



*The
Advocate
of Truth*

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Too Much Self by Delwin DeLong

A lot of times we have too much self. There are times we allow ourselves and our thinking of ourselves to interfere with our relationship with the Lord. We need to always put the Lord first in our lives but sometimes self sneaks in a little bit and shows its ugly head and sometimes that self causes a problem.

In James 4:1-3 we read: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." When we are praying to the Lord we need to be careful in what we ask Him and ask Him that His will be done in all things. And that we don't let ourselves and the thinking of the day cloud our judgment in asking Him. Continuing to read in James, we read about breaking of the commandments. James 4:4-8 says: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT GIVETH GRACE

UNTO THE HUMBLE. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." If we draw ourselves closer to God then He will draw Himself closer to us as well.

The Lord knows what is good for us, He knows what we need. When we pray to Him we should always ask Him let your will be done in my life and whatsoever You would have me to do that allow me to do. Its easy to put ourselves first and others second. But if we would put others first and ourselves second we would be following that golden rule that Jesus set forth and told us to do unto others as ye would have them do unto you.

James 4:11: "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge." So it is important that we do not speak evil of one another. Sometimes people will bolster themselves by saying did you hear what happened to this person or that person. And sometimes they'll say those kinds of things to bolster themselves up because maybe they are feeling a little down. And they'll say did you hear what so and so did and often times it will be a way to say I wouldn't do that kind of

thing. But there again if we put others first and ourselves second then we wouldn't even think of doing those kinds of things.

Paul did a wonderful job in his missionary work. When he traveled around he did a great work for the Lord. And we have a good record of Paul's work that he did. Towards the end of his missionary trips he wanted to go back to Jerusalem. And he had it stuck in his mind, yes I want to go back to Jerusalem. And I want to go back and get things straightened out and I think there is a little turmoil and I need to go back. This was his own thinking.

Please turn to Acts 21. He was not allowing the Lord at this time to work in his life. He was putting himself first. He was putting his own thoughts first, he was putting his own desires first by wanting to go back to Jerusalem. Acts 21:4 reads: "And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem." So the Spirit is directing Paul at this time saying, no, do not go to Jerusalem. Paul is saying in his mind I want to go to Jerusalem. I want to do this thing and it doesn't matter what happens. I'm willing to die for the Lord because I still want to go to Jerusalem. The Spirit is saying no Paul do not go.

Acts 21:10-11 says: "And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles." He was making this very clear to Paul, saying I know that you want to go but the Holy Spirit is saying do not go to Jerusalem, don't go! I guess Paul had a mind of his own because even the second warning he didn't take heed.

Acts 21:12 tells us: "And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem." Again the brethren just said vehemently

again, Paul just listen to what the Holy Spirit is telling you, don't go! Acts 21:13 reads: "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." He had it set in his mind that he wanted to go. He said that it doesn't make any difference if they find me or kill me I'm still going to go. But there again he is going against what God is telling him to do. He is setting his own mind up and saying I'm willing to die for the truth, which I'm sure we all are. But then he is going against what God is asking him to do at that point.

The brethren were very dismayed, they didn't know what to say. Acts 21:14 informs us: "And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done." So Paul we can't tell you any stronger, we just have to let the Lord take care of things from here on out. But we are asking you to do this thing.

When he got to Jerusalem, and he did go to Jerusalem, he found a problem right off. In verse 20, this was the beginning of the problem that he heard. "And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law." What law were they talking about? They were zealous of the law of Moses.

Acts 21:21-22 says: "And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come." All these Jews here are keeping the feast days still and are going along in this manner and there are thousands that are doing it and we have a problem here. We need to get together and see what happens. Well many of the Jews did not like Paul in Jerusalem and he was taken captive. They

tried to kill him, they tried to beat him, they did beat him. They bound him over to prison and he just didn't have a good time of it at all in Jerusalem.

Just think of all the good he could have done from Acts 21 to the end of Acts. This tells about all the problems that Paul had from that time on. They sent him later to Rome and he was just following his own way. We should always ask ourselves in this what the Lord would want me to do. And when we pray we need to remove that self from it and ask that the Lord's will be done in our lives. If Paul would've just taken a minute and thought, is this what the Lord is wanting me to do? He would have known immediately that that's not what the Lord had wanted him to do. Even though he was a wonderful man and he was willing to die for the truth and stand strong for it, he should've stepped back and said what does the Lord want me to do here?

David in the Old Testament, when he first took over his throne and his kingdom was established, he was a wonderful king, the people loved him and he ruled very well. In I Chronicles chapter 18 we see where David's kingdom is being established. Verse 1 reads: "Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines." When he took over he had a lot

of fighting to do, he took over the Philistines.

I Chronicles 18:2-5 says: "And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts. And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates. And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: David also houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them an hundred chariots. And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men." When he started out he had to wipe the enemies of the children of Israel out at that time. He was so successful, he always put the Lord first. It came to a point in his reign when things settled down a little bit and the king of Ammon died.

I Chronicles 19:1-2 reads: "Now it came to pass after this, that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his stead. And David said, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father shewed kindness to me. And David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. So the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him." Well when those messengers came in, Hanun's advisors said to him, well look David is sending spies in here to spy out. That wasn't



David's intent at all. They took those poor messengers and shaved their beards, which was a disgrace for them, cut their clothes off and sent them away half naked. David found out about this and he just wasn't very happy.

I Chronicles 19:6 reads: "And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syria-maachah, and out of Zobah." They probably said we have made a big mistake here. David is getting angry at us now because we treated his messengers this way. They were getting scared and hired some soldiers to come in because they thought David would beat up on us now. So they paid some soldiers and got a big army up and David heard about it and sent Joab out with the army.

Joab looks around him and sees all the soldiers surrounding him. I Chronicles 19:13 says: "Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight." He broke this division up into two groups and he stood against the Syrians and the other group against the Ammonites. And if they start to overpower us we will help each other.

Well what happened? I Chronicles 19:14 tells us: "So Joab and the people that were with him drew nigh before the Syrians unto the battle; and they fled before him." All they did was get up before the people-he must have had quite a reputation-they just fled and ran away. I Chronicles 19:15 informs us: "And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem." This was the Lord's doing. He entered fear into the hearts of those people. And they had a wonderful victory. They didn't have a lot of people but they defeated a big, huge army. They came back and told David and they were very pleased with the outcome

of that situation.

Now after that David went out and conquered Syria, he went out and conquered the Philistines, he was a great killer. There was a big giant of the Philistines that was still around, the beam of the spear was like a weaver's beam and they defeated all of those people. David started to get a little bit of pride in his thinking: look how good we are, look at what kind of good job we are doing here. And he did dedicate these things to the Lord. But then he got a little too proud.

I Chronicles 21:1 relates: "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel." David could have stood up and said it is the Lord that did this. It's the Lord who wiped out our enemies before us, which it was. But Satan was saying, yeah David, look here. David you are not too many and look here, at all the accomplishments you are doing. Why don't you see really how many you are and you can brag about how well you did, you can number your company here. Satan was tempting him here. A little bit of David's self was being put up in the forefront, and Satan worked on that.

David was a good man, an excellent man for the Lord. And Satan knew that he could get that little weak spot at David at that time. David did, he numbered the children of Israel and that made God very displeased with David. Because he was not giving God the credit he was taking the credit for himself here when he was numbering Israel. I Chronicles 21:7-8 says: "And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly." David is saying to the Lord, please punish me on this one but don't let it affect others.

I Chronicles 21:9-10 reads: "And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things: choose

thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee." You are going to be punished for this iniquity and I'm going to give you three choices. You can choose the first one, and you can be punished this way or the second or the third, the choice will be yours.

The choices were these in verse 12: "Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me." Which one would you pick if you were king? The three years of famine, three months of war that you would be losing all the time or three days of pestilence throughout the land and the angel of the Lord destroying.

I Chronicles 21:13 says: "And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man." In other words, he is saying don't let my enemies take me over, let the Lord deal with me in this one. So David chose the three days of pestilence. Verse 15 reads: "And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite." And back in verse 14 we read: "So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men." Because of that sin. That was just a little bit of self pride that David had and seventy thousand men lost their lives.

I Chronicles 21:16 tells us: "And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders

of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces." Here is this angel and it just reminds you of the time when the Lord is going to send his plagues upon the earth. And those who do not accept the Lord will be in those plagues at that time. That angel of the Lord is very strong and powerful indeed.

The plagues had stopped and we say, wow, that was quite a punishment for just a little bit of self pride. Yes it was a punishment, but the Lord means what He says when He tells us, do My commandments, follow after My teachings. The Lord set out for us to obey Him. Follow My commandments, make sure you keep the Sabbath and the other nine commandments. Don't eat unclean foods, pay your tithes, do these things that I have asked you to do. Very little things may be in our explanation sometimes but it is very great in God's commandments, in His eyes that we obey Him.

So if we start feeling self and getting self before the Lord, which is very easy to do, let's push that self down and let's put the Lord first in our lives. And if we have the Lord first in our lives we will not have to go through the plagues period, we will not have to go through the vengeance that God has at that time. God bless you as you think on these things.





Hyssop

(*origanum syriacum*) in bloom
by David Royer

The herb Hyssop is mentioned several times in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. The name hyssop comes from the Greek hussopos and the Hebrew esob.

Because of its strong camphor-like odor, and essential oil, it was used historically as a cleansing herb for temples and other sacred places. It was also used to repel insects. The Romans used hyssop to bring protection from the plague and prepared an herbal wine containing hyssop. In ancient Greece, the physicians Galen and Hippocrates valued hyssop for inflammations of the throat and chest, pleurisy, and other bronchial complaints. Source: <https://www.encyclopedia.com>

Here are the occasions hyssop appears in the Bible:

1. The earliest record was Exodus 12:22 when it was used as a paintbrush. During the final plague in Egypt, a bunch of hyssops was used to spread lamb's blood on the lintel and two doorposts of the Hebrew homes, thus sparing their firstborn's death. This event was the first "Passover" celebrated annually thereafter.
2. Hyssop was used at the consecration of the Hebrew portable tabernacle, people, and items while in the wilderness (Hebrews 9:19).
3. When people contracted leprosy, they and their house were cleansed using hyssop (Leviticus 14).
4. Used in burnt offerings (Numbers 19)

5. When King David repented of his sin with Bathsheba, in Psalm 51:7, he wrote, *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."*

6. King Solomon spoke about his knowledge of hyssop (1 Kings 4:33).

7. John mentions that vinegar was delivered to Jesus via hyssop (John 19:29).

There is a debate over the identification of this herb. For over a century, biblical scholars have debated if the generic name "holy herb" was hyssop, oregano, capers, marjoram, sorghum, cumin, maidenhair, spleenwort, savory, sage, or the allure shrub.

My limited research indicates that this herb is probably identical to the Arabic zat'ar, a name applied to a mint family group of aromatic plants, particularly marjoram and thyme. Either shrub would provide a bunch suitable for sprinkling and the important characteristic of medicinal properties. They grow everywhere in the Mediterranean and the Middle East and are found in rocky terrain and deserts.



Hyssop (*origanum syriacum*)

University research: "Syrian oregano (*Origanum syriacum*) is a perennial herb belonging to the mint family with height

ranging from 60 to 90 cm, woody creeping roots, and branched woody, hairy stems. It is found as a wild plant in the Mediterranean region. The Samaritans on Mount Gerizim were asked which plant they use for sprinkling in their Passover rites, and their answer was za'atar." Source: Old Dominion University; <https://ww2.odu.edu/~lmusselm/plant/bible/hyssop.php>

This hyssop (*Origanum Syriacum*) has antimicrobial and antioxidant activities as the main functionalities of za'atar essential oil that are behind its medicinal importance. One hundred and twenty-one compounds have been identified in za'atar essential oil. These essential oils were effective against antimicrobial-resistant bacterial strains in two studies. It was reported that these essential oils have the richest α -terpinene and β -terpinene levels have the highest antibacterial activity. Source: National Library of Medicine; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6784118>

For these reasons, a plant known in English as Syrian hyssop or Syrian oregano (a distant relative of our well-known kitchen herbs oregano and marjoram) seems the most likely candidate.

I thought the Jewish Encyclopedia would have a definitive answer as to the identity of hyssop. They were not sure either: "There is great uncertainty as to what specific plant is intended either by the Hebrew "esob" or by the Greek. The Greek hussopos was credited with purifying qualities and is commonly identified with the *Origanum Smyrnum*; other words: Syrian oregano." Source: <https://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/7974-hyssop>

An additional challenge to the identity of hyssop remains in John 19:29, where hyssop is used to offer a sponge full of vinegar to Jesus at Calvary. The problem seems to be in how the hyssop was used. There are several possibilities. The first is that the sponge was put on a long stalk of the hyssop plant. This is unlikely due to the small stature of hyssop; it would nearly be impossible to find a stem more than a meter long, and even then, the stem often branches.

The Greek words meaning "binding it to hyssop" might also suggest that the hyssop plant was a kind of holder for the sponge. This is plausible because of the growth habit

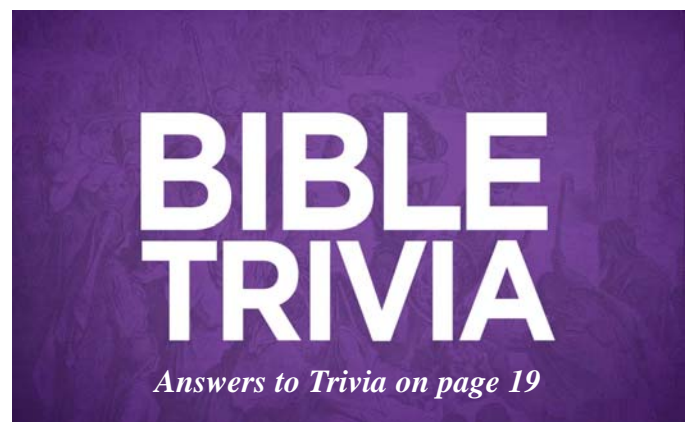
of the hyssop, where a sponge could be put in the center of the much-branched plant. Why this would be necessary is unclear. Could the hyssop have been used as a kind of sedative? The essential oils in *Origanum* might possibly have the effect of softening the sharp taste of the vinegar.*

Another plausible explanation is that the translation of John's narrative was identified as "hyssop branches" instead of a roman javelin. Hussopo is a corruption of husso: "javelin", and the passage could read, "They put a sponge full of vinegar upon a javelin."

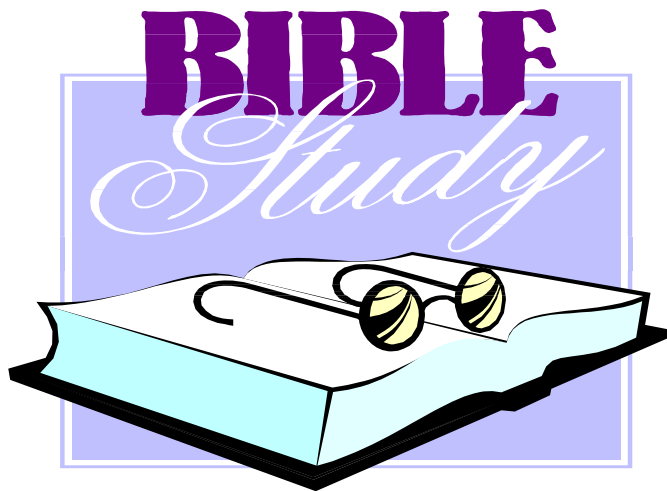
*Source for "": <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/hyssop/>

The Bible reveals that God provided a process of purification, cleansing, and the washing away of sin. Today we do not need the blood of animals or a delivery system like hyssop because our purification comes from having faith in Jesus and His precious blood shed at Calvary. I leave you with these verses from I John 1:7-9:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



1. Philistines
2. Israel
3. raven
4. Timothy
5. Macedonia
6. Nineveh
7. Greeks
8. wide
9. iron
10. Saul
11. the Christ
12. death



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 19B - DANIEL 7 (THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR BEASTS)

QUESTION: How did Daniel feel about the vision?

ANSWER: "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me" (Daniel 7:15).

QUESTION: What did he ask of an angel?

ANSWER: "I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this" (Daniel 7:16 first part).

QUESTION: What did the angel do?

ANSWER: "So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things" (Daniel 7:16 last part).

QUESTION: What did the angel say the four beasts were?

ANSWER: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings (kingdoms), which shall arise out of the earth" (Daniel 7:17).

QUESTION: Who will finally take the kingdom?

ANSWER: "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (Daniel 7:18).

QUESTION: Which beast was he particularly interested in?

ANSWER: "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout (angrier) than his fellows" (Daniel 7:19-20).

QUESTION: What did he see the little horn do?

ANSWER: "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them" (Daniel 7:21).

QUESTION: How long did the little horn war against the saints?

ANSWER: "Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom" (Daniel 7:22).

QUESTION: How did the angel describe the fourth beast?

ANSWER: "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces" (Daniel 7:23).

QUESTION: How did he describe the ten horns and the little one?

ANSWER: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue

three kings" (Daniel 7:24).

NOTE: the little horn was diverse or different from the other horns in the sense that he was a religious power. We have already outlined the three kings which he subdued.

QUESTION: Against whom would he speak?

ANSWER: "And he shall speak great words against the most High" (Daniel 7:25 first part).

NOTE: His great words against the most High constitute blasphemy. The pope carries the very titles that belong to God. The title Pope itself means Papa or Father. He is also called the Holy Father. He also claims to have authority over heaven, hell, and purgatory. He claims for himself and his priesthood the power to forgive sins, that alone can make a saint, that this church has the power to open or close heaven, and many more blasphemies he speaks.

QUESTION: What would he do to the saints?

ANSWER: "and shall wear out the saints of the most High" (Daniel 7:25 second part).

NOTE: It is estimated that by the decree of the Papacy that at least 50,000,000 souls were put to death during the dark ages.

QUESTION: What would he think to do?

ANSWER: "and think to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25 third part).

NOTE: He claims to have changed the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, to have set Christ's birthday on December 25 contrary to scripture, to have declared the crucifixion of Christ on Friday and his resurrection on Sunday also contrary to scripture, to have set the beginning and ending of a day from midnight to midnight from God's set rule of sunset to sunset, that he changed the beginning of the year to January 1 from God's beginning of the day of the new moon nearest the spring or vernal equinox, and many, many other things.

QUESTION: How long would he have to make these changes?

ANSWER: "and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time" (Daniel 7:25 last part).

NOTE: A "time" in prophecy is a year, "times" would be two years, and a half of dividing of "time" a half year. This would be 3 1/2 years. At times in prophecy a day represents a year as in Ezekiel 4:6. Using this thought, three and a half years equal 1260 days or years. This time period began as stated before in 538 A.D. when the Ostrogoths were overthrown and ended in 1798 when the French General Berthier made the Pope a voluntary prisoner in the Vatican.

QUESTION: When Christ comes to judge and reign what will He do to the beast's dominion?

ANSWER: "But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end" (Daniel 7:26).

QUESTION: Who shall receive the kingdom and dominion?

ANSWER: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27).

NOTE: This lesson covers the time period from the Babylonian kingdom through Christ reign with his saints all the way down to the time that the books are opened as recorded in Revelation 20:12 at the end of the millennial reign. (Be sure to study all of the lessons in this book covering the kingdom of Christ with His saints.)

QUESTION: What did the angel conclude?

ANSWER: "Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations (meditations) much troubled me, and my countenance (inward feelings) changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart" (Daniel 7:28).



KENYA EAST AFRICA - Take a look at the progression of the hard work the congregation has done to build a dispensary with the finished product on page fourteen.







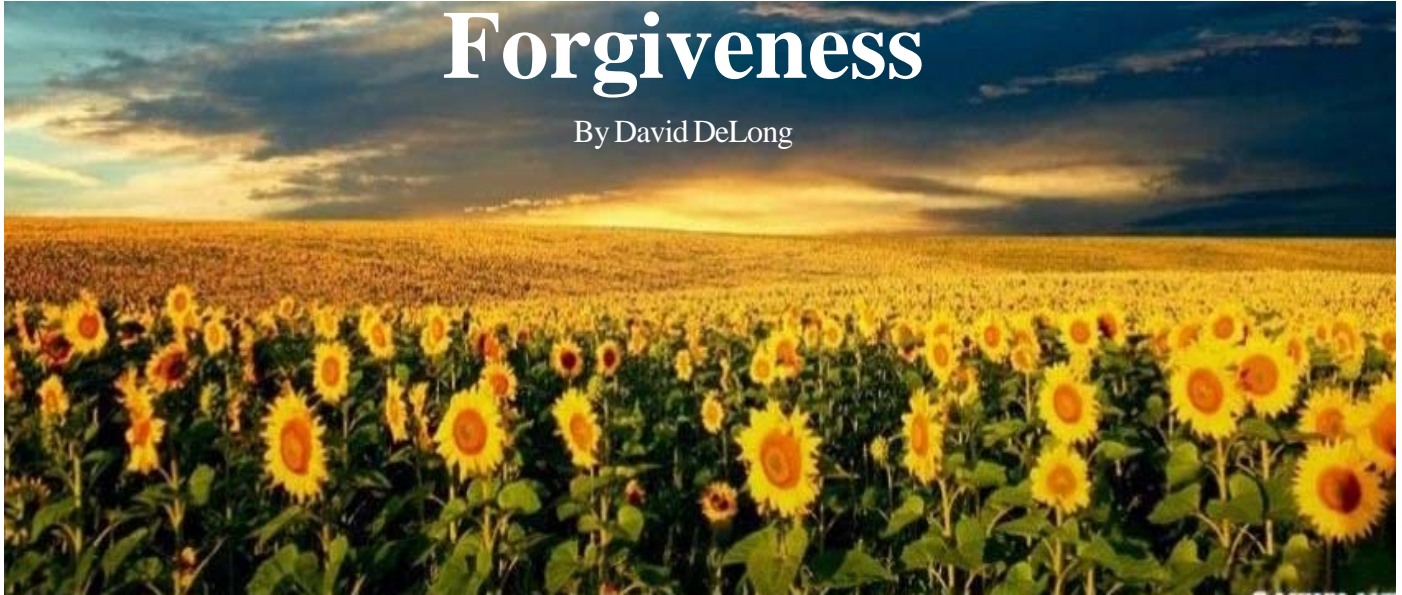
WANTED

THE TEN MOST WANTED MEN

1. *The man who puts God's business above his own.*
2. *The man who brings his children to church rather than sending them.*
3. *The man who can see his own faults before he sees the faults of others.*
4. *The man who is willing to say, "I was wrong, I am sorry."*
5. *The man who will forgive another person, and will then remove it from his mind.*
6. *The man who tries to be the right example to everyone rather than talk about it.*
7. *The man who will look at temptation squarely and say, "No!"*
8. *The man who throws himself totally into a project, then gives the credit for its success to the Lord and to His helpers.*
9. *The man who gives his money, time and talent without a thought of return.*
10. *The man who has a willingness to help rather than let the other fellow do it.*

Forgiveness

By David DeLong



Sometimes in our walk with the Lord we falter and do things of which we are ashamed. Instead of feeling victory in our lives we may feel guilt and defeat. Maybe we even feel like giving up. The Lord Jesus taught us a lesson that we should always remember. When Peter came to Jesus with a question about forgiveness, we find this conversation in Matthew 18:21-22: "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Seven times would be a lot of times to forgive our brother, but Jesus made it plain that we should forgive much more than that if it is necessary. Seventy times seven is 490. Since Jesus expects us to forgive that many times then He will do the same for us. We can be absolutely certain that if we sin 490 times against the Lord, if we truly repent, then He will forgive us. I John 1:9 tells us: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS--that means 490 (or more) conditions of sin. We read of a very wicked king in the Old Testament named Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah. Second Kings 21: 1-18 reads: "Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. For he

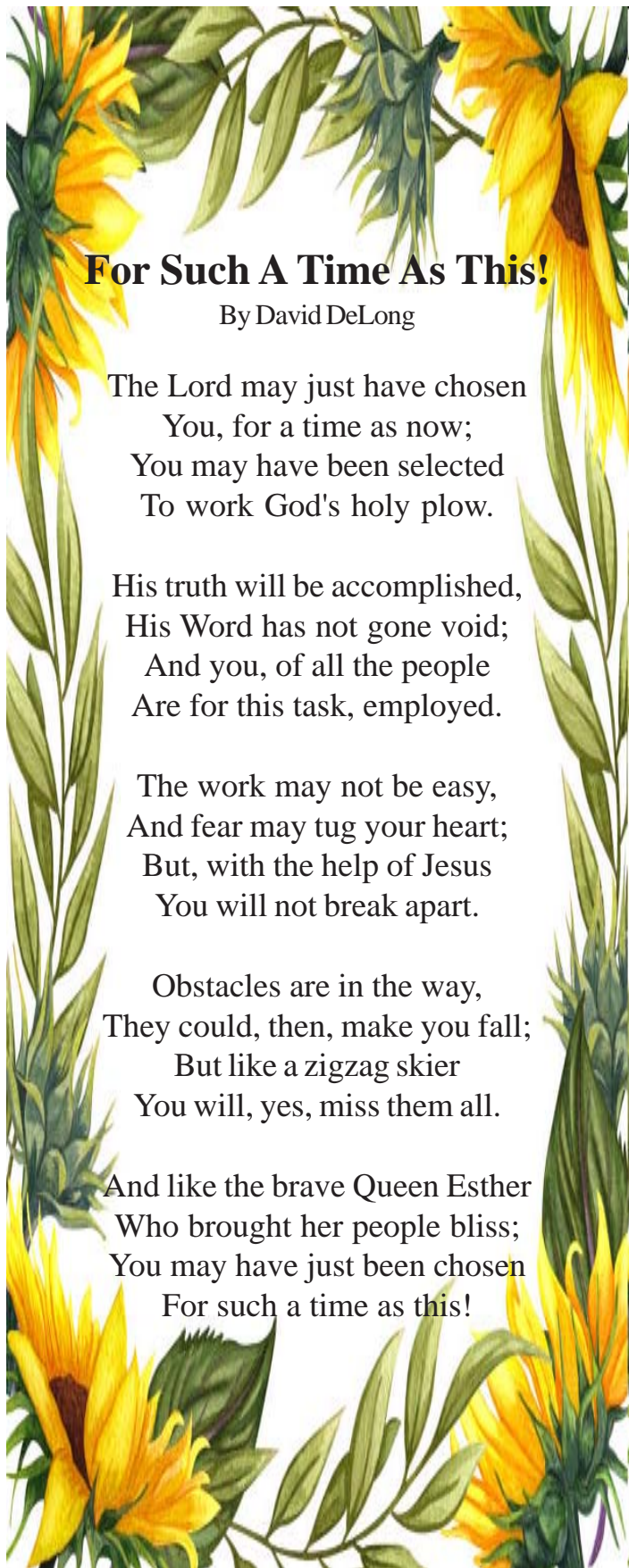
built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them. But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying, Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols: Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears

shall tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day. Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and all that he did, and his sin that he sinned, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza: and Amon his son reigned in his stead."

That would seem to be the end of a very wicked king in Judah. But that's not the complete story. In II Chronicles 33:10-13 we read about Manasseh: "And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, And prayed unto him: and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God."

It could be argued, perhaps, that Manasseh was the most wicked king of Judah. Certainly he did not deserve the Lord's mercy. But when he humbled himself before the Lord, the Lord forgave him and brought him back to his throne in Jerusalem. The Lord will forgive us, too, the same as He forgave Manasseh if we only humble ourselves before Him, confess our sins to Him, and truly repent.

Jesus is now in the saving business not the condemning business. He said in Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Therefore, He desires to forgive us our trespasses not to condemn us for them.



For Such A Time As This!

By David DeLong

The Lord may just have chosen
You, for a time as now;
You may have been selected
To work God's holy plow.

His truth will be accomplished,
His Word has not gone void;
And you, of all the people
Are for this task, employed.

The work may not be easy,
And fear may tug your heart;
But, with the help of Jesus
You will not break apart.

Obstacles are in the way,
They could, then, make you fall;
But like a zigzag skier
You will, yes, miss them all.

And like the brave Queen Esther
Who brought her people bliss;
You may have just been chosen
For such a time as this!



Word Keys
That unlock truth
by Jerry Womble

HITHER - In the OT hither meant here, now, or there and could be used for a place or a time.

In the NT it was used for here, there or a special place to be called to.

In Ex. 3 we find the situation with Moses seeing a burning bush and he goes to see and understand what it means. As he gets close to the bush in vs. 5 God says to him “draw NOT nigh hither”; this was a special place God called “holy ground”. He had to take off his shoes before going hither to that place. At the time God calls us to do something for him...for a work or maybe to be a witness; we must examine the situation and be prayerfully prepared for that duty.

Hither can be a destructive word as in Prov. 9: 13-18. The foolish woman calls to the passerby who would normally go straight on his way to come hither to her. To make her call to come hither touches the interest and heart of the one she is speaking to. She gives a mysterious statement when she says “stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant”; this causes the passerby to be very curious but he does not realize those who went there before him have entered the “depths of hell” and there is very little chance of them surviving her dwelling place. Again, to us it is a warning to be careful that we continue to travel the straight path and not turn aside to temptations.

In Mat. 17:17 Jesus tells His disciples to bring hither the sick child and He would heal him. In Mat. 14: 18 we see a miracle when Jesus tells His disciples to bring hither the fishes and loaves so He could ask God to feed the 5,000 that were listening to Him. In both of these instances, hither meant to be brought directly to Jesus.

As we skip to Revelation, we see hither mainly used to refer to a particular place. Rev. 4:1, 2 John is able to see into heaven and knows he is in a spiritual state. He hears a call to “come up hither and I will shew thee things that must be hereafter”. This takes us back in thought to Rev. 1:19 where Jesus says to John that the book of Revelation will teach you three things and the third one is what starts

in chapter 4 the things that be hereafter. This hither that John is called to is such a special place that John even says that he was “in the spirit”. He was to see the coming of Jesus for the Church, the plagues and time lapsing into eternity to name a few.

That special place of heaven is mentioned in Rev. 11: 11,12 when the two witnesses that have been lying dead in the street for three and a half days are caught up hither, that is to heaven.

One of the angels that have the plagues says to John “come hither”; that meaning of hither was to come to the place where the angel was so that the angel could show John the New Jerusalem that would come out of heaven from God, Rev. 21:9.

The lesson for us is that we must be careful about what the calling we hear in our mind to come hither means. We must know where that place is and to what end it will lead us.

WHEN YOU'RE LOW ON POWER

Adapted from KJIC Newsletter

God wants to recharge you. Has your cell phone ever gone dead? What does that mean, other than it doesn't work. It means that your phone has not been regularly connected to its source of power. Therefore, it eventually is depleted of power, and it fails. It is dead.

Much the same thing often happens to new children of God. If they are not taught the necessity of staying charged-up, staying connected to their power source, often they die spiritually. Discipleship of new children of God is so very important. But even older children of God may experience situations that hinder them from spending much needed time with their power source. Unless they are careful, they too may die spiritually. Trials and tribulations, rejection and depression, and sickness all can drain us of our spiritual power. But I trust that we know where our power source is.

Most of you have a cell phone, and I trust that you are very careful to keep it charged. Are you just as diligent to stay charged-up spiritually? Prayer, fasting, worship, Bible study, and Christian fellowship will soon recharge you spiritually.

Every time that you plug your phone in ask yourself, “do I need to plug in as well.” Most likely, you faithfully charge your phone. Will you purpose to faithfully charge yourself as well? Are you running low? Hurry, let's get plugged in!

BIBLE TRIVIA

- 1. Isaac dug again the wells of water which the (Egyptians; Philistines; sons of Ishmael) had stopped after Abraham's death. Genesis 26:18*
- 2. Jacob's name was changed to (Israel; Nahor; Bethel). Genesis 32:28*
- 3. The (dove; raven; sparrow) was first to leave the ark after the Flood. Genesis 8:7*
- 4. Paul told (Titus; Onesimus; Timothy) to fight the good fight of faith. I Timothy 6:11, 12, 20*
- 5. Paul saw in a vision a man of (Ethiopia; Macedonia; Samaria) saying, "Come over...and help us." Acts 16:9*
- 6. Jonah was sent to the city of (Nineveh; Jerusalem; Sodom). Jonah 3:1,2*
- 7. The Romans; Pharisees; Greeks) told Philip they desired to see Jesus. John 12:20*
- 8. Jesus said that the gate is (wide; broad; high) which leads to destruction. Matthew 7:13*
- 9. The (brass; small; iron) gate opened to Peter of its own accord. Acts 12:10*
- 10. After the death of King (Darius; Saul; Nebuchadnezzar), the Philistines cut off his head and fastened his body to a wall. I Samuel 31:6, 9, 10*
- 11. Peter believed that Jesus was (John the Baptist; Elias; the Christ). Matthew 16:16*
- 12. The Lord's Supper was instituted to commemorate the (death; resurrection; ascension) of Jesus. I Corinthians 11:26*

LESSON I**HONESTY**

Scripture Reading: Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11.

Golden Text: Acts 5:4 (last part).

"...why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."

1. *What do we find the believers doing in Acts 4:32-35?*
2. *Name three things we learn about Barnabas. Acts 4:36-37.*
3. *What husband and wife sold their possession, kept part back, and laid the rest at the apostles' feet? Acts 5:1-2.*
4. *What did Peter say Ananias had done, and to whom did he do it? Acts 5:3-4.*
5. *What happened to Ananias after he heard the word of Peter? Acts 5:5.*
6. *How much time passed before Sapphira came to Peter? Acts 5:7.*
7. *What did Peter then ask Sapphira, and what was her reply? Acts 5:8.*
8. *What was Peter's reply, and what then happened to Sapphira? Acts 5:9-10.*
9. *How did the people react when they heard what had happened to Ananias and Sapphira? Acts 5:11.*

**LESSON II****SIMON THE SORCERER**

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:9-25.

Golden Text: Acts 8:17.

"Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

1. *Who was Simon? Acts 8:9.*

NOTE: Sorcery is another name for magic.

2. *How did the people of Samaria feel about Simon? Acts 8:10-11.*
3. *What happened to change the views of the people? Acts 8:12.*
4. *What did Simon do in Acts 8:13?*
5. *Who was sent to Samaria? Acts 8:14.*
6. *For what did Peter and John pray? Acts 8:15-17.*
7. *When Simon saw what happened after the laying on of hands, what did he offer Peter and John? Why? Acts 8:18-19.*
8. *What did Peter tell Simon to do? Acts 8:20-23.*
9. *What did Simon then ask Peter to do? Acts 8:24.*

LESSON III**SAUL SEES A LIGHT**

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-9.

Golden Text: Acts 9:6 (first part).

"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

1. *What did Saul start out to do? Acts 9:1-2.*

NOTE: Saul was sincere in his attack against God's people. Though wrong, he believed these people were God's enemies.

2. What did Saul see as he journeyed towards Damascus? Acts 9:3.
3. As he fell to the earth, what did he hear? Acts 9:4.
4. What did Saul say to Jesus? Acts 9:5.
5. What did Jesus then tell him to do? Acts 9:6.
6. Why did the men with Saul have to lead him, and what was his condition during the first three days? Acts 9:8-9.

LESSON IV

SAUL AT DAMASCUS

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:10-19.

Golden Text: Acts 9:16.

"For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

1. What was the name of the disciple at Damascus to whom the Lord spoke in a vision? Acts 9:10.
2. What kind of man was this disciple? Acts 22:12.
3. What did the Lord tell Ananias to do in Acts 9:11-12?
4. What reports had Ananias heard of Paul? Acts 9:13-14.
5. What did the Lord say about Saul to make Ananias change his mind? Acts 9:15-16.
6. Name the two things that were to happen as a result of Ananias' visit? Acts 9:17.
7. What immediately happened to Saul when

Ananias put his hands on him, and what did Saul then do? Acts 9:18-19.

NOTE: We will now refer to Saul as Paul (see Acts 13:9). Paul was three days without his sight. Perhaps it was necessary for Paul to lose his sight in order that he could "see" more clearly.



DON A SMILE

*You may not wear the latest shoes,
 No feather in your hat;
 And yet, you need not sing the blues,
 Dear friend, because of that.
 You may not follow fickle style,
 And yet, if you are wise,
 You'll find a good old-fashioned smile
 Will always take the prize.
 Though fashions come and fashions go,
 From year to year you'll find
 The fairest faces still will show
 The smile that God designed.
 Then don today the one true style
 That wins the loving cup;
 Put on your very nicest smile,
 And pin the corner up!*

NICER TO HELP THAN TO TELL

By Fern Row Casebeer

Grandma had come to stay with Lonnie and Lee while Daddy and Mother were away for the evening. Lonnie and Lee helped Grandma get supper. Lonnie put the plates on the table. Lee put a knife and fork and spoon by each plate. Grandma dished up food onto the plates. Then they sat down to the table and bowed their heads. Lonnie asked Jesus to bless the food. After they had eaten, Lonnie and Lee helped Grandma wash and dry the dishes.

"Will you play a game with me?" Lonnie asked when the dishes were put away.

"Yes," said Grandma. "You get your marble game, and I will play with you." For a while Lonnie laughed and had a good time playing the game with Grandma. His marbles were ahead of Grandma's most of the time. Then Grandma caught up, and it looked as if she would win the game.

Lonnie was not so happy now. He wiggled around in his chair. He made ugly faces. Finally he slid off his chair and crawled under the table. He screeched and howled and made ugly noises.

"I think it will be better to put the game away now," said Grandma. She gathered up the marbles and put them into the box. And Lonnie went off into a corner to pout.

Now Lee picked up his blocks from the floor where he had been playing with them. He put them on the little table where the marbles had been. Lee was having a good time playing with blocks. But out of the corner of his eye, Lonnie was watching Lee. Lonnie lay down on the floor and began to roll around. Finally he rolled under the table where Lee's blocks were. Then Lonnie's feet suddenly went up into the air. The end of the table went up with Lonnie's feet, and away went Lee's blocks all over the floor.

"Lonnie!" said Grandma sternly. "You must pick up Lee's blocks and put them back on the table." Slowly Lonnie gathered up the blocks and placed them on the

table.

"Now, Lonnie, you may go to your room for a while and think things over," said Grandma.

In a little while, Lonnie came back from his room. He snuggled up close to Grandma and whispered in her ear.

"Grandma, you won't tell Mommy how naughty I was, will you?" he asked.

"No," said Grandma, "we won't need to tell Mommy about it."

"I won't be naughty anymore," Lonnie promised. And he kept his promise.

A few days later, Lonnie and Lee were spending the evening with Grandma. Lee did not want to eat his supper. He only wanted to eat cookies.

"But you must eat your bread and butter and vegetables and drink your milk before you have cookies," said Grandma.

"I do not want bread and vegetables and milk. I want cookies," was all Lee could say. And he acted very naughty.

"Grandma, you had better tell Mommy how naughty Lee is," said Lonnie. Grandma looked at Lonnie with a twinkle in her eye.

"I know a little boy who, a few days ago, asked Grandma not to tell Mommy how naughty he had been. Do you know that little boy?" Grandma asked, smiling at Lonnie.

Lonnie smiled a faint little smile and nodded his head, Yes. He squirmed in his chair. He tipped his head first to one side and then to the other. He was thinking hard. Soon he looked up at Grandma seriously.

"Grandma," he said, "if you tell Mommy about Lee, you would have to tell about me, too, wouldn't you?"

"That is right," said Grandma. "If I tell on Lee, I must tell on you." Lonnie squirmed and thought some more. Then he looked at Grandma and smiled.

"Grandma, I guess you better not tell Mommy about Lee," he said. Then he began to help Lee. He told Lee how good the vegetables were. He coaxed Lee to eat his supper.

"Grandma will give you cookies after you eat your bread and butter, vegetables, and drink your milk," he told Lee.

Lee began to eat. Soon the food on his plate was all done. He was ready for his cookies. Then Lonnie and Lee were both happy as they ate their cookies together.

"I am glad I helped Lee to be good," said Lonnie.

"It is nicer to help others to be good than it is to tell on them, isn't it?" asked Grandma.

"Uh-huh," Lonnie nodded as he took another bite of cookie.

BIBLE FRIENDS

Can you pick out the two friends, or relatives, in each set? This means that the third person was not acquainted with either of the others. Draw lines beneath the names of each pair of friends.

- 1. David - Judah - Jonathan
- 2. Andrew - Matthew - Felix
- 3. Jonah - Pharaoh - Joseph
- 4. Daniel - Darius - Haman
- 5. Abraham - Nehemiah - Lot
- 6. Abel - Joshua - Caleb
- 7. Belshazzar - Ham - Jephthah
- 8. Barnabas - Mark - Caesar
- 9. Mordecai - Esau - Ahasuerus
- 10. Leah - Deborah - Rachel
- 11. Shem - Elijah - Elisha
- 12. Levi - Reuben - Ahab
- 13. Noah - Samuel - Eli
- 14. Elisabeth - Rhoda - Mary
- 15. Thomas - Philip - Publius

- 16. Timothy - Barnabas - Paul
- 17. Job - Issachar - Eliphaz
- 18. Solomon - Hiram - Adam
- 19. Bartholomew - Agrippa - John
- 20. Naomi - Ropha - Hagar
- 21. Festus - James - Peter
- 22. Benjamin - Goliath - Jacob
- 23. Sapphira - Lois - Eunice
- 24. Moses - Isaiah - Aaron

Find and circle every word from the Scripture hidden in the letter maze below. The words may be written down, across and diagonally.

"And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full" (Matthew 14:20).





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HELP ME LORD

Help me Lord to find my way,
I need Your love I ask this day;
I need Your strength to keep me strong,
To help me find where I've gone wrong.

Through Your Word be Thou my guide,
I give You all, I have nothing to hide;
No matter what, with You I'll stay,
From this moment on,
I will walk in Your way.

By Sister Alcyon De Coteau
Grenada West Indies

