



The Advocate of Truth



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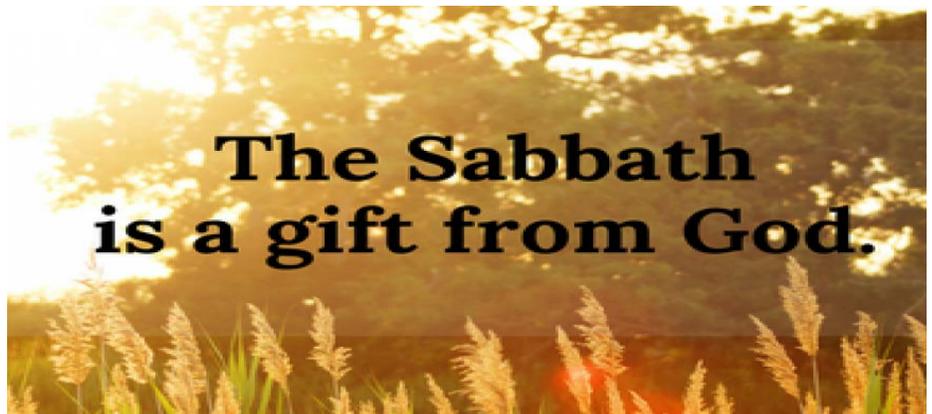
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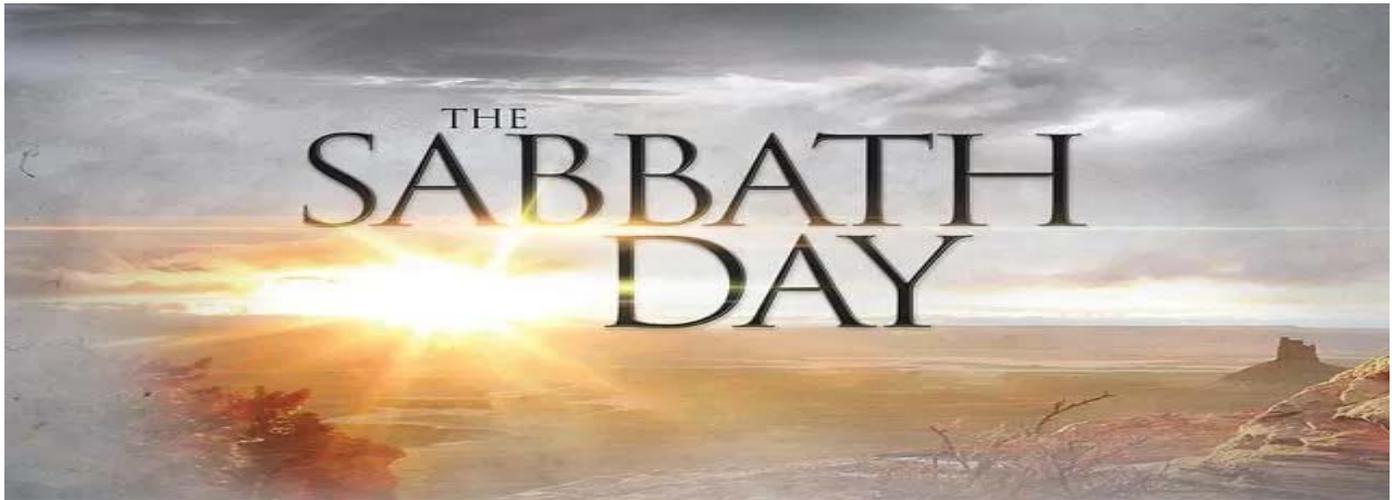
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THE NEW TESTAMENT SABBATH

Many people teach that a part of the New Testament was nailed to the cross, namely, the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Also that which Christ said while He was yet alive doesn't amount to anything in this age. We are not inclined to believe it because Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31; Matthew 24:35; Luke 21:33). If we believe Jesus, we know that the words He spoke will not pass away even after heaven and earth have passed away. The apostles recorded the words of Jesus as the Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance the things He had said, after He had gone to the Father. (See John 14:26). We should consider the words of Jesus the most important part of the New Testament, since He is our great example, and the one we are instructed to follow. - (I Peter 2:21; John 8:12).

Now if the New Testament is inspired by the Spirit of God, we will not expect one day to be called the Sabbath in one place and another day to be called the Sabbath in another place. We read in Matthew 28:1; "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn (draw on) toward the first day of the week.." It is easy to see that the Sabbath is the day before the first day, and therefore the seventh day. (See also Mark 16:1-2). The Sabbath is mentioned once to every four pages in the New Testament, but the first day is mentioned only eight times in the entire New Testament, and nowhere in the Bible is it called the Sabbath, nor the Lord's day. The seventh day is not only called the Sabbath in this age, but Christ said He was Lord of

the Sabbath. (See Mark 2:28; Matthew 12:8). Being Lord of a thing means that it belongs to the Lord.

God, An Example of Sabbath Keeping

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children" (Ephesians 5:1). God was the first one to rest on the seventh day, and set it apart from the other six days as a memorial of creation and His rest. The Sabbath is not a shadow of something to come, but is pointing back to creation, therefore it is a memorial of that event. As God does not change (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17), we should expect Him to have the same Sabbath or memorial that He chose and blessed in the beginning. "For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said,...And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein,...(Hebrews 4:3-6). Here we are told that the seventh day is God's rest, and that it still remained sixty-four years after Christ for people to enter into. "For he that is entered into his (God's) rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:10). Then to be followers of God as dear children, we must cease from our own works on the seventh day, and not on the first day, or else we will fall after the example of unbelief.

Christ, An Example of Sabbath Keeping

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). "For

even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Peter 2:21-22). Jesus always did His Father's will and wanted the same oneness to be among His people that existed between Him and His Father. (See John 17:11). We would naturally expect Him to uphold His Father's Sabbath, and set an example of Sabbath keeping before us. We read: "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read...And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days..." (Luke 4:16, 31).

It can be seen from these texts that Christ had a custom of Sabbath keeping, and He kept it all His life. After His death on the cross, the holy women continued to follow Him by resting the Sabbath day according to the commandment. (See Luke 23:56). To follow Jesus, we must make it our custom to keep the Sabbath as He kept it; thus following the straight and narrow way which is just as narrow as the footprints of Jesus Christ. - (John 15:10).

Paul, An Example of Sabbath Keeping

It is often asserted that Paul, being an apostle to the Gentiles, was a first-day man and taught the abolition of the fourth commandment. Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). Now, if Paul had been a Sunday (first-day) keeper and a follower of Christ, then Christ was a Sunday keeper. All the above Scriptures used in the above example then are null and void without any meaning. Before we accept the claims of men, we will get Paul's own testimony about the matter. All people who are of an honest heart should be willing to abide by what he said.

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures" (Acts 17:2). It is clearly stated in this text that it was Paul's manner to go unto them to reason with them out of the Scriptures on the Sabbath day. Then the cry comes from the "No Law Advocates" and sabbath breakers, that it was only his manner to worship on the Sabbath when among the Jews, and when among Gentiles, he was a first-day keeper. We will go deeper into Paul's manner of worship.

We next find Paul among the Gentiles at Macedonia. "And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither" (Acts 16:12-13). This makes six meetings of the Apostle Paul on the sabbath days with both Jews and Gentiles, but we still have more.

We find Paul keeping the Sabbath in the Gentile town of Corinth, and working the other six days as a tent-maker (Acts 18:3). "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks" (Acts 18:4). "And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them" (verse 11). So Paul stayed at Corinth a year and six months, and went into the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded both Jews and Greeks, or Jews and Gentiles. This makes seventy-eight Sabbath meetings in succession in a Gentile town, by the apostle to the Gentiles. These, with the other six, made a total of eighty-four religious meetings on the Sabbath recorded in the New Testament. Some may say there is no evidence that Paul held seventy eight Sabbath meetings at Corinth. The Word says he continued there a year and six months, and while there he went into the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. When someone shows from the Word of God that Paul did not preach every Sabbath while there, or that he made tents on the Sabbath any of this time, then I will believe it and not before.

Some will say that Paul preached on the Sabbath, but did not regard it as a day of rest. We will let Paul answer for himself again. "For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works" (Hebrews 4:3-4). We see that Paul rested on the seventh day as God had said. God said for us to rest on the seventh day. - (Exodus 20:8-11).

Some will tell you that the rest in Hebrews 4 is eternal rest, and has no reference to the seventh day, but Hebrews 4:10 forever settles the question. We cannot enter into God's rest unless we cease from our own works as God did from His. We find that on the seventh day

God ended His work which He had made, and rested on the seventh day from all His work. It remains that we cease from our own work as God did from His, if we enter into His rest, regardless of where we place the rest.

THE RETURN OF PAUL AND BARNABAS

Reprinted

After Paul and Barnabas had completed their great missionary journey into the heathen cities, where they made converts and established many churches, as we have learned, they came back to the city of Antioch, where they started from, and told the Members there all that the Lord had done through their preaching.

We know also that there were many Gentiles--Greeks and other heathen--in the church at Antioch who had been converted. These Gentiles, as well as Paul's converts, had not joined the Jewish synagogue, but only the Church purchased by Jesus (Acts 20:28).

But there were some in the church in Jerusalem who were so set in their old religion that they believed no one could be saved who had not first become a Jew. There were in the synagogues some converts to the true God, but they had joined the Jewish group. Those were called proselytes.

Some of these die-hard Jews thought they must go down to Antioch and set matters straight. They told the church there that their converts must all become Jews and keep the law of Moses--especially be circumcised--or they could not be saved.

Of course, Paul had been brought up a strict Jew; but the Lord had taught him many things and appointed him a special preacher to the Gentiles, and he knew that it was by faith in Jesus Christ that the heathen, as well as the Jews, must be saved, and not by any rite or ceremony, or

feast days, or Laws of Moses.

This made trouble in the church at Antioch, some taking one side and some the other. Paul wanted no division in the church, so it was thought best to take the matter up with the apostles at Jerusalem, who of course were the head of all the Churches of God everywhere.

A council was called of both sides to talk things over and pray over the matter. This is the best way to settle any differences among children of God, for the Holy Spirit will make plain who is right.

When they had listened to Paul and the others telling how the Lord had blessed the heathen churches, Peter also reminded them how he had preached to Cornelius, a Roman soldier, who had received the message and been converted, and the Holy Spirit had come upon him the same as on the apostles.

So it was decided that these Gentiles who God had accepted were real Saints, the same as the converted Jews. And James, who seemed to be chairman of the convention, gave the verdict accordingly. It was decided to send a letter back by Paul and the others, to the church at Antioch; and this letter is recorded in the first verses of Acts 15:22-30. They must abstain from a few simple things in which the heathen indulged in their worship, and live pure lives before God and man.

The reason for this was that when Jesus came and died, He fulfilled Moses' law. He was the Lamb slain for our sins, so there was no more need to slay animals, or keep other of the old rites and ceremonies, but only to believe on Jesus and obey the Ten Commandments, the law of love toward God and our neighbors.

This decision of the council was a very important one. If it had been decided the other way, we too must all have become Jews. But the apostles were led by the Holy Spirit, so of course it was decided right.

The Gentiles were much encouraged on receiving this letter, and also the report of the delegates who had been up to Jerusalem; and the churches everywhere were strengthened and built up.

The What of the Crucifixion

Reprinted

We think of our Lord's wonderful hands that were accustomed to bless, to heal, to lift in prayer, to ease the burdens of others. We have grown to love those hands. They fascinate us. Yet those resplendent, and magnificent hands were nailed to a cross. Who would dare to nail such superb and elegant extremities to a cruel cross?

As we research for "WHO" we begin to think in terms of "What" nailed Jesus' hands to the tree? There were Pharisees – very pious and sincere men. Their religious loyalties, which demanded utter obedience to the letter of the law, blinded their eyes. Their fear of this new preacher, from Nazareth, created a burning hatred. When fear and hate control, a spike is driven deep into the industrious hands of our Saviour!

There were men like Annas and his son-in-law Caiaphas, whose greed for money made them value profits more than the prophets – the sale of lambs and doves meant more than the saving of souls. Greed pierces deep into the hands of the Saviour.

The scribes were proud of their authority – they had studied in the best schools. And when the carpenter's Son spoke with greater authority, their jealousy and pride sought ways to drive spikes deeper into the Master's loving hands.

The Essenes were ultrareligious. They believed with all their hearts that the Kingdom of God would come apocalyptically. They proved their loyalty by selling all they possessed and moving to the wilderness at Qumran. Their fierce loyalty to their kind of kingdom made it easy to renounce God's greatest gift to man.

The selfishness of James and John Zebedee in seeking positions of administration, made them flee with the other disciples at the crucifixion and made it easier to bind those loving hands to the crossbeam! It is not so much WHO but WHAT crucified Jesus. Hate, greed, pride, jealousy,

disloyalty, selfishness, desire to bring in our own ideas, these and other sins crucified our Lord. And they still, today, nail the hands of Christ to the cursed tree!



START PREPARING YOUR CHRISTIAN GARDEN

Let us go into the barn and get out some potatoes (taters) and see which ones we should plant. There is one with specks all over it. That's a spectator. It never gets anywhere. It is like the fig tree that Jesus cursed. It only had leaves on it and no fruit.

Look there are two taters that look exactly alike. They are imitators. They just follow the crowd. They have to imitate their neighbors and keep up with the things they do. We need to learn to be obedient and to have a standard to follow. They do not read the Bible and study it. They just listen to the preachers and copy what they say.

Then we find a commentater. He is happy in just repeating whatever other people say, before checking it out and seeing whether it is the truth. He is talking all the time and saying so many wrong things. Soon not any of

his words are listened to.

There is one that looks good. Is it good inside too? No, he is a dictator. He always wants to be the leader and never do what he is told. He wants to tell everybody what to do and then he just sits back and demands. He is not called to be planted in the garden because he does not participate in any church functions and does not bother to help anyone.

Now here is a potato that we do not want to miss to put out. We should have many rows of this sweet potato. Listen, you can always catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. The world needs happy and healthy people. Let us develop a sweet and radiant personality so that we may help others see our disposition and also be sweet potatoes.

We have five kinds of corn to plant. You will notice each of these ears of corn are different. This one is a light yellow and has pointed kernels. That is popcorn. They are only good when they are heated up and then go “bang” to show their value. We must never get cold. We always want to be on fire for the Lord and show all our values.

Then notice the other four ears are almost alike, but different in color. There is a white ear, a very dark ear, a red ear, and this one is yellow. That reminds us of the four families of races that God has on this earth. They are all full of good food value. They all work the works of God. In Acts 17:26 we read: “(God) hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...”

All are human beings, and all welcomed by God to become part of the Family of God. They are all related through Jesus Christ. All are made by God to have the same aspirations, the same desires, and similar needs. They are all lost. All can be saved the same way you are saved. Then all should have equal opportunity in this life. In thinking of this garden try to put yourself into the corn of other colors.

We must never show or feel any disdain for any person no matter what color they are. They are our Brethren

when they accept the Gospel of Jesus. We are warned against showing respect of persons.

There is a singspiration song that we sing sometimes, and it fits so well into our garden: Jesus loves the different people, all the people of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight; Jesus loves the people of the world!

Next you must plant in your Christian garden five rows of peas. Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness and Prayer. Then in the middle of these sprinkle a few Sweet Peas to make the day a happy one.

Next to the peas, you want to plant three rows of squash; Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism, and Squash Indifference. A person that is shunted feels left out and out of place. Nothing is more of a punishment to a person than to be ignored. That is why we must have the Sweet Peas to balance out the garden.

We have to get our iron and minerals so we must plant five rows of lettuce: Let us be faithful, Let us be unselfish, Let us be loyal, Let us be truthful and Let us love one another. Then remember that no garden is complete without turnips. Turn up for Sabbath School, worship and prayer services. Turn up with a smile and Turn up with determination.





In flight by Laura Tennant

Looking out the window at work or standing in the parking lot of a nearby grocery store, the sight of a flock of birds in flight has always taken my breath away. I never tire of the beauty they create as they fly towards some predetermined destination. Often I find myself gazing after them until the last bird is in sight, so overwhelmed am I by the mystery they create within me. The beauty and wonder of their ability to so gracefully soar through the heavens overcomes me with a sense of greatness. The presence of God floods my soul, and I feel a little bit closer to Him at those moments. At the same time those birds in flight bring a feeling of peace as I stand in quiet awe. Such an ordinary event, yet how unique and special.

Recently I watched this mystery, and questions ran through my mind. It all looks so simple – flying through the endless sky, so natural, without a care in the world, yet, I couldn't help but wonder more about those special creatures. I watched as the birds in front set the pace for the rest. Some would lay back, and some would pull forward, some would fly with twists and turns, soaring and diving, some would cross over, and some would create a group within the flock, separate, yet a part of the whole, but all continuing in flight.

My interest seemed to draw me to the birds at the back of the flock. I began to wonder if these small creatures felt bad about being at the back of the group. Did they aspire to be the leaders, to be the first to arrive? No, I am sure they did not wonder at all. Instinct pushed them to fly – to keep going – to continue onward – to reach their destination.

The same should be true in our lives. Jesus tells us to keep our mind focused on Him. Let us all remember those words so amply put in Philippians 3:14, "I press

toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Our thoughts also should be to finish – to reach our destination, the New Jerusalem. Like the bird in flight, we should not concern ourselves with winning or losing. Our concern is not to be in first place or second or third, but simply to finish. Let us all be able to say as did Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8).

I wondered what would happen if the birds lost sight of their objective. My thoughts then shifted to man as we continue on this path of life. Flying seems so light, so carefree, so problem free, but we know that it is not without its hazards. As I continued to think of these small creatures, I decided to explore more of their nature. What wonderfully created beings – so magnificently made. Birds, however, must know what some of their obstacles are, as we are to know. They must be prepared. Some are naturally born with defects. We too are sometimes handicapped but must find the tools to help us through our weak spots.

As I watched these magnificent yet small creatures, I became curious to learn more about them. Everything about a bird is made for flight. They have a minimum weight but a maximum power.

To take off and maintain flight, the bird can't be too heavy. Yet, to survive the conditions faced in the air and force of landing, it must be tough so as not to break on impact. These two qualities (lightness and toughness) are exactly how a bird is constructed. To survive the conditions faced in this life, we must be both gentle and strong.

The first thing we might notice about a bird is its feathers. Feathers are designed in such perfection. They are light but very strong, and they are flexible but very tough. A bird's wing is the basic structure for flight. It is the shape of the wing that allows a bird to fly. The shape of the wing is made by the feathers.

The tail of the bird plays a big role during flight. The tail acts as the rudder, balancing and steering the bird. The tail also helps the bird in stopping. The tail is turned downward and acts like a brake.

However, flight is much more than feathers and wings. The best way to fly is to be light. The bones that birds have are also made for lightness. Birds have less bones than most animals. The bones they have are hard but thin. In birds, many bones are fused together. In this way, not as many muscles are needed. The biggest muscles a bird has are its flight muscles. They are very strong because they have to raise the entire body into the air.

The structure of a bird's eye is very special. Birds have three eyelids. The retina of a bird's eyes is two times as thick as man's. Good eyesight is an important prerequisite of flight. Hearing is another sense that is strong in birds. The ears not only hear well but are used for maintaining balance. This is critical during flight. The uniqueness of these creatures is endless. God has prepared them in just the precise way to perform their function. It is God who has given them the physical construction to fly. It is God who has given them the instincts to know how to do it. Birds don't study the laws of gravity but they use them. They make it look so easy. Most birds do not fly faster or higher than is needed. This is because it takes too much energy to climb against gravity. Also, there is less oxygen to breathe and support the bird high in the air.

Some birds make sharp turns to top speeds. Others fly mostly in straight lines. The difference is in their tail design. Because the tail is used like a rudder, the feathers are broad and stiff. The tail feathers open and close like a fan and move up and down. They also twist to the left or right.

Birds use their wings and tails in a variety of ways to achieve their expertise. Bird flight is dependent on the shape of the birds' wings and the way they use them.

Birds use flight in different ways. Some are on the wing most of the time, while others make only short flights from one perch to another. They live in different habitats which generate different aerodynamic problems. It should

therefore not be surprising that birds of different species have different shaped wings. Changing the shape of a wing gives it different aerodynamic properties.

Birds use the wind with great skill, as if they had studied science. Some birds use land drafts to soar and glide, like an eagle using the currents in a canyon. Seabirds are adept at using drafts over water.

As I studied these feathered creatures in flight, they all looked the same. But I know that couldn't be true, just as we are not the same as each other. It is no easy task with all the twists and turns this life can present to finish the course as God intended, but we are not alone. The other birds help one another in flight by their example. So we are to help each other through our course in life. God made special provisions for us, just as He has for His creatures. God has provided us with brethren to listen to our problems and offer us support. He has provided us with His Words and with His Son as our example. An avenue of prayer is open to us so we may communicate with our heavenly Father. It is up to each and every one of us to take advantage of these provisions to help us finish our course.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The structure of the bird and the miracle of flight are signs from God if we choose to see them. Just as this small creature must keep focused, so must we. Keep focused, don't get sidetracked by the cares of this world. Remember these words in the book of Matthew. “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22). Matthew 24:13 reveals, “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

The next time you see birds in flight, look upward and feel the presence of God. Enjoy the closeness He wants you to have.



DEEDS AND A NAME

Reprinted

Every life is an investment. The returns upon it in the future will be determined by what we do with it in the present. When one seeks an investment for his money, he asks for two things – the greatest security and the largest return upon his investment. One should seek to do the same with his time. How can I invest my life so that it shall be neither wasted nor lost? And where can I invest my life so that it will bring the largest return?

You may use your time to secure immediate gratification of your present cravings and to secure the largest amount of pleasure and enjoyment – for life can be consumed – or you may devote the time to service for Jesus Christ and humanity.

To renounce self, to surrender to God, to spend your life for the Lord Jesus Christ and in His name labor for the common good is to enter into the experience of the more abundant life. For by the very fact that you are living for others, your own life is greatly enriched and there is developed an immortality of personal influence which is the sure return upon the investment. For such an investment of life the Kingdom of God offers the largest field of opportunity, ample security, and the largest return. If one desires to live a great life, he must serve his fellow men. For CHRIST SAID, “Whoso would be first among you will be your servant.”

Out of an age when the world is offering opportunities for acquiring wealth, Christ calls to small salaries. Out of an age when the world is offering selfish amusement and pleasure, Christ calls to hard work and severe toil. But if one desires to make his life tell for humanity and count for God, if he wants to face the big task of his generation and do a great work for the world, the call of God through the spiritual need of the world today offers to him the supreme privilege.

If Jesus Christ leads me into the practice of law, am I going to use my legal lore and position for personal profit, or to seek to secure justice and establish righteousness among men? If Jesus leads me into the world of business and commerce, am I to conduct my business so that I can be a real servant in the name of Jesus to my neighbors? If the world leads me into the educational world, am I to use my learning as an intellectual sybarite (enjoying only the company of cultured, congenial Friends) or am I to use the knowledge given me into the educational world so that others may learn to “Know Him whom to know is to have eternal life.”

Our business in the world, whatever form its activity may take, is to do the will of God in our life. It is said of George Washington that “Providence left him childless that the nation might call him father.” When he left the retirement of home to assume the office of president, Washington said, “All that now remains for me is to commit myself and you, my people, to the care of the beneficent Being Who on former occasions happily brought us through again after a long and distressed separation.” The difference between Washington and Napoleon, Alexander and Hannibal is that they rose to heights by putting others down, while Washington rose to fame by reaching down and lifting up all others.

In his investment of life, Washington took the royal road to greatness. “I will stand or fall for this cause,” said Washington when he gave himself to achieving his goals. He kept his word, and in keeping it, kept faith with the people. He stood firm amid hostile criticism, against charges of hypocrisy and treachery, before his army in revolt. The secret of his stand was his devotion to a cause

and prayer for his personal need.

During the period when Calvin Coolidge was president an over-zealous reporter came upon some notes that told of the criticisms waived against Washington. He made some attacks upon the first president and thought to besmirch his character. President Coolidge was asked by his chief-of-staff what he thought of these things being written about Washington. He turned from his desk, walked to the window and looked out upon the tall white shaft south of the White House. Then he turned with the flicker of a smile upon his face and remarked with his quiet humor, "Well, I see the monument's still there."

When there was quarreling and jealousy among the colonies, the Congress looked for a man to head the army who would be able to unite them and make them forget their differences. Because he was admired by everyone, they chose George Washington.

Greatness that outwears time is a by-product of serving a cause that by its sweep and grandeur lifts one out of oneself and sacrifice. A greater one than Washington, the herald of a greater Kingdom, said that He had glorified God on earth by doing the work which His Father had given Him to do.



WHY DON'T ROOSTERS GO DEAF?

Roosters are loud! They can hit volumes as high as 140 decibels which is the level of sound on an aircraft carrier deck. For humans, a noise above 120 decibels, about the level of a chainsaw, can cause permanent hearing damage. So you may wonder why roosters do not go deaf.

Belgian researchers writing in the journal *Zoology* have the answer. They examined the skull structure of the birds. The researchers found that they have a built-in defense against loud sounds in the form of a sound barrier. When a rooster adjusts its head and neck to crow, small flaps of tissue close the ear canal. They effectively act as earplugs to dampen the noise significantly.

On top of that, the study reveals that roosters can regenerate the tiny hair cells deep within the ear that can become damaged by loud noises. Humans cannot do that, which is why deafness caused by loud sounds is permanent for us. For roosters, a degree of deafness would likely only be temporary if it happened at all.

"Micro-CT scans of a rooster and chicken head show that in roosters the auditory canal closes when the beak is opened," the researchers wrote. "In hens the diameter of the auditory canal only narrows but does not close completely. A morphological difference between the sexes in shape of a bursa-like slit which occurs in the outer ear canal causes the outer ear canal to close in roosters but not in hens."

So now you know why roosters do not go deaf. God's design in every living thing on Earth shows wisdom and an exceptional understanding of the problems that each species faces. The more we learn about the creation, the more we understand the wisdom and creative nature of God. We can know there is a God through the things he has made (Romans 1:19-20).

From *Does God Exist?*

Giants In Our Life

By David DeLong

We read of some giants that were slain by David and his men in II Samuel 21. Verses 16-22 inform us: "And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel. And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant. And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant. And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah the brother of David slew him. These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants."

Sometimes there are giants in our life that must be destroyed as well. We are going to look at five of them. Satan is the father of these giants. The first giant that we will consider is Fear. All of the giants that we will consider attack us when we are weak. But Fear seems to especially attack us when we are weak. Fear incapacitates us so that can't do the work of the Lord effectively. If we can just remember that as long as we fear (respect) the Lord, we have nothing else to fear. Jesus always encouraged His disciples with words such as "be of good cheer".

The second giant that will attack us is Temptation. It is interesting that the Scriptures tell us to fight this giant by retreating away from it. We read in I Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is com-

mon to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

James 1:12 says: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

The third giant is Anger. Sometimes the Scriptures uses the word wrath for anger. We learn in James 1:19-20: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Anger can be a very intimidating foe. It spits venom and hate at our very soul. The way to fight anger when it attacks us is by our using kind words. Proverbs 15:1 instructs us: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

The fourth giant is Doubt. Doubt is a brother to Fear. Doubt will make us to not trust God or His Word. Doubt undermines the work of God. When Jesus came into His own country, the Bible tells us, He could not do very many mighty works. We read in Matthew 13:57-58: "And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

The last giant that we will consider is Discouragement. It is also a brother to Fear and Doubt. Many saints have given up their walk with the Lord because of this giant. The Lord tells us to be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Prayer and Bible study will keep this giant at bay.

The giants in our life are no less daunting than those faced by David and his men. But just as the Lord helped them to defeat their Philistine giants, so He will help us to overcome our giants as well.



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.

HATE CRIMES IN AMERICA

We here in America lately have heard about hate crimes which are increasing in our country. Just exactly what is a hate crime. The following are some excerpts from an article which appeared on the internet. It is entitled **Critical Analysis Of Hate Crime In The U.S:**

Within the last 10 years, hate crimes based upon sexual orientation have increased by 30 percent, around 1300 crimes per year, with many more incidents around the United States unreported. Hate crime must be defined by Federal statute and the government afforded the power to enforce sanctions against violators to insure the safety of the American public. Hate crime and hate speech thrive within our country, and can go unnoticed due to insufficient coverage from the media and lack of public interest. Hate continues to ravage our cities everywhere, even in our own backyard. In 2010 alone, there were nearly 10 hate crimes in New Bern, North Carolina, the majority of them violent in nature. In order to insure the safety of all citizens, hate crime must be defined by federal law. Until then, American racists and psychopaths will continue to harm communities.

According to the FBI, a hate crime is “a traditional offense like murder, arson or vandalism with an added element of bias. Another possible definition for a hate crime from the Anti Defamation League is “a criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an

offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.” Even though there is a definition from the FBI, hate crimes merit no federal classification, and are left up to local governance branches to deliberate. To make matters worse, out of three levels of hate crime, two levels merit attention from a higher court, while the last garners statistic collection and local adjudication. This is owing to the first two categories being classified as violent or extremely malicious, while the third is usually a nonviolent or minor offense. Another category, verbal hate, is not considered a hate crime, as the First Amendment protects it under freedom of speech.

Hate crimes carry several negative consequences that go beyond the immediate crime. One of the first and foremost issues with hate crime is the psychological issues it can generate from victims. According to the American Psychological Association’s Office of Minority Affairs, victims of violent or nonviolent bias crimes are more susceptible to stress-inducing conditions as victims of normal crimes. One major condition is Post-traumatic stress disorder, (PTSD) in which victims relive a violent or severely disturbing occurrence in their lives. PTSD not only causes extreme distress, but also disturbances in the circadian rhythm, irritability, anxiety, and difficulty concentrating. Victims who have experienced hate crimes also tend to alienate themselves from social contact, and cannot keep healthy relationships with one another. The loss of relationship is one of the many problems with PTSD, including substance abuse, violent behavior, severe headaches, gastrointestinal issues such as stomach ulcers, and insomnia.

In a study by American Behavioral Scientists, many victims of hate crimes reported feeling unsafe. The group of biased crime victims also reported they felt greater and adverse psychological effects after their occurrence, more than that of a regular crime victim. 59% of biased crime victims reported feeling unsafe after the events of their attack, while 46% of nonbiased crime victims reported feeling unsafe. (Hate crime victims attested they were afraid due to the likelihood of a repeat occurrence in the near future.) Along with this, 77% of biased crime victims in the study were paying more attention to their behavior, even going out of their way to avoid areas in the community that are known to contain future offenders.

As hate is passed on through generations, people have begun to grow worried of an outbreak of violence unable to be controlled. If outbreaks were to occur then crowds of offenders would surface, and crowds often lead to mob mentality. Hate is to be taken widely, and can send out rippling effects within communities and even the world.

Hate crimes negatively affect local economies. An example is tourism. Hate crimes spread fear, and fear is a limiting factor in our psyches. People who are Africans may not find an attractive spot to visit, and could choose an alternate location to visit out of fear of bias crimes. For example, over the last decade Seattle has experienced a wide array of violent hate crimes, including some against tourists, driving residents to take action. Because local real estate values were plummeting and the tourist industry made up a significant portion of the local economy, senators were forced to enact a hate crime bill that was combined with another regarding tourism. Commercial interactions are what drive our economy, reducing them would make the economy begin to decline.

The town of Shepherdsville, Kentucky experienced a series of bias crimes, which led to the closure of a business and the departure of a citizen from the town. Owned by an Iraqi-immigrant, the business Jacob's Smoke Shop was closed due to property destruction from a hate crime. Xenophobic messages such as "Hate Arab" and "Go Home" were found spray-painted to the walls and to the floors. Not taking any chances, the man registered

paperwork with the Kentucky secretary of state to close the business. When talking to reporters, he even claimed, "He feared for his life and was returning to Iraq." Hate crime can target businesses that aid in the local and national economy, and can easily dent the economy itself by targeting specific businesses.

Even though there have been breakthroughs with legislation regarding hate crimes, there has been almost no effort to define hate crime on a federal level. Currently, hate crime and hate speech are regulated and deliberated on a federal level, with most states creating their own laws. For example, the state of Wisconsin upholds statutes that punish hate crimes further, such as longer jail sentences, while Nebraska simply leaves a hate crime offender's sentence as is. In other words, Wisconsin is less lenient on hate crime sentencing than other states. Depending where one lives, hate crime laws tend to differ, and their definition as of right now is not set in stone. Defining hate crime would do a few beneficial things for the United States. First, it would aid in the collection of statistics. According to a study done by the University of Pennsylvania, almost 37% of violent and non-violent hate crimes go unreported every year. With the definition of hate crimes, victims would be able to report offenses with the peace of mind that they would not be harmed further. With the collection of statistics, it would be easier to target hate groups and alienate them from society. Data taken will be used to aid in the prosecution of hate groups and will ultimately lead to a better lifestyle within the United States as a whole.

Comment

Let us not join the forces of the hate that is in the world. To harbor a long enduring hate in our heart kills us both physical and spiritually. Just let hate go! We should remember the words in Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Please cite a few verses that have to do with brotherly love.

Answer: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35).

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Romans 12:9-10).

“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another” (I Thessalonians 4:9).

“Let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1).

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (I Peter I:22).

Question: Is healing a part of redemption?

Answer: Anyone who ever reads the account of Jesus’ personal life and ministry would have to be greatly

impressed with the amount of healing He did. This healing was not merely a general beneficent effect but specific instances where people were desperately sick in body. Time after time Jesus spoke the Word of Healing. Lepers were healed, Blind eyes were opened. Demoniacs were relieved. Deaf ears were made to hear. Cripples were restored to normalcy. Even dead people were raised up to life. In a few instances Jesus spoke the word of forgiveness to the guilty but more often, according to the record, it was faith that made them well again.

And Jesus Himself promised that His followers would convey His power upon others who were ill. Here is what He said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it” (John 14:12-14). Now that is a sweeping promise. Some deny the truth of healing but Jesus clearly promised it to His followers.

The Physical and Spiritual Together

The physical and the spiritual have always gone together. All throughout the Bible we find it so. The Psalmist wrote: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases” (Psalm 103:2-3). Forgiveness and healing go together because God loves and restores the

whole person.

Jesus linked these together also. For instance, in Capernaum four men carrying a paralyzed man could not get to Jesus because of the large crowd. They lowered the paralytic down through the roof. “When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee”... When His enemies accused Jesus of blasphemy, He then said to the paralytic, “I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house” (Mark 2:5,11). Now Jesus did not always link forgiveness with healing. In His divine wisdom, He knew when the word of forgiveness was needed. He adopted as His own the divine commission given the Prophet Isaiah which He read from the Scroll in the synagogue at Nazareth. Please read Luke 4:16-19. It included both physical and spiritual healing. And then He sent His followers out to preach, to “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). And when they returned to Him, they were rejoicing that those very things were done. Later, after the crucifixion and the resurrection, He gave them the promise that their ministry would be attended by healing and other miracles. Read it in full in Mark 16:15-18.

Numerous Instances of Healing

And that was fulfilled as we read in Acts of the Apostles. There it records numerous instances of healing—the cripple at the gate of the temple for instance—insomuch that the whole populous was aroused. The ministry of the Apostle Paul was attended by healing and that of the other apostles as well. In the apostolic times the church certainly had the “gifts of the Spirit.” They were well organized and among them was the gifts of healing. “And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all...For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kind of tongues: to another the interpretation of tongues; But all these worketh

that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (I Corinthians 12:6-11). These gifts were for the equipping of the people of God, to carry on the ministry of the Gospel. Included among them was the gift of healing.

Accounts of the Church across the years that followed show that divine healing was practiced among the people of God. The noted leaders of the Church of that time left the account in their writings. It is even so today. The history of the Church of God contains many, many accounts of physical healing. There are so many testimonies concerning this wonderful gift to be used.

Healing Is a Part of Redemption

Divine healing is a definite part of Jesus’ work of redemption. Jesus ministered to both the sick and the healthy people. You cannot separate a person’s spiritual needs from his physical needs. Any doctor will tell you that the holistics of today are a definite work of a higher power, (God and Jesus). The body needs to be healthy on body, mind and spirit. They all affect each other. Many spiritual illnesses are passed on to the body. We also know how difficult it is to have a good outlook on life when our bodies are weary or ill.

We surely know by this time how important it is in the work of the Body of Christ, and to minister to the needs of every member. How can we separate these when they are all part of one’s person and life? Here is an account from the Holy Word which will bear out this point. “And when Jesus was come into Peter’s house, he saw his wife’s mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the evening was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses” (Matthew 8:14-17). That prophecy from Isaiah 53 was in direct reference to the coming of the Messiah who would fulfill God’s redemption--Jesus came to save sinners, and He came to save them all over the world.

Healing—A Work of Love

Jesus healed people because He loved them. He had compassion on them. You may say, “If I am not healed, does Jesus not love me?” No! Jesus loves everyone. But there are some inexplicable circumstances, we do not know or understand sometime why there is no healing. Some people feel that Jesus healed in order to show that He was divine, to prove that He was the true Messiah. But that was only partially true. When John the Baptist was concerned about Jesus and work, he sent messengers to ask Jesus about the uncertainties he had, and Jesus said: ”...Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached” (Luke 7:22). That was the evidence Jesus gave to John. But is that the reason He did all that healing? That is very doubtful. It would have been something less than the character of Jesus demanded. He was tempted in the wilderness over just that sort of thing. He refused to use His divine power to gain the acclaim of man or to achieve any quick success. He took away the way of compassionate service. That is, without a doubt, the real reason for His miracles of healing. It is reassuring to know that He still is moved by human suffering. Further, when children of God were most completely committed to the Saviour and moved by His love in their hearts healings have taken place. Thank you, Lord, for your wonderful love!



Hi my name is Mya Rodriguez. I live in San Antonio, Texas. I am ten years old, and I attend the Church of God 7th Day on Monterey Street. This Church is where my grandfather Brother Mario Cantu is a minister.

The reason I am writing this letter is to tell others why it is important to me to get baptized. I got baptized because I needed the Holy Spirit so it could guide me through my life correctly. Another reason why I got baptized is to go to the New Jerusalem to be with our Lord Jesus Christ when He returns.

This world can be really cruel and unforgiving, but we have to remember to follow God's Word. Some people like worldly things more than what they are supposed to love. That's why we need to get baptized so that the Holy Spirit helps us make better decisions and to give comfort to us all.

Thank you for listening to how I feel about being baptized! May you have a blessed day. I hope that this letter will help those who haven't been baptized consider being baptized. So that our Lord Jesus Christ will help others like he helps me.

If you have a letter or article you would like to contribute to The Advocate of Truth magazine, please mail to Church of God 7th Day P.O. Box 328 Salem, West Virginia 26426.

Thank you Mya for sharing God's love.



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

The Church of God 7th Day, Dallas, Texas streams live two services on both Sabbath Friday @ 7:30pm and Sabbath morning @ 10:15am Central Time. The Sabbath Friday evening service consists of a service combined with the Young Adults group. The Young Adults group and members of the congregation bring specials which consists of: testimonies, songs, poems or devotionals to honor our Father. After praise and worship and the specials unto the Lord, a sermon by either our Young Adult Helpers or ministry follows. Songs are sang in both English and Spanish. The Sabbath morning live service @ 10:15am consists of the Sabbath School Lesson, prayer petitions, and a sermon. We ask that you join us in the privilege of serving the Lord during the Sabbath and give him all the Honor and Glory. The website is on Facebook: churchofgod7thdaydallas click on the Like button to receive alerts.



LESSON I

JEHOSHAPHAT FASTS AND PRAYS

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:1-19.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:3.

"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."

NOTE: We are continuing our study of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. We have learned that he sought the Lord in all things. He established courts of justice throughout the land, and sent out priests (Levites) to teach the people. Now we are going to study about his fasting and praying to God, and what his purpose was in doing this.

1. Who had come against Jehoshaphat to battle? II Chronicles 20:1.
2. Who brought a message to him, and what was this message about? II Chronicles 20:2.
3. Did Jehoshaphat seek the Lord's help? What did he proclaim throughout the land? II Chronicles 20:3.
4. Did the people gather with Jehoshaphat to seek the Lord? II Chronicles 20:4.
5. What praise did he give to God in his prayer? Read II Chronicles 20:5-9, and then tell some of the things he praised God for doing for them.
6. Now what petition does he ask of God? II Chronicles 20:10-13.
7. While all Judah stood before the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord came into their midst. Whom did He cause to speak? What was His message to the congregation and to Jehoshaphat? II Chronicles 20:14-17.
8. What did Jehoshaphat and all Judah do when they heard these words? II Chronicles 20:18-19.

LESSON II

JEHOSHAPHAT OVERTHROWS THE ENEMY
(PART 1)

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:20-26.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:22.

"And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Jehoshaphat sought the Lord by fasting and prayer when he heard a great multitude was coming to attack Judah. The Lord answered his prayers, and we will now see how the enemy was defeated.

1. As the people of Judah went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa, what did Jehoshaphat tell them to do? II Chronicles 20:20.
2. Whom did Jehoshaphat appoint in II Chronicles 20:21?
3. What did the singers do in II Chronicles 20:22? What happened as a result of their singing?
4. What happened to the enemy? II Chronicles 20:23.
5. When Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, what did they see? II Chronicles 20:24.
6. What did Jehoshaphat and his people find among the dead bodies? How long did it take them to gather the spoil? II Chronicles 20:25.
7. What did they do on the fourth day? II Chronicles 20:26.

ANSWERS TO HIDE AND SEEK

1. bread, Proverbs 9:17
2. city, Matthew 5:14
3. treasure, Matthew 13:44
4. Moses, Exodus 2:11-12
5. Jacob, Genesis 35:4
6. talent, Matthew 25:25
7. leaven, Matthew 13:33
8. Jesus, John 8:59
9. kings, Joshua 10:17
10. Joash, II Kings 11:2

LESSON III

LESSON IV

**JEHOSHAPHAT OVERTHROWS THE ENEMY
(PART II)**

JEHORAM SUCCEEDS JEHOSHAPHAT

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:27-37.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:30.

"So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about."

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 21:1-20.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 21:5.

"Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how God helped destroy the enemy when the appointed people sang praises to Him. They also received riches and jewels from those who died. We will now study about the joy and peace the people had following the victory over their enemies and about some trouble they had with a wicked person.

NOTE: We have just finished studying about Jehoshaphat who was king of Judah for twenty five years. He was a good king and sought the Lord in all things. After his death, Jehoram, his son, reigned in his stead. Let us see whether he was a s good a king as his father.

1. Where did the people return to, and how did they feel? II Chronicles 20:27.
2. What did the people take unto the house of the Lord? II Chronicles 20:28.
3. Was the fear of God on all the kingdoms when they heard how the Lord fought against the enemy? How was Jehoshaphat at this time? II Chronicles 20:29-30.
4. How long did Jehoshaphat reign over Judah? II Chronicles 20:31.
5. Did he walk in the way of his father? II Chronicles 20:32.
6. After this, with whom did Jehoshaphat join himself? Was this person wicked or righteous? II Chronicles 20:35.
7. Why did he join with Ahaziah? II Chronicles 20:36.
8. Did the Lord break up their works? II Chronicles 20:37.

1. How many sons did Jehoshaphat have? II Chronicles 21:2.
2. What gifts did he give each of his children? Why did he give the kingdom of Judah to Jehoram? II Chronicles 21:3.
3. How old was Jehoram when he began to reign, and what did he do to all his brethren? II Chronicles 21:4-5.
4. Did Jehoram do that which was good in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 21:6-7.
5. What did Jehoram do to the Edomites? Did they revolt from under his hand? What other group of people revolted? II Chronicles 21:8-10.
6. What did he cause the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do? How did he do this? II Chronicles 21:11.
7. What did Elijah prophesy would happen to him and to his people? II Chronicles 21:12-15.
8. What did the Philistines, the Arabians, and the Ethiopians do to Judah? II Chronicles 21:16-17.
9. The Lord smote Jehoram with an incurable disease and he died. How long did he reign in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 21:19-20.

ANSWERS TO YOU FIND IT

1. Exodus 20:1-17. 2. Matthew 7:12. 3. Luke 11:2-4. 4. Matthew 5-7. 5. II Timothy 4:7. 6. Philippians 4:8-9. 7. John 10:7-18. 8. Matthew 28:19-20. 9. Acts 2:14-36. 10. John 14:2.

ANDY WAS AFRAID

by Dorothy Walter

One day Mother told Ross, Andy's older brother, that she and Daddy were going to have to make a business trip to the city.

"We will be gone for two days. Do you think you and Andy will be all right here until we come home?"

"Sure," said Ross. "We'll get along fine." He turned to Andy. "We'll play we're on a camping trip while the folks are gone."

Andy had never gone on a camping trip. He wasn't sure whether he wanted to try one or not.

"It will be fun," said Ross.

"Who will cook our dinner?" Andy asked.

"I will," said Ross. "You never saw such fine stew as I can make. Last year at summer camp I learned to make a lot of things like stew and camp biscuits and pancakes." He grinned at Andy. "You can help me, and we'll make out fine."

Mother hurried around and got things ready for the trip. Andy didn't think too much about it until he saw Mother and Daddy drive away in the car. Then he began to think about the big, empty house with no one in it but Ross and himself. Then he thought about Mother and Daddy being gone all night.

As it got later and later, Andy began to feel worse and worse. The more he thought about the night coming, the more unhappy he felt. He began to cry.

"Why, Andy", Ross said, "What's the matter? Are you lonesome?"

Andy shook his head. Then he nodded. He did miss Mother and Daddy. He didn't want Ross to know that he was afraid to stay alone. He was afraid of the dark. Even when Mother and Daddy were home, he was sometimes afraid if they were too far away from him in the house. Now he and Ross would be all alone. He cried harder and harder.

"They'll be gone only two days," said Ross. "They'll be home before we know it." Ross patted Andy on the shoulder. "Come one, let's go make some waffles for supper. That ought to keep us busy for a while."

Ross had never made waffles, but he followed the

recipe in Mother's cookbook, and the waffles turned out quite good. But Andy didn't enjoy the waffles very much. His fear made a big lump in this throat, so that it seemed that his food couldn't go down very well.

After supper they washed the dishes. Then they fed Noodles, their dog, and put him to bed for the night.

"I want Noodles to stay in the house," Andy said.

Then Ross understood. "Are you afraid?" he asked.

Andy nodded. "I don't like the dark. I can't see where things are. I can't see what's there."

"I remember when I was little," said Ross. "I was afraid of the dark, too. Mom always had to leave a light on in my room."

"You were afraid?" Andy asked. He had never thought about his big brother being afraid of anything.

"Sure," said Ross. "Most children are afraid sometimes."

"Are you afraid now?" Andy asked.

"No," said Ross. "You see, God is with us even though Mom and Dad aren't. He can take care of us even better than they can. So what is there to be afraid of?"

"But it's so dark," answered Andy.

Ross put his arm around Andy. "When Mom found out that I was afraid she told me to pretend that the night was a lovely, soft, dark blanket that covered up the world at night so little animals and little boys and girls could go to sleep. It would be hard to sleep with the sun shining. God made the lovely night blanket so we could have it dark for sleeping."

Andy thought about that. "We'd get really tired without our good sleep, wouldn't we?" he said.

Ross nodded. "God knows what is best for us. He knows we need sleep and rest so He makes it easier for us to sleep." He smiled at Andy. "Would you like to sleep with me tonight?" He asked. "It might be fun to stay together." He reached for the Bible. "We ought to have worship first," he said as he opened the Bible. "There's a verse I like that always helps me when I'm afraid of something. It goes something like this, 'What time I am afraid, I will be trusting Thee'."

"I will trust in Thee," said Andy softly. "That's a good thing to do, isn't it?" Thinking about the verse and saying it would help him not to be afraid any more.

HIDE AND SEEK

Hide and Seek has been a favorite game for ages. We are fascinated with whatever is hidden. Can you "find" the things or people who are hiding in the blank spaces below?

1. "Stolen water is sweet, and _____ eaten in secret is pleasant."
2. "A _____ set on a hill cannot be hid."
3. "The kingdom of heaven is like _____ hidden in a field."
4. _____ slew the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
5. _____ hid earrings under an oak near Shechem.
6. "I was afraid, and I went and hid your _____ in the ground."
7. "The kingdom of heaven is like _____ which a woman...hid."
8. "But _____ hid himself, and went out of the temple."
9. Joshua was told that five _____ had been found hidden in a cave.
10. Jehosheba took _____, the king's son, and hid him.

LET US REMEMBER

1. God said that His people should hear His Word.
2. God said that His people should obey His Word.
3. When we pray to God He helps us to obey Him.
4. God cares for girls and boys today just as he cared for the people long ago.

YOU FIND IT

Where are the following found?

1. The Ten Commandments.
2. The Golden Rule.
3. The model prayer.
4. The Sermon on the Mount.
5. "I have fought a good fight..."
6. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest..."
7. The parable of the good shepherd.
8. The Great Commission.
9. Peter's sermon at Pentecost.
10. "In my Father's house are many mansions..."

NAME THE THREE

Unscramble the letters to find the correct names.

1. Forefathers of Israel:
MRABHAA, CASIA, ABCJO
2. Sons of Noah
ESHM, AHM, THAJHEP
3. Sons of Adam
ICAN, BLEA, THES
4. Disciples in the Garden
TEERP, SJMEA, HOJO
5. Friends of Daniel
RHASHCAD, CHAMSHE, BANGODEE
6. Kings of Israel
LSUA, VAIDD, NOOSOML
7. Queens in the Bible
REHTSE, LAIHAHAT, QUEEN OF EABSH

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TEN SIMPLE LAWS

*Have you ever tried to imagine
A world with no sickness or pain?
Where crops all grow in abundance
Needing neither the sunshine or rain?*

*This world is entirely possible,
This world that will be without flaw;
It will be coming very soon now,
A world that is ruled by God's law.*

*There will be no other god before us,
No idols of wood, clay or gold;
There will be only peace and plenty
Of which the half has never been told.*

*The law will be based on mercy,
God's name never spoken in vain;
Everyone will honor the Sabbath,
And sin will no longer reign.*

*Our fathers and mothers are cared for,
There is never a thought about kill;
Adultery has vanished forever,
And no one is tempted to steal.*

*No one is bearing false witness,
Or to covet what other folks own;
We have now inherited the Kingdom,
God's children have finally come home.*

Betty Whetstone

