEDIATORS. Merriam-Webster's Revised, Unabridged Dictionary defines mediator as (n.) One who mediates; especially, one who interposes between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them; hence, an intercessor. By further clarification, Vocabulary.com says: "The word mediator goes back to the Latin word *medius*, which means middle. A *mediator* is supposed to remain in the neutral middle rather than taking one side over another, to help both sides resolve a dispute."

Why is a mediator necessary? At the beginning of God's Creation, no mediator with humanity was needed or required. Only when sin entered the world, was some kind of mediation between God and man necessary, simply because God cannot have fellowship with sin. Rebellion and hostility, that resulted from Adam's fall, could only be remedied through the mediation of a third-party.

God's holiness and justice demand that sin be punished by death. For us, this means that separation from God results in spiritual and physical death. The human race has no way to escape from our destiny of death. No person could be his own savior or a savior for others, for each person is himself a sinner under the judgment to die for his sins. Sinful man could not make himself holy, and

God could not become sinful. Therefore, God's plan of salvation used selected mediators as this third-party representative to satisfy the requirements of His holiness and justice, providing a means of redemption for his chosen people and ultimately, us.

In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and prophets often took this middle position to present God's Word to the children of Israel:

Kings: At times, kings represented God to his subjects (Psalm 93:1). When they submitted to God, Kings brought God's rule to bear on his subjects.

Prophets: A prophet would hear from God and speak to the people. The Old Testament Prophets constantly reminded the Nation of Israel of the covenant between themselves and God. The Prophet Isaiah even foretold of a future change in sacrificial offerings (Isaiah 53:1). Until New Testament times, prophets were God's way of reaching the people. Whenever a prophet or a mediator with God was needed, God provided one. Deuteronomy 18:18 says: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

Priests: A priest would hear from the people and intercede for them to God. Their primary duty was to offer sacrifices of repentance given by individuals of the congregation. We read about the high priest entering yearly into the holy of holies to make atonement for the sin of the people (Leviticus 16:29-34). The children of Israel were to become a kingdom of priests to channel the blessings of God to all people (Exodus 19:6).

Interestingly, there is no use of the word "mediator" in the Old Testament, but we have examples of them. Moses used Aaron to mediate between himself and Pharaoh (Exod. 7:1-2). Abraham, in Genesis Chapter 18, interceded for Sodom to not be destroyed (to no avail). The Prophet Samuel mediated for Israel (through prayer) for their sins and succeeded in warding off punishment. (I Samuel 7:5-12). Daniel interceded for Israel by praying to God to remember His covenant with Israel during their captivity (Daniel 9:16).

The greatest of all mediators in the Old Testament is Moses. He satisfied the descriptions above of being both a Priest and Prophet.

Moses initially served as God's spokesman to the people and the people's spokesman before God. The dramatic events of the Lord God speaking to Moses from a burning bush and being the go-between of the children of Israel and God at Mount Sinai (See Exodus Chapter 19), vividly shows Moses as the chosen representative of God. Moses recounts his mission in Deuteronomy 5:5: "I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying,"

In addition to being a spokesman, Moses became a mediator/intercessor between God and His chosen people. One notable event is written in Exodus 32: 7-14: "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*:.....Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them.....And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?.....Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit *it* for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."

God established through Moses, covenants, stipulations, rituals, and processes for the forgiveness of sin for the Nation of Israel. When the Son of God, Jesus Christ came to earth as a man, He was to be the Savior of Israel, and the replacement of daily animal sacrifices for the atonement of sin. A new method of mediation and a new covenant was required.

Scriptures tell us that the Nation of Israel rejected Jesus and so the promises and this new covenant passed to the Gentiles. This means all others..INCLUDING US.. now have this God-given opportunity of salvation.

What a blessing we have been given! Hebrews 7:24-27 says: "But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, *who* is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself."

Various New Testament writers, tell us that Jesus currently sits at the right hand of God. His role is of King of Kings, High Priest and mediator/spokesperson for Christians praying to God (in Jesus's name). As a mediator, he is our intermediary and intercessor to God. This intercessory role is currently applicable to those who are His. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*" (1 John 2:1-2).

Under this New Covenant (written in our hearts) we are given the opportunity to receive salvation as a gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our responsibility is to heed Revelation 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Yes, Jesus is the ultimate and perfect mediator for us. He is the only mediator in whom God and man are perfectly united. Jesus possesses both a truly divine nature and a true human nature. Because He was willing to be our ultimate sacrifice at Calvary, the burden of daily animal sin offerings and other Mosaic laws ended.

When Jesus was here on earth, He often prayed for His disciples. He loved them, and He prayed that they might be kept from evil. Today, our Lord Jesus continues to pray for those who strive to be close and belong to Him. Brothers and Sisters, let us keep strong in the faith and draw closer to Him every day of our lives; every day brings us closer to our Savior's return.

What Makes People Hate the Jews?

Reprinted

A little five- year- old Jewish boy asked his Dad: “What makes people hate us so?” The father gave a good answer to the boy. But the best answer that I can give also proves that there is a personal devil. The foe of all Israel is also the foe of all children of God. From the Scriptures, we find the proof for this premise comes from God-hate by the devil whom God expelled from His domain.

When the devil and his angels made war against Michael and his angels, we read: “**And prevailed not; neither was there PLACE FOUND ANY MORE IN HEAVEN....** he (the devil) was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” The voice in heaven said: “**Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time**” (Revelation 12:7-12).

Satan hates the children of Israel with a fury that knows no bounds. He knows that Israel gave to us the oracles of God (Acts 7:37-38). Satan despises these oracles and the whole Bible which was given to Israel. Satan knows that an Israelite lady gave a body of flesh to our Lord and Saviour. He knows that the precious blood of our savior was shed by the children of Israel and the angels of heaven, “**Overcame him**” (Satan) by that blood (Revelation 12:11). He knows that “**salvation is of the Jews**” (John 4:22). He knows that a Son of David is

resurrected to **spoil "principalities and powers,"** (Colossians 2:15). He knows that a certain resurrected Son of Israel will receive the scepter that shall not depart from Judah, (Genesis 49:10) and builds again the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16) that chains will become his shackles and bracelets and the abyss his habitation (Revelation 20:1-3).

The compilation of information is amazing. It is not based on the foolish media or biased “Jewish propaganda.” It is the time of the end when the children of Israel trek unerringly and irresistibly forward into the “Time of Jacob’s trouble” and then into the Kingdom of righteousness and peace to which the omnipotent God has made him heir – in spite of all the efforts of the Gentiles to annihilate him.

What some of us seem to forget is that the haters of Israel and the Word of God, eventually turn upon the Body of Christ, The Church of God. We read in Revelation 12:17: “**And the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the woman, (the Church) and went to make war with the remnant of her seed...**” Some say that the seed is Israel. This cannot be for Israel is blinded to keeping the Commandments of God and especially not believing in the testimony of Jesus. It is the true woman, the one that brought forth Jesus. Satan is making war with the Church “that keeps the Commandments of God and has the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Satan's attack today on Israel is but a camouflage for his ulterior designs. How he must laugh to see Catholicism and Protestantism being antisemitic. He is full of glee in seeing these so-called Christians pitching in and helping to peddle the racial and religious hatred that will, in the end, come back upon them like a boomerang!

Israel has suffered many horrors in different countries especially in Germany and Russia. There was a word coined just for this type of treatment of the children of Israel – Pogroms.

From the dawn of our history, we have sung of our sweet land of liberty. We have boasted to the world of a blessed refuge for all the sons of men from religious bigotry and intolerance. And right now the monster of anti-truth and antisemitism dares to lift its head and ram out its forked tongue. It is enough to make the blood run cold to find that some of this very anti-truth and changing the Word of God is done by those people who call themselves "fundamentalists." These are sensational preachers who preach ungodly propaganda in harangues over the TV and radio and in their venomous literature that deny the very Word of God. **"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables."** And the audiences that support these foolish preachers: **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves TEACHERS, HAVING ITCHING EARS"** (II Timothy 4:3).

The racial hatred for Israelites, Mexicans, Haitians, blacks and yellows, etc. is not only rising in America but is all over the world. America especially who has **Proclaimed "...liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof..."** is now forgetting these wonderful projections (Leviticus 25:10). Those with the courage to speak out in these perilous times should be remembered in the prayers of God's true people every day.

The Example of King Uzziah

By Gary Mills

The Bible gives us many great examples of how the Lord wants us to live our lives. One of these examples is the story of King Uzziah found in II Chronicles.

His father King Amaziah passed away when he was 16 years old. II Chron. 26:1, 3-5 reads: "Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah... Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did. And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper."

King Uzziah had an amazing reign as King of Judah and truly did prosper as he sought the Lord (II Chron. 26:6-15). "And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines. And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur-baal, and the Mehunims. And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly. Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them. Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel:

for he loved husbandry. Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred. And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy...And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong."

However, at the height of his power King Uzziah started to become arrogant and started thinking too much of himself. He was not satisfied with being King of Judah and wanted more. Instead of deferring to the priests as God had decreed, he wanted to assume the priesthood for himself as well. II Chron. 26:16-18: "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God."

God knew what was in King Uzziah's heart and punished him for his disobedience. II Chron. 26: 19 – 21: "Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea,

himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him. And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land."

Leprosy was contagious and we are told in Leviticus 13: 46 that people with leprosy had to be banished and keep away from other people. "And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be" (verses 45,46).

King Uzziah is a great example for us. He was wildly successful by doing right by the Lord. However, as soon as he started to think he was more important than others and let his pride get in his way, he was brought down to the lowest of the low. While we may not be Kings or Queens, we should always remember to put God first in our lives. God will watch over us and take care of us if we do this.

King Solomon had some thoughts on this. Prov. 29:23: "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit." Prov. 16:18-19: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

"However, at the height of his power King Uzziah started to become arrogant and started thinking too much of himself. He was not satisfied with being King of Judah and wanted more."

GOD AS SUPREME

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).

The heavenly Father must be supreme in our lives if we wish to please Him. When we dedicate ourselves to God, He becomes the supreme authority in our lives. To allow other interests to conflict with our full obedience to Him would lead to uncertainty and chaos in our lives.

The true God expresses His plan and His will through His Word, the Bible. Full obedience to Him calls for complete loyalty to His Word. We can confer with other sources of information, either persons or writings. However, the final decision as to what is the truth, and the direction in which we must go depends completely upon what God has said in His inspired Word. Many times, this becomes a severe test of our loyalty to God, for other viewpoints and opinions may seem more appealing than the will of God as expressed in His Word.

Image worship has been prevalent in the world throughout the ages. To see and touch something that represents deity may seem to strengthen faith and bring one nearer to God, but it is forbidden in the Word. Probably one reason is that there is too great a temptation to look upon the image as actually being God, hence one’s worship stops at the feet of the image. Children of God, by the eye of faith, are bidden to look at the things which are not seen, eternal in the heavens, and chief among them is our heavenly Father Himself.

“No man can serve two masters...” (Matthew 6:24-33). Summing up the thought, Jesus added, “...Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (verse 24). Mammon means money. In other words, it is that which stands for security in this world among those who do not put their full trust in the Lord. Of course, it does not mean that it is a sin to possess money. In I Timothy 6:10, The Apostle Paul explains that it is the love of money that is the root of all evil. The love of money could easily replace the love of God in our lives, and thus be as another god.

There are various other gods which tempt the devoted child of God. In addition to money, there are worldly pleasures, prestige, our work, success and a host of other things which tend to replace full devotion to our heavenly Father. When we give our highest devotion to anything or anyone other than our heavenly Father, the divine will is transgressed.

The Revised Standard Version of verse 25 reads, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” The King James Version admonishes us to take no thought for our lives which manifestly is not the proper view. We take thought for our lives when we go to the table to eat a meal or retire at night for rest. The Revised rendering is more

correct. We are not to be anxious about these material aspects of life.

And then Jesus explains why, by using the example of the birds and the flowers of the field. God takes care of them, yet they are not anxious about their needs. God will feed and clothe us according to His knowledge of our needs, for we are of much more value than the birds, the flowers and the grass. The nonbelievers spend their energy in seeking the material good things of life, but they do not have the heavenly Father as their God!

As followers of our Lord, we are to seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. All the other things we need will then be added according to our needs.

OUR WONDERFUL JESUS

Reprinted

There seemed no future for the earth, no future for the nation of Israel, no future for man at all because no one was found who was competent to rule the earth. Such a ruler must be a redeemer. The sovereign must be a savior. John was overwhelmed that no one was found to open the book, because the outcome for all Creation depends on the contents and the execution of what is in the seven-sealed book (Revelation 5:1-7).

The Kinsman-Redeemer

But the problem is solved! One of the elders said to John, “**...Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the**

book, and to loose the seven seals thereof” (verse 5). The one who is found is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Finding this One to loose the seals of the book has an interesting parallel to the kinsman-redeemer of the Old Testament. The law of redemption in the Old Testament was very simple, yet profound. When property had been sold by one family (or if it had been confiscated or lost through death or other means), a scroll was prepared and on the inside of the scroll was written all the necessary details of what was required to purchase back the property. The scroll was then sealed. On the outside of the scroll were listed details telling what was involved internally, whether property or some other item, and the scroll was then placed in the hands of the priest.

When a near kinsman decided to buy back the property, he could check the outside of the sealed document to see if he qualified. Evidently the names of the family were mentioned there, and he could see if he qualified as a near kinsman. If he did, he could claim the scroll from the priest and tear it open and redeem the property.

There were three conditions that absolutely had to be met in order to qualify as a kinsman-redeemer. First, he had to be a near relative. Second, he had to be willing to act. Third, he had to be able to pay the price of redemption.

In the story of Ruth and Boaz, we find the finest biblical illustration of this law of redemption and the kinsman-redeemer. In the Book of Ruth, we read that Elimelech, his wife Naomi and his family left Bethlehem in the land of Canaan because of a famine. They left all they had and went to the country of Moab.

But the time came when Ruth and Naomi returned and faced the problem of how to get the property back. A kinsman-redeemer had to be found and Boaz was that man. Boaz offered to do his part as the kinsman-redeemer,

but he admitted to Ruth that there was a nearer kinsman than he. The other kinsman refused to purchase back property because it could nullify his own inheritance. So we see that even though he qualified as a near kinsman and was apparently able to pay the price of redemption, he was not willing to act. This permitted Boaz to play the part of the kinsman-redeemer because he was not only a near relative and able to pay the price, but also willing to act.

In Revelation 5, then, the search is on to find a kinsman-redeemer who can and will redeem the earth on the conditions in the book. Adam lost the possession through sin and forfeited his right to be ruler of all the earth. Satan now holds claim to earth by reason of Adam's sin, but Satan is only a usurper of the throne. Nevertheless, the Word of God says that the whole world "...lieth in wickedness {in the evil one}" (I John 5:19). But when Jesus died on the cross and propitiated (satisfied) the heavenly Father for the sins of the world, He also passed judgment on Satan (I John 2:2; 3:8). Though Satan is presently the "god of this world {age}" (II Corinthians 4:4), the earth is destined to belong to the saints, for the Bible says, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

The Problem Solved

Jesus Christ is presented in Revelation 5:5 as the One who "...hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof." Through His sacrifice on the cross, Christ has provided redemption for the world. He has paid the price to redeem man from sin and to prepare him for The Kingdom. He has made provision for the redemption of Israel so that eventually many individuals in the nation will receive Him as their Messiah: "And so all Israel shall be saved..." (Romans 11:26). The redeemed Israelites will inherit the millennial earth. Christ has also made provision through His sacrifice to remove the effects

of the curse from animals and plant life for the millennial earth. During Christ's reign on earth, the "...wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 65:25). The earth itself will be abundantly productive during the Millennium for "...the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). For the time being, however, "...the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now," waiting for its redemption (Romans 8:22).

In John's vision, we now see Christ as "the Lion of the tribe of Juda" (Revelation 5:5). In other words, Christ is born of the tribe of Judah. Christ is also spoken of as "the Root of David" (5:5). Thus, we see that Jesus Christ, a member of the Eternal Godhead, came to earth to be born through human lineage. He, then, is a relative of mankind and is qualified from the standpoint of relationship. He is the nearest kinsman--first to Israel and then to all men.

Since Jesus Christ is entirely man, He is fully able to pay the price of redemption.

Not only was He a near relative and able to pay the price of redemption, but He was also willing to act. He was willing to be the "...Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). In Revelation 5:6, the Apostle John also emphasizes the sacrificial aspect of Christ's Person when he says that there "...stood a Lamb as it had been slain..."

So in all this we see that the Lord Jesus Christ met all the qualifications of the Kinsman-Redeemer. In order to be able to qualify as a near relative, Christ had to become man, and we are told in John 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." The Book of Hebrews emphasizes

this same theme when it says, “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:16-17).

The purpose of Christ’s becoming man is also stressed in Philippians 2:6-8: “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

As a Kinsman-Redeemer it was necessary for Christ to act. His willingness is seen in the Garden when He said to the Father, “...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39). The Lord Jesus was willing to endure the shame of the cross in order to be our Redeemer: “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

Even though the Lord Jesus Christ was a near kinsman and willing to act in our behalf, this would have availed nothing had He not been able to pay the price. But He was fully able to pay the price because He is the sinless Son of God who became man in order to redeem the world. Because He was fully man, He was able to die for our sins; because He is fully the Son of God, His death was effectual in paying the full penalty. We need to constantly be reminded of this fact even as Peter reminded his readers: “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (I Peter 1:18-19).

What is your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you know Him as the Lamb who has paid the penalty for your sin? Or will you know Him as the Lion who will set in judgment upon you because you have rejected Him as your personal Saviour?

The Frog in the Kettle

By David DeLong

A frog was in a kettle,
And water was half-filled;
At first, it felt no danger, and
It was a little chilled.

But, slowly, ever slowly
The heat was turned a notch;
And still it felt no harm at all,
And so, it didn't watch.

Soon, the heat was blazing,
And then, the water boiled;
Now, for the frog, it was too late,
Its life had all been foiled.

Please, take a lesson from the frog,
The world is quite the same;
At first we feel no harm from it,
Until we're lost in shame.

Following Truth

By David DeLong

Perhaps the most important aspect of a child of God, besides having charity (godly love), is a willingness to follow truth as it is found in the Bible. Without an actual love for the truth a person cannot be saved. In II Thessalonians 2:10 we read concerning the last days antichrist and the mystery of iniquity: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

For most people who claim to be Christians, following truth seems to be optional. For one thing many of them do not care to find truth, and therefore they do not take the time and effort to study the Bible diligently to find it. To others, when truth is presented to them, they would rather follow their comfortable traditions than to change their lives to conform to the truth. Some scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem came to Jesus about just such an issue. "Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matthew 15:1-6).

Jesus was referring to God's Ten Commandment Law being broken for the sake of the scribes and Pharisees' tradition to be kept. Many "Christians" of today do the very same thing. They would rather follow their comfortable traditions than to change their way of life and begin

to follow the truth. The seventh day Sabbath is only one example. To give up worshiping on Sunday to worshiping on Saturday, to many, is just too much of a hardship. But following truth is not optional to a child of God. One must have a love of the truth and be willing to change one's way of life to the truth. The blessings of God far outweigh any hardship that following truth may bring to an individual.

So, perhaps the question we need to be asking ourselves is: do I LOVE truth, not just tolerate it? We find David's love of the truth in Psalm 25:5 where he wrote: "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." He recognized that God's holy Law is truth. In Psalm 119:142 it is written: "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth." And in verse 151 we read: "Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth."

Only as we love the truth will we take the time and effort to study the truth from God's Word. Only as we love it will we be willing to let it change our lives so that we live it out in obedience. And that is the type of people the Lord is looking for to be His children. Jesus prayed that His followers would be sanctified, or set apart, by God's truth. In John 17:17 He prayed: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Those who follow truth are truly set apart. To the world they may look foolish. To nominal Christians they may almost look annoying. But to the Lord, they are very precious. He has a promise to those who are willing to follow Him. "Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed" (Isaiah 66:5).

San Antonio Texas 2019 Summer Youth Retreat

Fill out form below and mail in or go online to: <https://churchofgod7thdaysa.com/2018/12/02/youth-retreat-2019/> - more information in Church Around The World pages 18-19

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are excited to inform you of the 2019 summer retreat in our beautiful Texas Hill Country north of San Antonio!!! Check out the photos and directions at Facebook page: Mt Zion Christian Mission. The Lord's retreat will be July 22nd- July 27th. Registration fee is \$35. Checks may be written to: Church of God (7th Day) and mailed to: Cindy Buechner, 9608 Geronimo Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78254. Please email your questions to buechner1@aol.com. If you would like a camp shirt please send an additional \$15 and your shirt size. We **will not** be accepting registration forms after **June 22nd**. The schedule is below:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Arrival Date/Time</u>	<u>Departure Date/Time</u>
Boys – 11-18 yrs.	July 21, 3:00 PM	July 23, 6:00 PM
Girls – 11-18 yrs.	July 23, 10:00 AM	July 26, 4:00 PM

Camper's Name _____ M or F Birthdate _____ Age: _____ as of July 21st

Parent's/Guardian's Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

What is your shirt size? _____ Is your shirt a child size or an adult size? _____

Name and Telephone of nearest relative if parent/guardian cannot be reached:

Name _____ Phone # _____

What 2 songs would you like to hear at worship? _____

Circle Any That Apply:

Heart condition, diabetes, asthma (please bring inhaler), or other condition?: _____

Serious reaction to? poison ivy, oak, sumac, or other _____

What is the reaction to the above question? _____

Insect sting reaction? Yes or No what is the reaction? _____

Drug Allergies? Yes or No Drug _____ Reaction _____

Any other (food, etc.) allergies and reactions? _____

Is camper under any medication or dietary regimen at this time? Yes or No.

If yes, list medications or dietary restrictions: _____

Any medication taken to camp must be in its original container and labeled, with directions, for the individual for whom it is intended.

Any restrictions to Swimming, water sports, or, physically strenuous activities? Yes or No

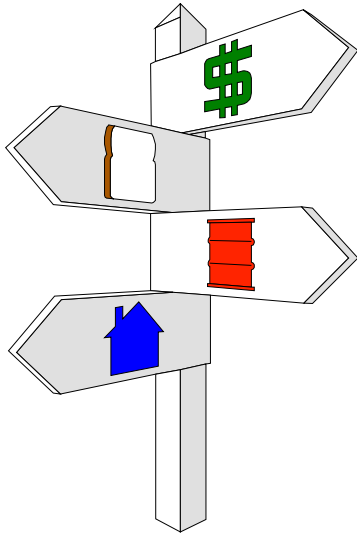
List restrictions _____

SENSITIVE TOPICS for Ages 13 and OLDER. Bible studies and/or discussions related to, but not limited to, the following types of topics for ages 13 and older may be conducted: Sexual relations, abortion, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, homosexuality, "sexting", appropriate use of social media, etc. **List any of these types of activities your child is to be excluded from:**

Unless otherwise indicated on this Registration Form, my child, named above, has permission to take part in all activities, Bible studies and discussions. I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents. I understand that attempts will be made to contact me if my child requires emergency medical/surgical treatment, but, if it is impractical to do so, and/or, until I can arrive at the scene, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by camp staff to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order injections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery for my child as named above. Any financial obligation incurred will be covered by me personally, or by the insurance policy listed below.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE: _____

INSURANCE CO. & POLICY # _____



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.

BEWARE OF A PANDEMIC

The **Collins English Dictionary** defines pandemic as “an occurrence of a disease that affects many people over a wide area.”

In a previous column, it was mentioned that the United States could be vulnerable to a pandemic. In the **USA Today**, there appeared an article entitled *World remains at peril of pandemic* with the subheading *Flu killed 50M in 1918, and we’re still vulnerable*. The article is as follows. It has been condensed.

One hundred years ago, death came with astonishing speed and horrifying agony.

Some influenza patients admitted to a Boston hospital on the morning of October 1918 were dead by evening, their bodies turning blue from lack of oxygen. Hospitals reported an average of 100 deaths a day, overwhelming morgues.

“For several days, there were no coffins, and the bodies piled up something fierce,” said Roy Grist, a physician at Fort Devens, according to *Smithsonian magazine*.

Up to 500 million people – about one-third of the world’s population – became infected with the influenza virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As many as 50 million died, or one out of

every ten human beings on the planet. The virus killed more American troops than died on World War I battlefields.

The intensity and speed with which the flu struck were almost unimaginable. It was the worst global pandemic in modern history.

Its chilling to think that such a calamity could occur again.

“A global influenza pandemic is No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 on our list of the most feared public health crises,” according to Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

Vanderbilt University infectious disease specialist William Schaffner said: “We fear flu. We know how serious it is.”

Top health and science groups, such as the World Health Organization, the National Academy of Sciences and the CDC, predict influenza pandemics are nearly certain to recur.

“Influenza viruses, with the vast silent reservoir in aquatic birds, are impossible to eradicate,” the World Health Organization warned. “With the growth of global travel, a pandemic can spread rapidly globally with little time to prepare a public health response.”

A pandemic could arise if a strain mutated or developed directly from animal flu viruses, the CDC said. The main contributors to the potential for a pandemic are the lack of a global vaccine and humans' lack of immunity.

"The threat of a future flu pandemic remains," the CDC said. "A pandemic flu virus could emerge anywhere and spread globally."

Comment

A future pandemic of the flu or any other disease is a danger of which we must be aware in these last days. It is truly a sign of the times. II Timothy 3:1 tells us, "This know also, that in the last days perilous (dangerous) times shall come."

CALIFORNIA WILD FIRES

You may have read newspaper articles about the terrible wildfires which swept across parts of California last year and still are burning at the time of the writing of this column, although they are a great deal under control. They are really unbelievable! I am informed that the worst Camp Fire is now 100 percent under control. It destroyed one complete town called Paradise, destroying many homes and businesses. Several homes of famous celebrities were destroyed. Many perished in the flames of all the fires, and several thousand were forced to evacuate. The scene has been described as a war zone. Rain has now fallen which has helped to put out the fires. However, there is concern of mudslides.

Comment

Can you imagine being a firefighter in California during the time of these wildfires? Just think of the toll it puts on the teams who have to identify the victims of the flames and try to locate those who are unaccounted for. The increase in wildfires is just one of the Signs Of The Times! Californians wonder what they must go through after all the wildfires and mass shootings they have experienced.

HATE IN AMERICA

I wish to quote a subheading which appeared in an article published in **USA TODAY**. "Many victims of hate crimes are reluctant to report them, and even when they do, the crimes do not always lead to arrests, a News21 analysis of the federal National Crime Victimization Survey shows. More than 2.4 million crimes in which victims suspected hate as a motivating factor were committed across the USA from 2012 to 2016, the survey found. Tens of thousands of Americans are interviewed for the survey."

Comment

Webster's New World Dictionary defines hate as "to have strong dislike or ill will for; loathe; despise."

It is no surprise that there is much hate in America. Everyone has likes and dislikes, but no real loathing or despising is involved. When it comes to mankind, under the biblical rule, no man is to loathe or despise another although one may dislike the actions of another. The world does hate God's children. Jesus said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). There is much hate in America now as Satan has set in high gear his evil devices because he knows that his time is about to expire. God's children in America are to pray for and do good to those who hate them (Matthew 5:44).

There have been some efforts of holding seminars on how to overcome hate, but these will be of no avail from a human nature standpoint.

MASS SHOOTINGS

It is impossible to name all the mass shootings that have happened in America in schools, hotels, dance halls, churches, etc. No one is really safe anywhere.

DAIRY FARMS CLOSING

During the time of this writing, many dairy farms are closing their doors because of declines in prices and rising costs.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What is the meaning of the word perplexity as used by Jesus' in Luke 21:25? Comment on our Lord's prophecy in which it is used.

ANSWER: The feelings of frustration, helplessness, discouragement, and perplexity run through the minds of thoughtful people as they consider the tribulation and distress abounding in the world today. We find that human wisdom can find no way out of the troubles and problems confronting the world today. This does not come as a surprise to the students of God's Word. Our Lord stated that there would be upon the earth "...distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." (Luke 21:15-26).

The word translated "perplexity" is from a Greek word which literally means, according to Dr. Strong, to have no way out! Will you not agree that this prophecy describes the feelings and sentiments of many worried people all over the world?

In Luke's account of this wonderful prophecy by our Lord, we are given additional, hope inspiring details not found in the accounts as recorded by Matthew and Mark. Luke reports our Lord Jesus as saying: "...when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh... know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21:28-31). We are now living in the days in which these things are coming to pass!

Love is the missing element in all of man's present efforts to solve the problems of the world. We can recall again the perceptive words of former President Eisenhower in connection with the blight of racism: "True race equality in America (also in the whole world) will not occur until there is a change in the hearts of men." If men's hearts were right, there would be no more wars, no more want and hunger, no more race discrimination, no more stealing, crime, corruption, and murder.

We are assured that the hearts of many will be right when the Kingdom of God is established here on the earth. The prophet Habakkuk records, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as

the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). Also, “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his of ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3). All the citizens of our Lord’s Kingdom will have an opportunity to learn of the glory of the Lord and obey his commandments.

Selfishness and greed, crime and corruption, sin and sickness, hate and racism, poverty and hunger and wars will not be in that wonderful kingdom. Mankind will rejoice in the peace, abundance, joy, and life of that kingdom, where Christ and his followers will reign.

QUESTION: What are some symptoms of anxiety, and what can I do to combat it? Can any good come from it?

ANSWER: Symptoms of anxiety may include: constant nervousness, uncontrollable worry, panic attacks, fear or avoidance of situations, people, places, to name a few.

Let us now discuss the ways of combating anxiety. First of all, spot the situations that regularly produce tension. If it’s a job you know must be done, either get at it without worrying about your performance, whether you do as well as someone else, or get somebody who can help you do it better than you could all by yourself.

Take a good look at yourself. Don’t shoot for the moon, if you want to avoid anxiety. Some people expect too much from themselves and get into a constant state of worry and anxiety because they think they are not achieving as much as they should. An impossible ideal of perfection is an open invitation to failure and to build-up of anxiety. One of the first steps to overcoming feelings of anxiety is to quit trying to play Superman.

A regular physical checkup may be important for you. Poor eyesight or some other physical disability could be

an undiscovered cause of your anxiety. Half of America’s four million diabetics do not know they have this disease. It’s better to recognize your disabilities, whatever they are, than to fight them in the dark without knowing what they are!

Talk out your troubles. It often helps to get your worries “off your chest” when you can confide them to another person in whom you have confidence: a sympathetic friend, an understanding member of your family, or the pastor of your church. It is a sad fact that too many people wait too long before seeking spiritual advice when they need it. Don’t be afraid to tell your pastor about your problems. That is why he is there.

What possible good can come out of anxiety? It can help to make you a more mature man or woman when you learn how to deal with the anxieties which arise quite normally under the circumstances. “Trouble is an invention to leave worry to God,” said one minister. “Anxiety will never make you one inch taller, but dependence upon God can make you teen feet tall.” To people with anxieties, the minister quoted the advice of the Apostle Peter, “Casting all your care (anxieties) upon him (God,) for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:7). “Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may lift you up and set you on your feet.”

There is nothing unhealthy about anxiety when it is met head on with faith in God, whose care for the world is evident in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Don’t be worried over the fact that you have worries. Everyone has them. Don’t play the hero by sticking it out and suffering with your anxieties. Take a trip or engage in some activity that enlists your interest and energy to get yourself out of the rut and clear your mind that you may cope with pressure lying ahead. But do all with faith in God, whose love and care are sure.



If you would like to register for the 2019 Youth Retreat go online to <https://churchofgod7thdaysa.com/2018/12/02/youth-retreat-2019/> - We are very excited to have you attend. If you paid for a t-shirt, it will be given to you at the camp. We **will not** be accepting registration forms after **June 22nd**. The schedule is below: We would like for you to arrive at or before the time you are scheduled.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Arrival Date/Time</u>	<u>Departure Date/Time</u>
Boys – 11-18 yrs.	July 21, 3:00 PM	July 23, 6:00 PM
Girls – 11-18 yrs.	July 23, 10:00 AM	July 26, 4:00 PM

All personal items, including medications, will be checked on arrival to keep everything safe for all. If you have any questions on a specific item please call Cindy: 210-289-0305. Please do not hesitate to call.

Things to bring

1. Bible
2. Insect repellent
3. Sunscreen
4. Girls must bring a one piece bathing suit
5. Towel
6. Your own pillow and bedding
7. You can bring additional snacks
8. Personal grooming items including soap and shampoo
9. Please bring sneakers for activities.
10. Camera (not camera phone)

Things not to bring

1. Weapons
2. Electronic equipment of any kind
3. Only prescription medication with your name on it will be allowed
4. Revealing or suggestive clothing. Girls: please wear shirts that cover a bra strap. Boys: please wear shorts/pants that cover your underwear.
5. Drugs



2018 Church of God (7th Day) Youth Retreat – Pipe Creek, TX

Front Row: Susan Fowler, Christina Herrera, Morgan Buechner, Marissa Santiesteban, Debbie Smith,

2nd Row: Nathan Gonzalez, Lupe Cantu, Abigail Oliva, Destiny Yanez, Catalina Tran, Jasmine Fowler, Victoria Morena, Joseph Turcios, Isaac Munoz, Joseph Buechner, Julian Almanza, John-Marc Cartagenas, Josh Cartagenas, Joel Cruz

3rd Row: Rick Herrera, Gina Williams, Sherry Womble, Abigail Olivares, Natalie Olivares, Yahaira Vasquez, Mia Howe, Blake Hughes, Izabel Cristan, Jasmine Munoz, Nicole Herrera, Sarah Turcios, Nathaniel Cruz, Vanessa Almanza, Lorena Herrera, Andrew Cantu

Back Row: Tim Buechner, Owen Martinez, Valentin Salais, Esmeralda Salais, Emily Herrera, Valerie Almanza, Yeimy Salais, Richard Santiesteban, Patricia Hernandez, Sandra Herrera, Nina Herrera, Joseph Cartagenas, Alfonso 'Pop' Telesca, Daniel Cruz

Upcoming Retreat is July 21-26, 2019 - registration form on page 13

LESSON I

candle.

LESSON II

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE GOLDEN CALF

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-26.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:2.

“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

1. What words did God speak to the children of Israel? Exodus 20:3-17. If you do not already know these Ten Commandments by heart, let us all try to memorize them.
2. What did the people see on the mount after this, and what did they do? Exodus 20:18.
3. Were the people afraid? What did they say to Moses, and what was his reply to them? Exodus 20:19-20.
4. Where did the people stand, and where did Moses stand? Exodus 20:21.
5. What did the Lord tell Moses, and what were they to make? Exodus 20:22-26. Were the children of Israel promised a blessing of obeying God in this request?

NOTE: In Chapters 21-31 of Exodus, the children of Israel are given additional laws and ordinances that they are to keep.

6. What did God give to Moses when He finished talking to him on Mt. Sinai? Exodus 31:18.

NOTE: The Ten Commandments were written on these two stones.

7. Are we to keep the Ten Commandments still today? Ecclesiastes 12:13; Revelation 22:14.

The darkness of the night cannot extinguish the smallest

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:7.

‘And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves’.

NOTE: Moses is still talking to and receiving instruction from God. He was delaying in coming back down to the people. Let us see what the children of Israel have done while Moses is talking with God.

1. What did the people ask Aaron to do for them? Exodus 32:1.
2. Did Aaron listen to them? What did he ask the women and daughters to do? Exodus 32:2.
3. What did Aaron do with the golden earrings? Exodus 32:3-4.
4. When Aaron had finished the altar, what did the people do? Exodus 32:5-6.
5. How did the Lord instruct Moses when He saw what the children of Israel were doing? Exodus 32:7-9.
6. Was the Lord angry with them? Exodus 32:10.
7. How did Moses plead with God to be merciful unto them? Exodus 32:11-13.
8. Did the Lord repent of the evil which he thought to do unto them? Exodus 32:14.
9. What did Moses have with him when he came down from the mount? Were these writings of God or Moses? Exodus 32:15-16.

LESSON III

MOSES BREAKS THE TABLES

GOD TALKS WITH MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:17-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:19 (last part).

“...and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.”

NOTE: While Moses was in the mount talking with God, the children of Israel had Aaron to make them a golden calf and worshipped it. Now let us study to see what happens to them for disobeying God.

1. When Moses came nigh unto the camp, what did he do as a result of his anger? Exodus 32:19.
2. What did Moses do with the calf? Exodus 32:20.
3. When Moses asked Aaron why he had done this, what was Aaron’s excuse? Exodus 32:21-24.
4. Moses stood in the gate of the camp. What question did he ask the people? Who gathered unto him? Exodus 32:26.
5. What were the children of Levi instructed to do to the people? How many were slain that day? Exodus 32:27-28.
6. Why was Moses going back unto the Lord the next day? Exodus 32:30.
7. When Moses returned unto God, did he plead for God to forgive their sins? Exodus 32:31-32.
8. Did the Lord forgive them? Where was Moses instructed to lead the people? Exodus 32:33-34.
9. What did the Lord do to the people because they made the calf? Exodus 32:35.

LESSON IV

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:1-11.

Golden Text: Exodus 33:11 (first part).

“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...”

1. What does the Lord tell Moses to do in Exodus 33:1?
2. What was the Lord going to do before Moses and the Israelites? Exodus 33:2-3.
3. Were the people happy when they heard what the Lord said about them? Exodus 33:4.
4. What did the Lord then tell Moses to say unto the children of Israel, and did they obey him? Exodus 33:5-6.
5. Where did Moses put the tabernacle? What did he call the tabernacle? Exodus 33:7.
6. What did the people do when Moses went out unto the tabernacle? Exodus 33:8.
7. What stood at the door of the tabernacle as Moses entered? Exodus 33:9.
8. Did the people worship the Lord when they saw the cloudy pillar at the door? Did the Lord speak to Moses at this time? Exodus 33:10-11.

WHO IS IT?

This man was spokesman for Moses
 Before the King Pharaoh,
 When the plagues were sent because he refused
 To let the Israelites go;
 He became High Priest and took care of
 The tabernacle of the Lord;
 And offered the burnt sacrifice
 According to His Word.



A SPOILED KING By Mary Railton

You know of boys and girls who are “spoiled.” Our story is about a man who was a “spoiled” king. Ahab’s palace was in Samaria, for he was king over Israel. He often looked out of his window at the beautiful vineyard beside his palace. The fruit looked good to eat, and he wished he could walk into the vineyard and eat all he wanted.

As he looked at the fruit, he thought to himself, “I want that vineyard. Why can’t I have it? I will talk to Naboth about it and offer to buy it from him.”

He offered Naboth, the owner, a vineyard somewhere else, or money equal to the value of it. Naboth replied, “Sir that vineyard has been in my family for generations. I would not have the heart to sell it.”

Ahab walked slowly back to his room overlooking the vineyard. He was angry and sullen because he could not have what he wanted. He lay on his bed, covered his face, and even refused food when it was brought to him.

Jezebel, his wife, heard of his pouting and came to his room. “Ahab, why are you so angry that you will not eat?”

“I want that vineyard outside my window. I asked Naboth to give it to me, but he won’t,” whined Ahab. Jezebel laughed within herself at his childishness, but spoke, “Are you king of Israel? Get off your bed and behave yourself, If you want that vineyard, I will see that you get it.”

She wrote letters in Ahab’s name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders of the city who

were over Naboth. “Proclaim a feast in your city. Set Naboth in a conspicuous place among the people, and set two sons of Belial near him. Have them bear witness against him, saying, ‘you have cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”

How cruel Jezebel was to take the life of an innocent man to please the “spoiled” Ahab. She used the sons of Belial to do the wicked task, for Belial was a wooden god whom she made everyone worship. She knew the priests of Belial would do as she asked, for if they did not she would have them killed also.

The feast was proclaimed, Naboth was placed in a conspicuous place before the people and the “sons of Belial” cried out, “Naboth has cursed God and the king.”

Jezebel walked proudly to Ahab’s room and said, “Naboth has been stoned and is now dead. Now, go! Take possession of the vineyard which he refused to sell and you want so badly.”

Ahab rose from his bed and put on his costly robes. He walked through the vineyard, proudly displaying his ownership of it. Ahab watched a man walking slowly towards him, until he recognized Elijah, the Prophet of the Lord. He wondered if Elijah had heard of this wicked plot.

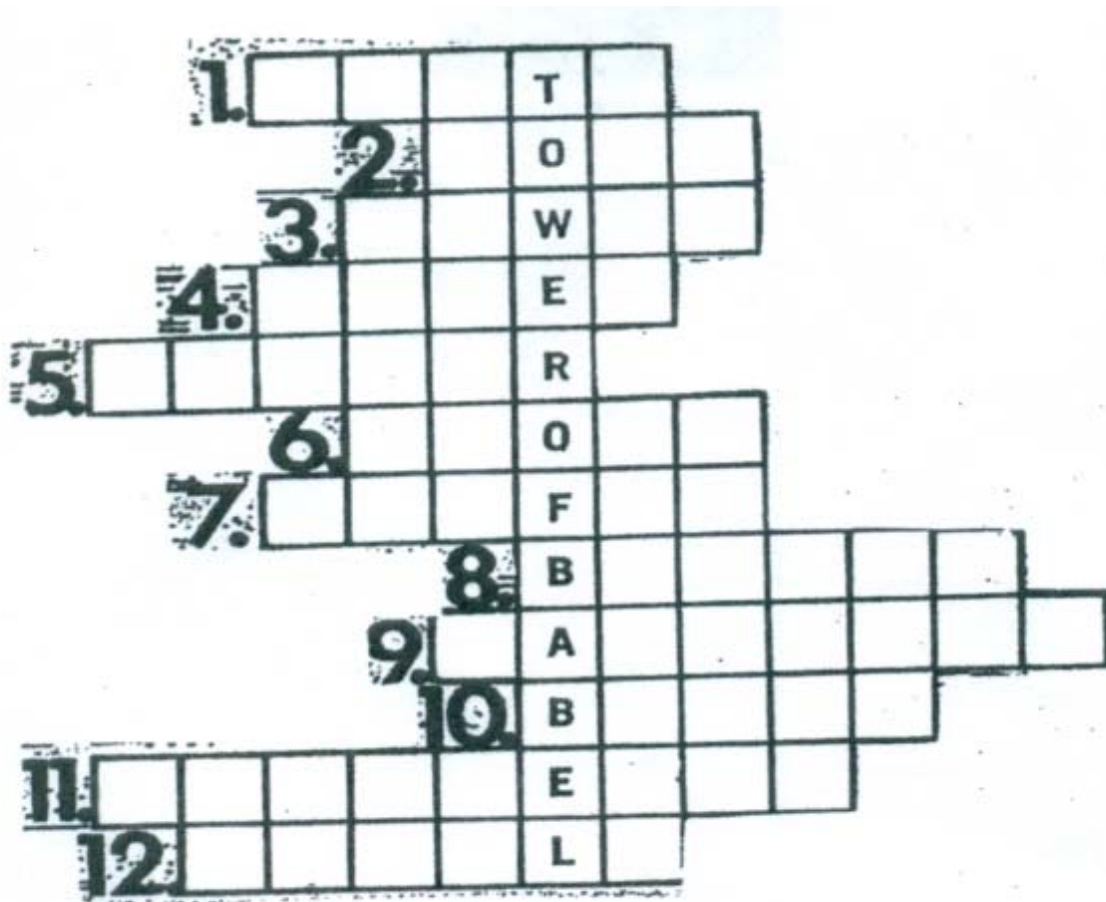
Elijah stood before Ahab and spoke, “Have you killed Naboth, and now take everything that belonged to him? Ahab, how wicked can you be? Behold, the Lord is about to be in evil upon you, for as He said, in the place where Naboth was killed shall Ahab be killed. And all his family shall die. Jezebel will be eaten by dogs for the wickedness.” And so it was!

Are You Spoiled?

If it meant killing people to get what they wanted, Ahab and Jezebel calmly did it. It is not good to be “spoiled.” Whenever you feel sorry for yourself because you cannot have something, think about Ahab and remember what happened to him and his wife for their wickedness.

Answer to Who is it? - Aaron

TOWER OF BABEL



1. There was a dispersal of men throughout the _____.

2. They came to a plain to build a _____.

3. _____ came to see what the sons of men had done.

4. They wanted to build a _____ to reach heaven.

5. They found this plain in the land of _____.

6. The people _____ the same tongue.

7. Yahweh said "Come, let us go down and _____ their language."

8. They said "Come let us make _____ and bake them in the fire."

9. The town was named Babel because their _____ was confused.

10. They were not able to _____ the town.

11. Yahweh _____ them over the face of the earth.

12. They were not a _____ people with one language.

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MY GOD

*My God is the Lord of the mountain,
He created the high peaks;
He gives to my troubled soul comfort,
And the peace of His love my heart seeks.*

*I tiptoe along shadowed pathways,
Where dainty ferns brush me with a stroke;
My soul finds a peace that's unequalled
As I rest at the feet of an oak.*

*My God is Lord of the Valley
Where rivers run silent and deep;
Our feet dance on flower strewn pathways,
As we seek His favor to keep.*

*Birds fill the valley with singing,
Pouring forth with all their might;
And the Lord marks the fall of a sparrow,
And not one will be lost from His sight.*

*My God is the Lord of Creation,
And Creation is singing His praise;
For the wondrous things that He gives us,
We thank You, oh Ancient of Days.*

*All the wonders He has created,
It needs only one more thing;
The rule of our Lord the Creator,
And the peace only that rule will bring.*

--Betty Whetstone

