

Thanksgiving Day

Thank God For Oneness

Changed Lives

Heathen Abominations

The Advocate of Truth



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**Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248**

E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

**Del DeLong
David DeLong
Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff
Gary Mills Managing Editor
Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor**

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Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day is a good time for God's children to remember and give thanks to God for the blessings that God has given them during the past year. This year, in the United States, Thanksgiving Day occurs on Thursday, November 28.

It is appropriate that all of God's children recognize Him and His goodness. May they endeavor to show their appreciation to Him in whatever way they can. Those who endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Jesus should, above all things, give thanks to God. With them, every day should be a time for thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day they are especially glad to have the privilege to give thanks brought before Him. God's children give thanks to God for their material blessings of food, raiment, houses

in which to live and many other blessings. All should be thankful for temporal blessings. They are the necessities of everyday life.

God's children are much more thankful for the Divine graces which God gives them. These are the necessities of their spiritual and eternal life. If one of these graces could be more important than another, it would be the knowledge of God. Jesus said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

All we have, and all we hope for, are ours by God's grace. Our debt of gratitude calls for all to obey Him.

--Bond Tennant



Thank God For Oneness

Reprinted

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Here we have listed seven adjunct etiologies of which there is only **one** of each. They cannot be divided even though man receives a revelation and tries to have two or even more reasons ascribed to these seven. Many honest

and sincere people have been troubled by the adversary who causes them to have an evil thought (see Matthew 15:10-20; Ezekiel 8:10). These seven are ONE OF A KIND. There cannot be two baptisms. There cannot be two Gods. Some say, yes, there are two Gods in heaven. The two Gods are defined in one Father and one Son. Even the disciples of Jesus were called gods (John 10:34-35).

This is one of the reasons why there are so many Commandment keeping Independent groups as well as organized groups with different beliefs. We ask ourselves: Is the Word of God so ambiguous that in it one can find support for every belief? By this I mean does the Bible support two teachings concerning the Law of the Clean and Unclean? The groups who say it is alright to eat the abomination (Isaiah 66:17) because of I Timothy 4:4, which says: *“For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving”*. Now if this verse were the whole sentence you might think that you could eat everything that the Lord created. But that is not the whole sentence. The next verse says that you may eat of the created animals if they are *“...sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”* Now the clean animals were *“sanctified”* as we read it in the Word of God. The PIG is called an “abomination” in the Word of God, and it would never be set apart for a holy purpose. That is the meaning of sanctification. A few years after the ascension of Jesus, Peter still testified, *“...I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean”* (Acts 10:14).

In I Peter 3:15, we are admonished to be ready to give an answer to every man who asks us a reason for our hope (belief). Yet we find very few people who have ideas that can be substantiated by the Word of God that can give an answer for their spurious belief. Of them the objection is raised that it would require too much time to undertake an in depth study of certain subjects. Often people will say, I do not have the time to study so deep and thoroughgoing subject as the “Time of the Lord’s Supper.” Then they add to their statement. “Oh well, it does not matter.” This is one of the most horrendous statements that any person can make. With God everything matters. Can we find anything that does NOT matter?

Another conclusion from the lackadaisical Commandment keepers is that it is wiser not to concern one’s self with biblical subjects, but instead to live as honest a life as one can and leave the matter of salvation to chance. But to draw such conclusions is most unreasonable. Not in any other sphere than that of religion does one meet such foolish logic. The more parties there are in the field of politics, the greater the interest that all take in the solution of the points of issue. Why not be equally reasonable when it concerns the greatest question with which human

intellect can occupy itself? In most instances, it is of little importance what position one takes relative to these political controversies, but one’s eternal life and fate depends on an understanding of and obedience to the doctrines of the Word of God.

In I Thessalonians 5:21 we are admonished to *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”* In harmony with this admonition, we invite the reader to pursue a course of study in the field of Church History and Doctrine to ascertain what has given rise to the many groups in order that we may more easily decide as to whether or not their doctrines are of the Word of God or of man’s traditions.

In his parting charge to the elders of the Church of God at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul said, *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter among you, not sparing the flock.”* Also of your own selves, did you read where this group of deceivers came directly from the flock? *“Of your own selves,”* Of your own group, *“...shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them”* (Acts 20:29-30).

A further warning was given by Paul when he declared: *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”* (II Thessalonians 2:7-12).

It is evident that the “Falling Away” which Paul first mentioned in verse 3 has reference to the apostasy which gave rise to the Papacy, for he said: *“The man of sin”*; some call him *“The man of lawlessness.”* He will definitely be revealed for all to see and know, just as Satan will be revealed to all to see and recognize. This lawless one, *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself*

that he is God" (verse 4).

When people do not love the truth and rather pay attention to the counterfeit of God, then God permits the power of unrighteousness to teach them errors and delusion, that they should believe a lie and be lost and damned. It is especially to be observed that "lawlessness" was the cause of the apostasy. That which caused a falling away in Paul's day will do the same in our day. The maintenance of God's holy, moral Law is a safeguard against apostasy, and the presentation of its perpetuity gives rise to a true reformation.

According to church history, there were bitter controversies concerning doctrines of the church. It caused some to leave the church and others to try to split the church. As the original apostles went to sleep and new apostles were set in the church, some men could pass themselves off as apostles and then preach the evil message they had to confuse the very elect. Some of the new apostles had to be tried because they were not known internationally (Revelation 2:2). These false apostles and wicked men grew more pronounced. The apostle said: "*But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets*" (Acts 24:14). According to this, the Church of God was considered heretical by the Israelites.

When the Jews and the heathen failed in their efforts to annihilate the believers, Jewish parties and the representatives of heathen philosophy began to weave their principles of Christianity into their doctrines. But the true children of God could not agree to such a compromise.

In I Timothy 6:20-21, Paul warned his young co-worker, "*O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith...*" The Greek work which is here translated "science" is *gnosis*, by which Paul evidently means an imagined deeper knowledge in spiritual matters. Good authorities hold that he here has reference to Gnosticism and that he also refers to the Gnostics in the first chapter, verses 3 and 4.

Even though Gnosticism had not yet appeared in a definite form, it was active under many different names. In I Timothy 4, Paul called its advocates "liars," according to Goodspeed, while Weymouth renders it, "men who teach falsely and have their own consciences seared as

with a hot iron: forbidding people to marry." The Docetae, a Gnostic sect, declined under certain of its leaders to baptize anyone who belonged to the married state. Some of the Docetic teachers denied that Jesus had come in the flesh. Others held that eyewitnesses had seen Him with a body, but this was only an optical delusion, a hallucination. A Docetist was one who was subject to illusions. It is believed that John's first epistle was written to combat this anti-Christian delusion. (See I John 2:22; 4:1-3; 5:6, 20; also II John 7).

The origin of many Gnostic doctrines can be traced to Alexandria. Here Greek thought made contact with Egyptian ideas and later with Hinduism, Greek, Jewish, and Christian beliefs were there treated alike. The clear statements in Homer's writings and in the Old and New Testaments were said to hide important spiritual truth. The Old Testament narrations concerning Abraham and other patriarchs and prophets, and the New Testament story of Jesus, were to these Gnostics equality unimportant as compared to the so-called allegorical truths which, it was planned, these accounts were to teach and impress upon the mind. It was of slight importance whether or not the narratives presented a reality.

It was against this false system that Paul gave the following warning: "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*" (Colossians 2:8-9).

The Nicolaitans, mentioned in Revelation 2:6, 15, were a fully developed and well known sect when John wrote this book. They were immoral and taught a dualism of good and evil.

Another Gnostic movement which is mentioned in the New Testament is Simonism, the name of which is derived from the sorcerer Simon (Acts 8:9-24). He said that he was some great one, and all the Samaritans, from the least to the greatest, said: "This man is the great power of God." Early writers who fought against error call him the founder of Gnostic theories.

The most important personality which came under the influence of the Gnostic ideas was Marcion. He was born in Pontus, evidently some time prior to the death of the Apostle John. Dr. Rufus M. Jones, in his book, *The Church's Debt to Heretics*, says: "Harnack considers him the most significant figure in church history between

St. Paul and St. Augustine, and he thinks that Catholicism was constructed mainly in opposition to Marcion, and that many of its foundation principles were learned from this major heretic.” Marcion maintained the Docetic doctrines to the uttermost limit. “These opinions, these theories, these ‘complexes,’ as I have called them, could not be ignored, nor could they be conquered by a method of annihilation. In fact, they were ‘conquered’ by a gradual, and for the most part unconscious, process of absorption” (pages 45, 60). According to this conclusion, the church at Rome, in its endeavor to combat heresy, gradually absorbed at least some of its errors.

Tertullian feared that Marcion’s heretical tradition might fill the whole world. He said of Marcion: “What Pontif mouse ever had such gnawing powers as he who has gnawed the Gospels to pieces?” In answer to Marcion’s question, “Do you recognize me?” Polycarp answered: “Yes, I recognize you as the first-born of Satan” (pages 16, 17)

Thus, in the early days of the christian church false doctrines were arising to challenge the teachings of Jesus Christ. Many were leaving the purity of the true church and its message to accept the doctrines of paganism and human philosophy. Through the apostles, God had warned the church of the dangers of apostasy, and had admonished the believers to hold fast to the truth.

In his parting charge to the elders of Ephesus, the apostle said: *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them”* (Acts 20:29-30). Please note that there shall arise men of your own congregation. Your best friend, or your companion in church going, will try to draw you away from the truth of God’s Word. Their perverse speaking will draw members away from the church.



“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

The above Scripture states that when a person becomes a new creature in Christ old things are passed away (forgotten and not practiced anymore).

Yes, the Scripture instructs those in Christ to put off their old life and old affections. Those in Christ have new affections, new dispositions and new attitudes. They also have new ideas and new inclinations. I John 2:6 says the following: “He that saith he abideth in him (Christ) ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” Ephesians

5:8 informs us, “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”

We will now notice Bible examples of changed lives in three saints. The Apostle Peter was changed from a fisherman to a powerful preacher. Jesus said to him, “...Thou art Simon,...” which means a reed; “...thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone” (John 1:42). A reed suggests instability, and it is easily tossed by the wind. There was a definite change in his life! Peter became a pillar in the church. People “took knowledge” that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

Saul (Paul) had a change in his life. His story is

recorded in Acts 7, 8, 9. His change is one of redeeming grace. He admitted that he was once a blasphemer, murderer, persecutor of the saints. However, Jesus appeared to him one day on the road to Damascus which put him on the road of change in his life.

The address of Ananias to Saul (Paul) who was once the great enemy of the church is a beautiful story. This man Saul, also called Paul, gave us the major portion of the New Testament. His writings reveal that he was aware of the transforming power of God. He wrote, "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (I Corinthians 15:10). He wrote to Timothy, "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting" (I Timothy 1:16).

The Philippian jailer experienced a great change in his life. He became a sympathetic friend. In a single night, he was baptized in water with all his family. He made restitution for his evil by washing the bloody stripes on the backs of Paul and Silas. He prepared breakfast for them in his own house. He experienced a great transformation in the old jail in Philippi between midnight and morning because the Bible says, "And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (Acts 16:34).

If you have not received a changed life, why not do so today by taking the advice of Peter when he said: "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). That is the only way that anyone can be in Christ.



There are people today who believe that the Jews observe the right times and seasons, and that their calendar dates back to Creation.

Any open-minded student of the Scriptures will be glad to investigate this belief to see if it is true.

We will first consult a very authentic authority on this subject, the Encyclopedia Britannica, under the caption, "Calendar," (Jewish) P. 580 Vol. 4: "The Jewish calendar in use today is both solar and lunar (based on the sun and the moon), the years being reckoned by the sun, and the months by the moon. In order to adjust the two systems, a month is intercalated (added) in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th years of a 19 year cycle."

We now ask "Where did God ever tell anyone to begin the year by the sun? We well know that the Vernal Equinox is the beginning of the Spring, the first of the four seasons of the year, but it is not the beginning of the year. The beginning of the year is determined by the new moon nearest the Vernal Equinox. The seasons of the year are determined by the sun or (solar), but the year and months are determined by the moon (lunar).

The Bible verifies this. "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years" (Genesis 1:14).

Both the sun and the moon have their respective

purposes and places. "Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob" (Psalm 81:3-4). The new moon was the beginning of the month. A month was from the new moon through the other three phases of it. The word month is derived from the word moon. The year begins on the first day of the first new moon nearest the Spring Equinox. You need both the sun and moon to calculate time, the moon for the months and the sun for the year.

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2). Now let us read it using the word "moon" from which the word month is derived. (In the Hebrew language, there is only one word meaning moon and month) "This moon shall be unto you the beginning of moons, it shall be the first moon of the year to you." The name of the first moon (or month) was Abib, or what is known today as Nisan. (The word Abib means "green ears") "This day came ye out in the month Abib" (Exodus 13:4).

We quote again from the Britannica: "Thus in order to prevent the Day of Atonement (10th day of the 7th month, Tishri 10) from falling on a Friday or Sunday, the New Moon must avoid Sunday, Wednesday or Friday." How inconsistent! If the new moon is actually on a Sunday, Wednesday or Friday, the Jew automatically, without any Scriptural authority, moves the reckoning to a Monday, Thursday or Saturday, so that it does not inconvenience them. What a blow this must be to those who are observing the feast days and holy days according to the Jews!

Now to another statement from the Encyclopedia, same page and same volume: "The length of the seasons was variously set by different Rabbis, in the 3rd century A.D. Mar Samuel Yarhinai (165-250) head of the Academy of Nahardea, calculated the interval between tequfoth (the seasons of the year) as 91 days, 7 hours, and 30 minutes. The result is that after 28 years have elapsed the tequfoth reverts to the same day and to the same time of day as at the beginning."

There are two things here which I wish to point out. The tampering of God's time by the Jews began after their rejection of Christ in the 3rd century A.D., and if they would follow God's great equalizers of time, the two equinoxes, they would not have to wait 28 years for the seasons to begin on the same day, but each year they

would come back to the same starting point, the equinoxes. Actually, it is impossible to try to put God's time machinery into an accurate man-made calendar.

We know that a solar year has 365 ¼ days, and a lunar year has 354 days, so no calendar made by man can be completely accurate. Therefore, if we take the sun and the moon as God set them in the skies, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper as God ordained it. Potter's Bible Encyclopedia says: "During the first republic of the Jews, which began 134 A.D., the leaders of the Sanhedrin began working on a Calendar, which would be a perpetual calendar for 2000 years." Hillel II, president of the Sanhedrin, was the mathematician that worked out this calendar which basically is the same the Jewish people use today. Let us not pattern our Lord's Supper dates upon the man-made Jewish calendar which is NOT Scriptural. In fact it is based and derived from the Babylonians. Remember, we are admonished to come out from anything connected with Babylon and its erroneous teachings.

Some may get a little confused with the statement in Psalm 104:19: "He appointed the moon for seasons..." This possibly does not mean the seasons of the year. It may mean the four divisions of the moon during a month. The moon controls the months. There is the new moon, the first quarter of the moon, the full moon, and the last quarter of the moon. These are the four phases or seasons of each month.

The sun also has four phases or seasons. While the sun has four seasons in the year, the moon has forty eight. The four seasons ruled by the solistice are Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. So, the four seasons of the year are solar, and the phases of the months are lunar. We can also divide the time further into portions of the day and night. The day time has four divisions of 3 hours each, and the night time has four divisions of 3 hours, called "watches". We see, for instance, where Jesus walked on the sea coming to His disciples "in the fourth watch of the night" (see Matthew 14:25).

To arrive at the time for the Lord's Supper we begin with the new moon nearest the Vernal Equinox and count fourteen days. In the beginning (evening) of the fourteenth day is the time of the Lord's Supper. The full moon is close to this evening, but it may not fall exactly upon it. This is the time when Jesus partook of the Lord's Supper with His disciples. The Apostle Paul wrote: "For I have

received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:23-25).

Time is very important to the Lord. That is why He created it with such precision. We must rest and worship God upon the day that He appointed (the seventh day Sabbath), and not upon just any day that we might choose. Likewise, we must celebrate the Lord's Supper upon the day in which Jesus celebrated it ("the same night in which he was betrayed"), which was the fourteenth of Abib. So particular is the Lord with proper timing that Paul penned: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

Christ will judge the world upon the day that God has already foreordained. His judgment will not be one day too soon, nor one day too late. God's timing is perfect. Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, first waiting two days after learning that Lazarus was sick, and then coming to the grave after he had been dead four days (see John 11:6-17). But this was the right timing for the Lord as He had a perfect schedule to follow. Let us always follow God's time and not the wrong times that man has set up.



HOW TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN

By Betty Whetstone

*In this life we have trouble and trials,
And heartaches increase by the score;
And each small one that we conquer,
Turns rapidly into many more.*

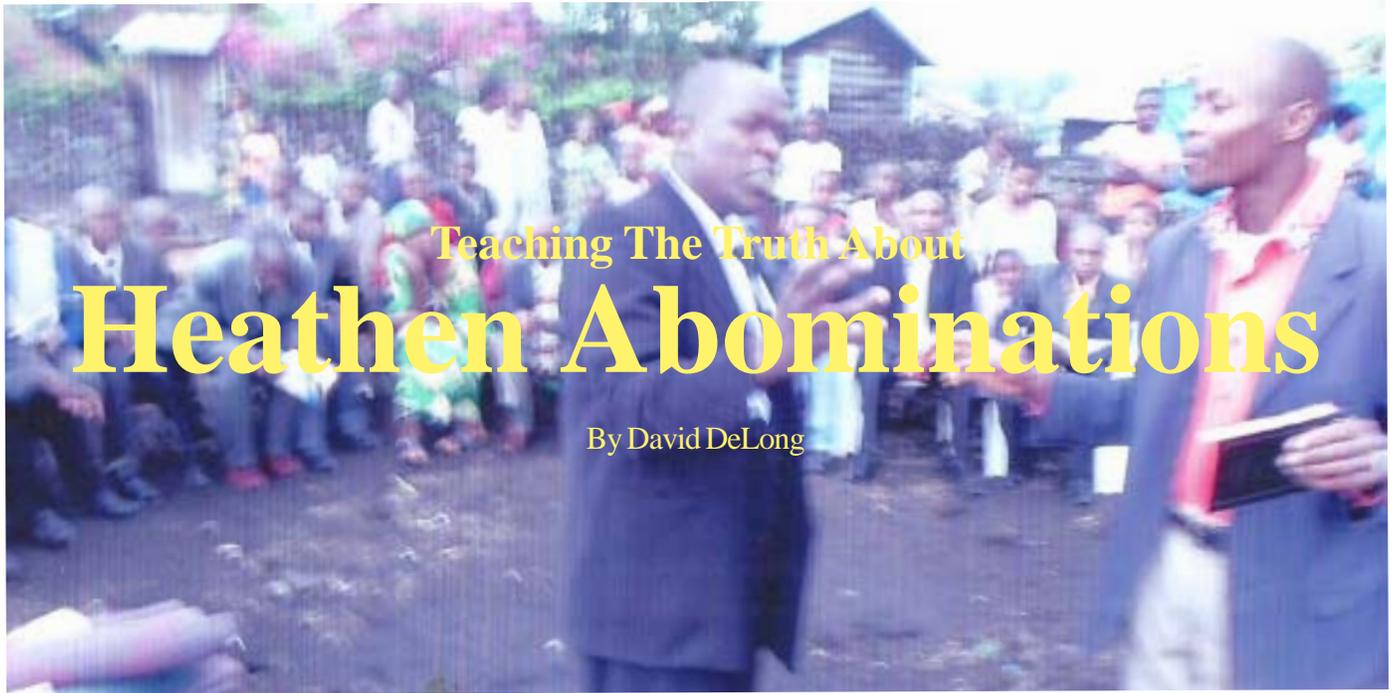
*Our health seems to vanish like vapor
As Satan sneaks into our day;
Our eyes and ears are fading,
And our knees can't bow when we pray.*

*God sometimes gives us a mountain
Rising up in the midst of small hills;
With the help of our faith we must climb it,
Despite all our troubles and ills.*

*We cry from the depth of our weakness:
"This one needs the strength of your will;
For how can I climb such a mountain
When I can't even step over a hill?"*

*God's strength is made known in our weakness,
And He is always ready to say:
"Dear Child, just take the first step,
And I'll lift you the rest of the way!"*





Teaching The Truth About **Heathen Abominations**

By David DeLong

For all of mankind's knowledge and learning, the world system is still the same as it has ever been. This is especially true of the pagan abominations which are being committed today, as they have been since ancient times. Deuteronomy 18:9-13 gives us a list of a number of these pagan practices. "When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God."

The practice of child sacrifice seems particularly heinous to us. Many nations have been involved in this abomination, however, including the Canaanites. Even worse was that the children of Israel, at times, adopted this practice. We learn from II Kings 16:1-4 that King Ahaz became involved in child sacrifice. "In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of

the LORD his God, like David his father. But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree."

Some believe that in this "sophisticated" day and age no one, besides a mentally deranged person, would commit child sacrifice, especially passing the child through the fire to be burned. But child sacrifice, through abortion, is being committed today and it is just as deadly. This worldwide abomination is abhorrent to the Lord and it will be judged accordingly. May we take a stand to help save these little ones from this pagan abomination (see Proverbs 31:8).

A second heathen abomination that was being practiced by the Canaanites was that of divination. This is the pagan practice of using objects, natural phenomena, or animal entrails to try to determine a god's will or future events. For instance, we read about the king of Babylon in Ezekiel 21:21-22: "For the king of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination: he made his arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver. At his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, to appoint captains, to open the

mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to appoint battering rams against the gates, to cast a mount, and to build a fort." In verse 23 we find what the Lord said of this heathen practice: "And it shall be unto them as a false divination in their sight, to them that have sworn oaths: but he will call to remembrance the iniquity, that they may be taken."

The Apostle Paul confronted a damsel with a spirit of divination in Acts 16:16-18. "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

Today we would call this type of forbidden activity "fortune-telling". There are many fortune-tellers in the world, and children of God must stay away from all of them because they are influenced by evil spirits. This is definitely not an innocent activity, and many people have become demon possessed by trying to have their fortunes read, including palm reading.

An "observer of times" is also one who is condemned by the Lord. This is a type of hidden activity in which the practitioner uses magic. The use of astrology might also be practiced with the observer of times. Today, deceived people look to their horoscopes to try to find favorable conditions for their lives. They try to bring good luck to themselves by observing when various heavenly bodies line up and then acting accordingly. But such people only bring the wrath of God upon themselves. The Lord is looking for people to trust in Him, not in stars and planets.

Another wicked practice is when a person becomes an enchanter. Such a person uses incantations to cast spells upon others. The Hebrew word means "to hiss" or to "whisper", and it appears also to involve prognostication or trying to determine future events. In the book of Daniel we see a situation where King Nebuchadnezzar called for his servants who were involved in these occultic practices. "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams,

wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king" (Daniel 2:1-2).

According to Strong's Concordance the magicians in Nebuchadnezzar's court were "horoscopists" who drew up magical markings for the king. The astrologers were conjurers who presumably would have tried to use demonic powers to gain occultic knowledge. The sorcerers would have been involved in witchcraft, using enchantings for the same purpose. And the Chaldeans were professional astrologers in the service of Nebuchadnezzar. They all came together to try to tell the king what he had dreamed. They all failed, however.

Being a witch, among other evil practices, was an offense punishable by death according to the Mosaic code. Exodus 22:18 says concisely: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." A witch, being of course involved in witchcraft, is one who whispers, or calls forth, a demonic spell upon others. It was King Saul who went to the witch of Endor in a vain attempt to call forth the deceased Prophet Samuel. We can see how far Saul had fallen from the Lord, because before this he had actually destroyed those who dealt in witchcraft. The witch to whom Saul went said: "...Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?" (I Samuel 28:9). We will have more on this episode, later.



In the book of Ezekiel we find some of the Israelites who were involved in using a type of magic charms or witchcraft, apparently attempting to bring harm to others. In this situation the magic charms appear to be a type of "voodoo". Chapter 13:17-21 reads: "Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you? And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies? Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly. Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD."

We know that the Lord is still against the practice of witchcraft as a work of the flesh which will keep a person out of the Kingdom. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21; see also Revelation 9:21; 21:8).

We sometimes think of a charmer as one who plays a flute while a cobra snake comes swaying up from a basket. The Hebrew word for a charmer means "to join" or to "couple together". Actually, the picture of a snake charmer isn't far off from the occultic charmer. One who is a charmer is joining together with demons or Satan, the Serpent, to also cast spells. Psalm 58:3-5 gives us a good description of the wicked, who are like snake charmers. "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder

that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."

A consulter with familiar spirits is a person who acts as a medium to try to communicate with the dead, which are supposed to be in the form of departed spirits. The only spirits with which they communicate, however, are evil ones, also known as demons. We now come back to the story of King Saul who went to the witch of Endor to try to communicate with the deceased Prophet Samuel. The story is found in I Samuel, chapter 28.



"And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee" (verses 6-8). Saul had tried to receive an answer from the Lord about the Philistines who were about to fight with Israel, but because of his disobedience the Lord did not answer him. Saul knew that he should not go to one with a familiar spirit because he had actually destroyed, in times past, those who had familiar spirits (see again verse 9). So, he disguised himself to go to this witch.

"Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not

afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David: Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night" (verses 11-20).

Many have assumed that this spirit was actually Samuel who appeared to Saul. This simply cannot be the case. The Bible does not contradict itself. We know, for instance, that the dead are sleeping in their graves until the resurrections. Ecclesiastes 9:5 reads: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." The witch said to Saul, "I saw gods ascending out of the earth." The Bible refers to Satan as "the god of this world" (see II Corinthians 4:4). The familiar spirit residing within this woman deceived her and Saul into thinking the apparition which appeared to them was Samuel. Today, deceived people attend seances in which they are tricked by mediums with familiar spirits, thinking

that they are communicating with deceased loved ones.

Wizards, called "knowing ones", are also involved with the forbidden act of conjuring, or practicing magic to obtain occultic information. Isaiah 8:19 warns us: "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"

Finally, the Lord condemns the heathen practice of being a necromancer, or a person trying to inquire of the dead for information. The Hebrew word implies "to worship", which suggests that the necromancer was one who worshiped the dead as being guides for the living. The Israelites, it seems, got involved in this evil practice. We find in Psalm 106:28-29: "They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them." A necromancer, today, might be termed a spiritist. Related to this, a number of cultures are, or have been, involved in the heathen practice of ancestor worship.

Whatever name these occultic practitioners go by, the Lord condemns all heathen practices as being abominations to Him. The wrath of God will be poured out upon the modern day practitioners as it was in the days of old. However, His wrath will soon be poured out in the form of the seven last plagues which will encompass the whole earth. May we place all of our trust in the Lord and not get involved with any of the abominable practices of the heathen.





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.

High Tech And The Courts

The following are the first two paragraphs of an article entitled **Roberts: High tech a thorn for high court.**

Reconciling ever-changing science and technology with established constitutional principles – set down by statutes and rulings long before the modern world was ever imagined – will be an ongoing challenge for federal courts, especially his own, U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts said Wednesday during a Rice University discussion.

“Is being able to see through walls a violation of search and seizure protections? I think it will be a good opportunity to see how prescient the framers were if the Constitution will be able to deal with these questions,” Roberts told an audience of several thousand. “What is the fundamental protection offered by the Constitution when applied to new technology and situations? It’s a question that comes along all the time.”

--Houston Chronicle

Patriot Groups Increase

There has been a drastic increase in the number of Patriot groups in the United States. These are anti-government and militia groups who generally believe that the federal government is conspiring to take Americans’ guns and destroy their liberties as it paves the way for a global one-world government. It is said that number represents a more than eight-fold increase from 149 such groups in 2008. These groups are not considered to be

hate groups in that they do not have beliefs to malign an entire class of people. Texas leads the states in the increase in the number of Patriot groups.

Comment

These Patriot groups are correct in that there will be a global one-world government. However, it will not come about by the deliberate actions of our government. God’s Word forecasts the coming of a one-world government. All the governments of the world are working toward it, but they do not know it. The one-world government that we speak of is not the thousand-year reign, or Kingdom of God, which will be a righteous government, but the government which will be in the world during the time of the Antichrist.

Weak Nations

Everywhere we look we see corruption and violence. The power to destroy prevails everywhere in this polluted world. Isaiah speaks of Satan who is the author of the world mess. The *New American Standard Bible* tells it this way, “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations” (Isaiah 14:12).

In the beginning, God created a beautiful and harmonious environment for mankind and the animal creation that would share it with him. But now we see the environment defiled beyond measure.

Some Things About Which To Think!

Man has struggled, and continues to struggle for peace among nations and peoples. Many people look upon war as an evil. However, the majority considers it as a necessary evil, and they reluctantly participate in it. Many professional militarists abhor war and hope and pray that some way to universal and lasting peace will be found. Back in the 1950's President Eisenhower, who was a much praised and leading general during World War II, called upon nations to unite in an effort to develop and promote nuclear energy for the betterment of man rather than for destruction purposes. While there has been no war using nuclear weapons in the sixty years which have passed since he made that call, there is still the continued threat, particularly from smaller "rogue" nations such as Iran and North Korea which may feel that they have little to lose by developing and perhaps even using such weapons.

In the last few years, the struggle for peace has taken on even greater challenges than that of nuclear war. The war against terrorism seems to be the focal point of conflict between peoples and nations during the beginning of the twenty-first century. Rather than choosing to wage war with "conventional" weapons such as guns, tanks, ships, and bombs dropped from airplanes, some nations and extremist groups have chosen to use implements such as car, roadside, and suicide bombs. Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are widely used also. These devices utilize any materials commonly available to create an explosion which is powerful enough to kill or maim as many people as possible. Also there is the increased threat of biological and chemical warfare. Many nations are making preparation for this.

The above does not include the use of "drones" which has been made public in just a very short time. These "drones" are unmanned aircraft which can be controlled remotely and sent far-away to take out the enemy.

Hope For The Homosexual

Several months ago in this column we mentioned that, according to the Bible, homosexuality is condemned. Space did not allow us to mention that, according to the Bible, there is hope for the homosexual. The homosexual can change. The Apostle Paul says that some of the Corinthians had done so. Corinth was well known for its immorality during Paul's time. After naming over several sins, if practiced would prevent one from entering the Kingdom, he tells them, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:11).

Smoking Decline

According to a newspaper article I read, fewer adults in the United States are smoking according to a new government report. It read that last year about 18 percent of adults participated in a national health survey. They described themselves as current smokers.

The article said that the nation's smoking rate generally has been falling for decades, but had seemed to stall at around 20 to 21 percent for about seven years. In 2011, the rate fell to 19 percent, but it says that might have been a statistical blip. The article said that health officials are analyzing the 2012 findings and have not yet concluded why the rate dropped, a spokesman for the Disease Control and Prevention said.

Comment

Yes, it is great that there is a decrease in adults who smoke! We may never really know the real reason that this is true. The reason may differ with each person. One logical reason is that some may have come to the conclusion that smoking is harmful to their health. Another reason may be that smoking was costing them too much. We pray that some quit smoking because in their journey to please God they realized the impact of I Corinthians 3:16-17 which reads, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: I was told that there is no science found in the Bible. Is that correct?

ANSWER: The Bible is not a science textbook, but it includes facts not discovered by science until centuries later. For example, when Columbus sailed for America, people feared he would sail off the edge because most believed the earth was flat. But more than two millenniums before, the Bible had recorded that the earth is a sphere. "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth,..." (Isaiah 40:22).

Modern medical science recognizes the value of quarantine to prevent the spread of communicable disease. However, more than 3 millenniums ago, the laws God gave to Israel included laws about quarantine to prevent the spread of diseases such as leprosy. Read Leviticus 13.

Modern laws of hygiene recognize the value of washing in running water for optimum cleansing of the body and to prevent the spread of germs. Read Leviticus 15:13.

QUESTION: What is the meaning of Lord Sabaoth?

ANSWER: Lord Sabaoth is one of the names for God. It appears only twice in the King James Version. The references are Romans 9:29 and James 5:4. It is better known from the words of Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Many who sing this hymn assume that Lord Sabaoth means "Lord of the Sabbath." The hymn describes warfare with Satan. It would be odd to invoke "The Lord Of The Day Of Rest" to do battle with the devil. Actually, Lord Sabaoth means "Lord of Hosts." That is, King of the heavenly armies.

QUESTION: Who were the Samaritans?

ANSWER: There was a long standing and deep seated hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans.

When the Northern Kingdom (Ten Tribes), with its capital at Samaria, fell to Assyria, most of the Israelite inhabitants were deported to Assyria. To fill the void, the Assyrians brought in foreign people and settled them in the land. The foreign people intermarried with the Israelites. This resulted in a mixed Israelite population who were called Samaritans.

At this time, the Israelites were already an apostate people. They were not serving the true God. "And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them" (II Kings 17:25). The people who moved in among them were totally pagan, and brought with them their many gods. The result was a meltingpot of paganism with a small amount of the knowledge of God. II Kings 17:32 tells us, "So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest

of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.” “They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence” (verse 33). In essence, God Almighty was abandoned. Read II Kings 17:34-41. Rejected by any loyal Jews, both for losing their racial purity and above all for their apostasy from the faith, the Samaritans established their own temple and held their own religious services. Their sacred mountain became Mt. Gerizim.

QUESTION: As I read Acts 1:2, was the ascension of Jesus on a Sabbath day?

ANSWER: No. The thought of it being on the Sabbath Day comes from reading about a Sabbath Day’s journey. This means that the Mount of Olives from which Jesus ascended for the last time, after His resurrection, was a Sabbath Day’s journey from the City of Jerusalem.

A Sabbath Day’s Journey is usually the distance from your home to the nearest synagogue. On Sabbath afternoon, many people walked from their homes to the Mount of Olives which gave a beautiful view in all directions from its summit.

The disciples were to wait in Jerusalem to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). They waited until the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-2). Pentecost means “50” days. It was 50 days from the High Day Sabbath (John 18:28; 19:14, 31). In Leviticus 23:15-16, we read to start counting seven weeks or 49 days from the High Day Sabbath. We know that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday, the 14th day of the First Month, the date of the Lord’s Supper. The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the High Day Sabbath. That was on Thursday, the 15th day. So on Friday, the 16th day would be the first day to count your 49 days. One more day would bring you to the Sabbath Day, 50 days in all to the Day of Pentecost. This is no reason for keeping the Sabbath Day, though. We keep the Seventh Day of the week because God sanctified this day and hallowed it. (See Genesis 2:1-3).

QUESTION: Does the Church of God (7th day) practice fasting?

ANSWER: Yes, the Church of God (7th day) does practice fasting. Fasting is biblical! It is a religious deed,

but it has spiritual consequences. Every person is not able to fast because of his body makeup (metabolism). If you are able to fast, the Holy Spirit can work in a more significant way because the flesh has been put aside. So, if you are able to fast, and are able to do so, by all means practice doing it. It will lift you up to a higher plain of having “...*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Colossians 1:27). There is a danger concerning fasting. Beware of becoming a Pharisee. There is only one step from being a Pharisee or a saint. The Lord Jesus reminded us in Matthew 6:16, “*Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, (making them look long and sad) that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*” By the way, it takes 32 muscles of the face to look sad, and it takes 7 muscles to smile and be happy.

QUESTION: Who are the “Blessed” ones mentioned in Revelation 19:9?

ANSWER: First, let us quote the verse: “*And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*”

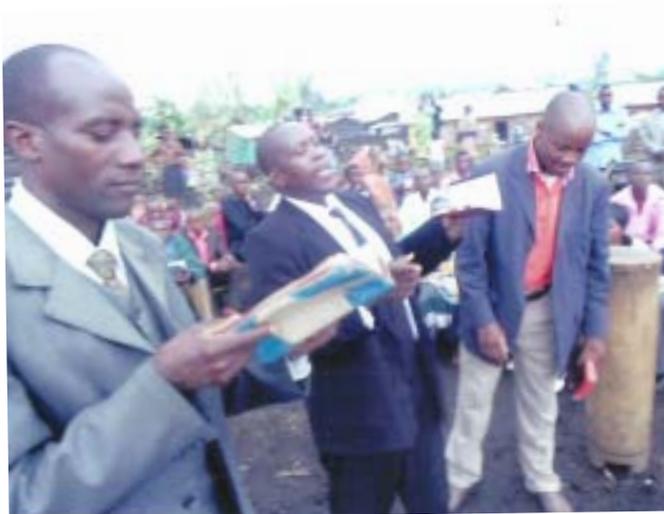
This passage has reference to all who are caught up at the First Resurrection. They are the same “Blessed” mentioned in Revelation 20:6, “*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*” When the resurrection of the Just (First) takes place, (John 5:28-29) then we are caught up into the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). The next thing that will transpire is the Wedding of Jesus, the Son of God. His bride has made herself ready. The Bride is the New Jerusalem, the mother of us all (Galatians 4:26). “*And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God*” (Revelation 21:9-10). You are the blessed one that is invited to the Marriage of the Lamb only if you have part in the First Resurrection. Do you have your wedding garment ready? This garment is the righteousness of Christ.



Kenya

A gathering of the brethren in an outdoor service in Kenya.





A worship service with Bible study.



Hands being laid on after baptism.



A picture of some of the brethren.



A wedding ceremony.



A photo of a few of the sisters, together.

LESSON I**THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 9:1-14.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 9:12 (first part).

“And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king...”

NOTE: We have studied about the building of the temple, the worship of the people and how the sacrifices were offered. Solomon has become a very wealthy man with many buildings. We are now going to study about the Queen of Sheba's visit to King Solomon and about the gifts he receives.

1. The Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon. About what did she come to see Solomon? II Chronicles 9:1-2.
2. What did the Queen of Sheba see? II Chronicles 9:3-4.
3. What did she tell King Solomon in II Chronicles 9:5-8?
4. What did the queen give Solomon? II Chronicles 9:9.
5. What else did King Solomon receive, and what did he do with them? II Chronicles 9:10-11.
6. What did King Solomon give then to the Queen of Sheba? II Chronicles 9:12.
7. How much gold and silver was brought to Solomon in one year? Who brought some of this to him? II Chronicles 9:13-14.

LESSON II**THE DEATH OF SOLOMON**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 9:15-31.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 9:31 (first part).

“And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father:..”

NOTE: We studied about the Queen of Sheba visiting King Solomon. She was amazed at his wisdom and wealth. We are now going to learn more about his great wealth and his last days as ruler over Israel.

1. King Solomon has much gold and silver. What did he make with the gold? II Chronicles 9:15-20.
2. Where did the king's ships go, and what was the purpose of these trips? II Chronicles 9:21.
3. Was there any king as wealthy or as wise as Solomon? II Chronicles 9:22.
4. What did the kings of the earth seek from Solomon? II Chronicles 9:23.
5. Name the many things which were brought to King Solomon in II Chronicles 9:24-25.
6. Who did King Solomon reign over, and what was brought to him from Egypt and other lands? II Chronicles 9:26-28.
7. How many years did Solomon reign in Jerusalem? Where was he buried? II Chronicles 9:30-31.

LESSON III**REHOBAM, KING OF JUDAH**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 10:1-19.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 10:1.

“And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king.”

NOTE: We have just finished studying about King Solomon, and how he was the wisest and richest king who ruled over Israel. The temple which he built for the

people to worship in was a magnificent building. Solomon reigned over Israel forty years. Now Rehoboam, his son, has been made king after the death of his father.

1. For what purpose did all Israel come to Shechem? II Chronicles 10:1.
2. Who was Jeroboam, and why did he come at this time to see Rehoboam? II Chronicles 10:2-4.
3. What did Rehoboam tell Jeroboam and his people to do? II Chronicles 10:5.
4. With whom did Rehoboam take counsel, and what did they tell him to do? II Chronicles 10:6-7.
5. Did Rehoboam obey the old men? With whom did he council with next? II Chronicles 10:8-9.
6. What did the young men advise Rehoboam to do? II Chronicles 10:10-11.
7. When Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, what did King Rehoboam tell them? (II Chronicles 10:12-14). Did he hearken to the old men's or to the young men's advice?
8. When all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, what did they say to the king? II Chronicles 10:16-17.
9. When King Rehoboam sent Hadoram to the children of Israel, what did they do to him? Did Israel rebel against the house of David unto this day? II Chronicles 10:18-19.

LESSON IV

THE DEATH OF KING REHOBOAM

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 12:1-16.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 12:16 (first part).

“And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David...”

NOTE: King Rehoboam is now ruling over Judah. You may read the eleventh chapter of II Chronicles to learn how the priests and Levites strengthened Judah. The kingdom of Judah is strong. We shall study now how Shishak, King of Egypt, invaded Judah.

1. Rehoboam has established the kingdom and strengthened himself. Was he still obedient to the law of the Lord? II Chronicles 12:1.
2. In what year did Shishak come up against Jerusalem? Why was this brought upon King Rehoboam? II Chronicles 12:2.
3. How many chariots, horsemen and people were with Shishak, King of Egypt? Did he invade Judah? II Chronicles 12:3-4.
4. Why did Shemaiah the prophet come to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah? II Chronicles 12:5.
5. Did the princes of Israel and the king then humble themselves? Did the Lord grant them some deliverance because they humbled themselves? II Chronicles 12:6-8.
6. Shishak came up against Jerusalem. What did he take away from the house of the Lord, and what did King Rehoboam do then? II Chronicles 12:9-11.
7. Rehoboam again humbled himself before the Lord. Did the Lord not send his wrath upon him this time? II Chronicles 12:12.
8. How old was King Rehoboam when he began to reign in Jerusalem? How many years did he reign there? II Chronicles 12:13.
9. Were there wars continually between Rehoboam and Jeroboam? Where was Rehoboam buried, and who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 12:15-16.

GRANDMA'S STRANGE VISITOR

By Marie Hurley



There was a loud crash and the tinkle of falling glass. "Another broken window!" sighed Grandma. "I didn't know there were any boys around there this morning, but that sounded like a ball crashing through the dining room window."

Grandma took her hands from the dishpan and dried them as she walked toward the dining room. Yes, there was a large hole in the window. She looked out. There was no boy in sight!

"It must have been a ball, she said." Windows don't break by themselves. Let me see now. I suppose the ball would be across the room from the window." She looked under the buffet, and in the corner under the chair. But there was no ball anywhere on that side of the room. "Maybe it rolled back toward the window. I'll look under the table," she thought as she lifted the tablecloth and peered under the table. There was not a ball under the table, but what was that looking back at her?

"Well, how do you do, sir!" said Grandma. "Are you as surprised and bewildered as you look?" Standing there under her table was a large and very puzzled pheasant. Grandma looked around the dining room. There were plenty of things he could break if he became alarmed and flew about the room. But he seemed quiet right now. Maybe she could pick him up. Maybe.

Dropping slowly to her knees, she reached carefully under the table. He was a big bird; she'd have to get a good hold. Her hand closed around his legs. He did struggle. She leaned toward him and slid her other arm carefully over his wings and around him. Grandma held the pheasant close to her as she stood up again.

"You poor thing," said Grandma. "You must have hit the glass so hard that it stunned you. Or are you so ashamed of your blunder that you can't even fight to get away? You probably think you're doomed to an awful death. But God made you, Mr. Pheasant. He made you to walk proudly through the fields and orchards destroying pests. You are our friend. We should protect you. Now where did I put the big box I had yesterday? Oh, yes, I put it on the back porch."

Carefully Grandma lowered Mr. Pheasant to the porch and turned the big box upside down over him. Then she placed a piece of grain and a small pan of water in his prison and went happily back to her dishes.

Grandma had several friends come to visit her that day. She greeted each one with a mysterious smile and a beckoning finger. "Come here, and meet the strangest visitor I've had today," she said. Then she told of the broken window and her search for some boy's ball.

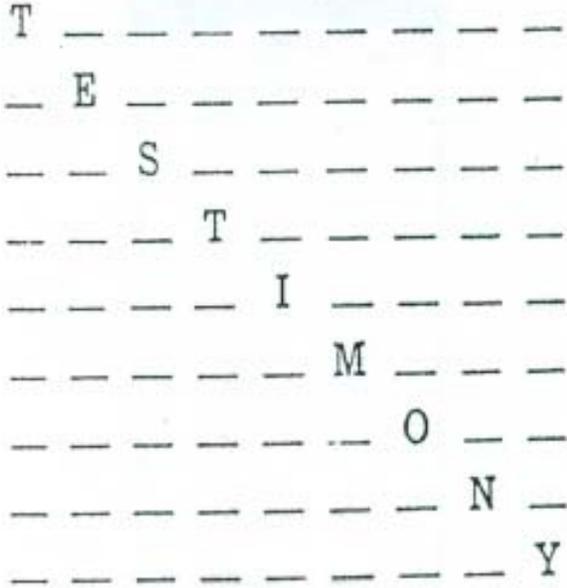
"It will soon be dark, Mr. Pheasant," said Grandma that evening as she lifted the box. "I suppose Mrs. Pheasant and the children will be wondering where you are." She lifted him carefully and carried him to the yard. "I hope you were not injured in your crash through my window. Most of my guests knock at the door, you know, but then most of my guests are much different from you. There now, let's see if you can still fly. I'll be glad to leave the window open if you care to call again. Now fly away home."

Mr. Pheasant looked at Grandma, bobbed his head politely, and with a sudden fluttering of his strong wings disappeared into the evening twilight.

"He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true" (John 3:33).

FIND THE NAME

Cross out the letters that are not used to spell the name of the person.



- GOBLIASATH
- ADSAVMIND
- REHSVATABE
- JOMHSAEPH
- AMEOLOSES
- SABMSDONS
- GESNTVHER
- FRAJMOHEB

Name of the giant David slew.

Name of Jonathan's friend.

Name of the first woman.

Name of the boy who had a coat of many colors.

Name of a baby put in the bulrushes.

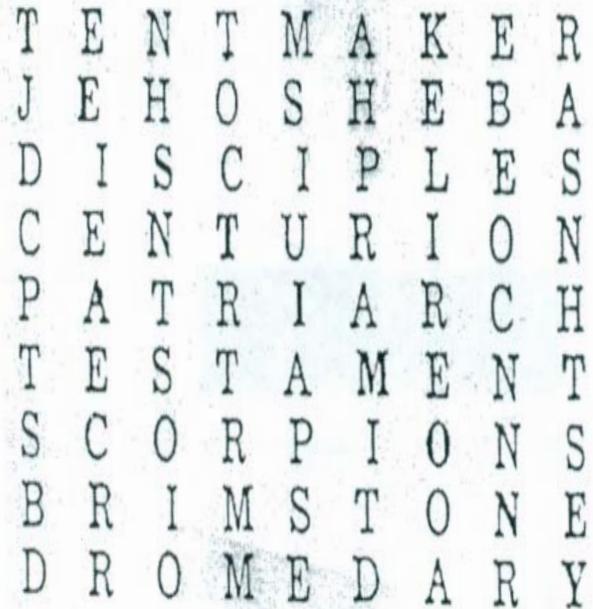
Name of the strongest man ever to live.

Name of a brave queen.

Name of a very patient man.

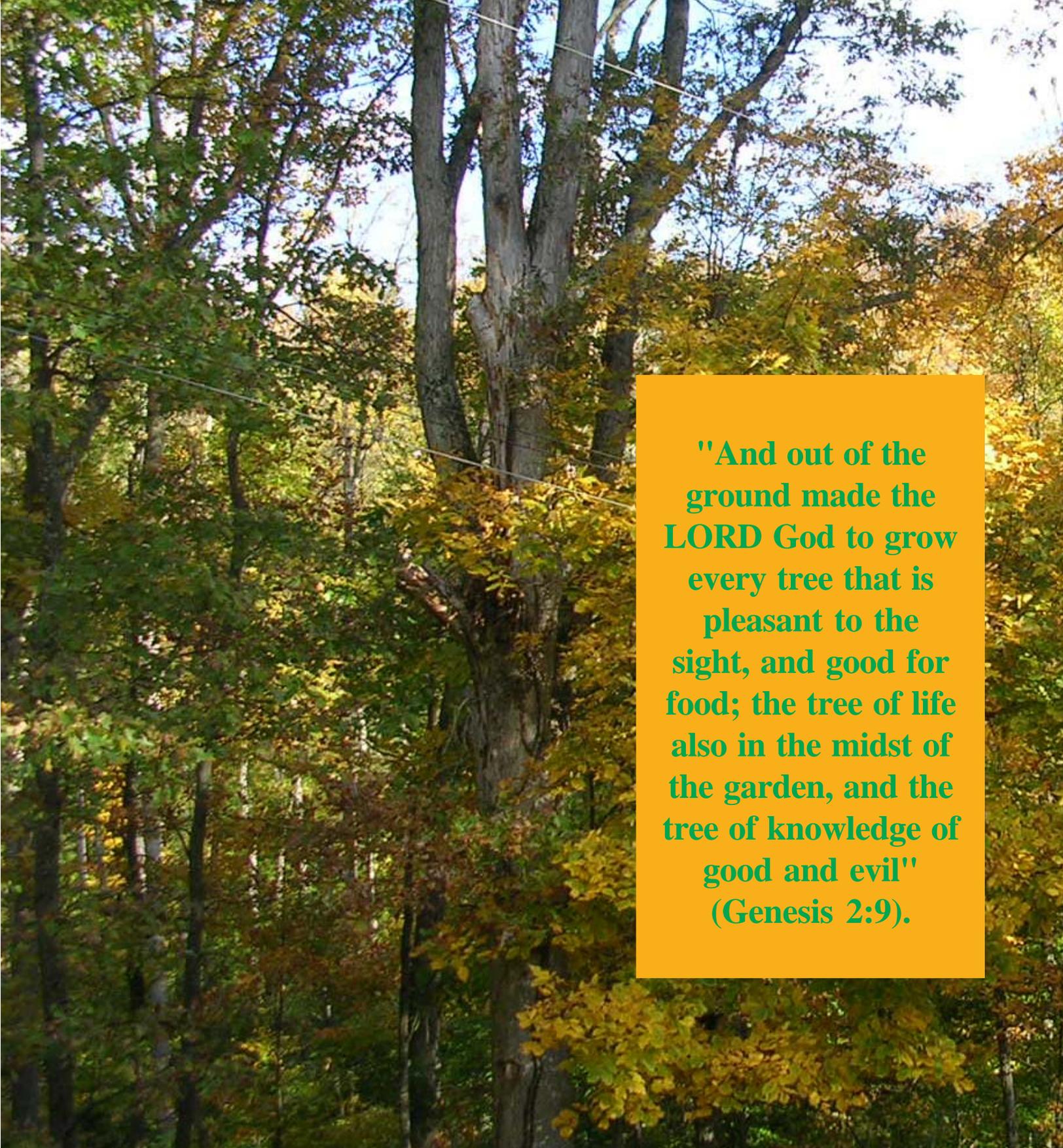
Using the clues given below, fill in each blank space.

1. Paul's occupation; also that of Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:3).
2. She hid her baby nephew from the wrath of a murderous queen (II Kings 11:2).
3. The twelve apostles; followers (Luke 9:1).
4. He said, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof" (Matthew 8:8).
5. Greek term meaning "head of the family"; opposite of matriarch (Hebrews 7:4).
6. Genesis to Malachi is called the Old _____.
7. Rehoboam's reply to the Israelites was: "my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with _____" (I Kings 12:14).
8. Fire and _____ were rained on Sodom and Gomorrah (Psalm 11:6).
9. A one humped camel used for riding (Jeremiah 2:23).



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**"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil"
(Genesis 2:9).**

