

A scenic view of a wooden boardwalk with railings leading through a rocky overhang to a river surrounded by lush green trees. The boardwalk is made of dark wood and has a simple railing. The river is blue and flows through a rocky area. The trees are green and dense. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

*The Advocate of Truth*





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***The Lord's Supper for this year is on Saturday evening, March 27, 2021 after sundown (Roman time), the beginning of March 28, (Bible Time).***

## Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

By David Royer

The Prophet Daniel was able to describe and interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The detailed events are recorded in the Second Chapter of Daniel. Here is a short summary:

(Daniel 2:1): "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him." The King demanded to know the dream and its interpretation from his wise men.

Despite all their wisdom (real and imagined) the King's wise men had no answers for Nebuchadnezzar. The furious King sentenced all his wise men of Babylon to death. (Daniel 2:14-16): "Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation."

(Daniel 2:17-18): "Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon."

The dream: (Daniel 2:25-29): "Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth

secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass."

(Daniel 2:31-35): "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Here is a visual representation of the King's dream as described by Daniel:



The interpretation of this dream: (Daniel 2:36-45): *“This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”*

This prophetic dream has been partially fulfilled in history. Three dominating empires came after Babylon: Medo-Persian, Macedonian(Greek), and Roman. There is speculation and interpretation that there will be a federation of ten kings after the Roman Empire because of the number of toes and Bible verses in (Revelation 17:12): *“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”* And (Daniel 7:24): *“And the*

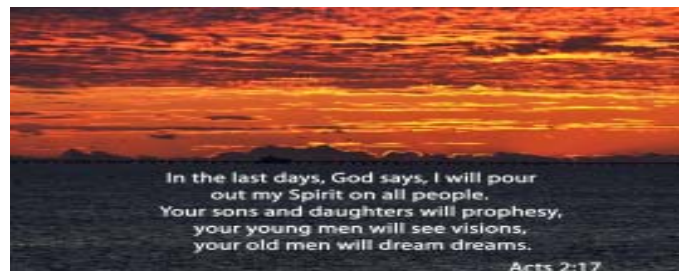
*ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”* Since the fall of the Roman Empire, there has not been a world-dominating empire. Napoleon, Hitler, the Huns, Islam, and others have tried but failed.

Other interpretations are that a Revived Roman Empire in either a generic form of government or a specific nation will be led by a dictator located in Rome, Turkey, or the Middle East.

In Revelation we read that Satan gives his power to a Beast for 42 months prior to the return of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 13:4-6): *“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.”* Could this be the last Empire’s Antichrist?

The final earthly, world empire will be conquered by Jesus upon His return with His promised and everlasting Kingdom, The New Jerusalem. (Daniel 7:26-27) *“But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”*

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream provides us with great intriguing, thought provoking discussions.





## THE RULING OF THE KINGDOM

Bond Tennant

Many believe that when Christ's Millennial kingdom appears everyone will be pleased with its ruling. According to God's Word, this is not so. Its regulations will be far more exacting than those previous governments. The liberties of the people will be restricted to a degree that is very vexing indeed to those who may now clamor for an increase in liberty. Liberty to deceive, to misrepresent, to overreach and to defraud others, will be entirely cut off. Liberty to abuse themselves or others in food or in drink, or in anyway to corrupt good manners, will be totally denied to all. No one will be granted a license to do wrong of any sort. The only liberty that will be granted to any will be liberty to do good to themselves and others in any and every way, but nothing will be allowed to injury or destroy in all that holy mountain [kingdom] (Isaiah 11:9; Romans 8:21). That rule will be felt by many to be a severe one. It will break up all their former habits and customs that were wicked, and it breaks up present institutions founded upon these false habits and false ideas of liberty. Because of its firmness, it is symbolically called an iron rule. "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father" (Revelation 2:26-27). Isaiah 28:17 will then be fulfilled: "Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail [righteous judgment] shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters [truth] shall overflow the hiding place."

When the laws of righteousness and equity have been put in force with an iron rod, the masses of mankind will learn that "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach [disgrace] to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). They will learn that God's plan and laws are best in the end for all concerned. Ultimately they will learn to love righteousness and hate iniquity. "Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above

they fellows" (Psalm 45:7). All who under that reign have not learned to love the right will be counted unworthy of everlasting life and will be cut off from among the people.

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people" (Acts 3:22-23).

## What is Sin?

The Lord God asks, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?"

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for his seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. At this time Jesus is the only one born of God. This happened at His resurrection when He was born of the Spirit.

They profess to know God, but in works (fruits) they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work (fruit). By their fruits (works) you shall know them.

*Reprinted*

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## Body, Soul, and Spirit

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By: Moises Torres M.

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (*Paul, Apostle of Jesus Christ - I Thessalonians 5:23*).

**NOTE:** The creature called man, composed of spirit, soul, and body, as mentioned in the text above, is a being endowed with a capacity (memory), capable of ingesting and storing all kinds of information around him, which being accumulated, becomes **knowledge**. This man was also endowed with a processor capable of selecting from the accumulated knowledge the required information at the desired moment according to the needs or intentions of man. These attributes or gifts (hardware and software) are an integral part of the spirit, soul, and body of each individual, which as a whole is defined as A SOUL by the prophet Ezekiel. (Ezekiel 18:20).

Let us analyze these human entities separately:

### 1. What is this spirit that must be preserved blameless?

The verse in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, clearly says: “**your whole spirit ...**” This spirit of man (written here in small letters) is the personal mind of each individual. And mind is the residence of knowledge (accumulated information), intelligence, understanding, and reasoning. In this mind or spirit also dwells the wonderful faculty or control of communication and movement. This spirit of man **is his mind** which must be “preserved blameless.” Man should not use his knowledge or “information” to do evil, but care for life and creation; otherwise his spirit will be destroyed by God.

**NOTE:** It would not be coherent to say this spirit mentioned in this verse is the Holy Spirit, since He has no need to be preserved blameless, for He is HOLY.

When God breathed the spirit of life into man’s nostrils, he became a living soul. “Living soul” does not refer to an “automaton”, but to a thinking and a conscious being. Let us remember that man was created “after the image and likeness of God”, thus endowing him with a spirit or mind of his own.

### 2. Should we love God with our whole mind or personal spirit?

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” (Matthew 22:37) How is this?

**NOTE:** To love God with all our mind implies loving Him with all our knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

### 3. Does the Lord have a mind or Spirit of His own?

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?” (Romans 11:34).

**NOTE:** The Lord has a holy mind, that is, a Holy Spirit.

### 4. What mind or spirit should we have as children of God?

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**” (I Corinthians 2:14-16).

**NOTE:** When we accept the teachings (doctrine) of the Lord Jesus Christ, we accept His knowledge, and we become of His same Spirit, or way of thinking; then, our human mind will no longer dominate us, because the mind of the Lord will flood ours. “But we have received the

Spirit which is of God.” (I Corinthians 2:12-14).

### **5. Can the Lord blind the natural mind of man?**

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient” (Romans 1:28). This happened to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:30-33). This punishment also came to the tribes of Israel for rebelling against God’s Word, and their minds were blinded (Acts 8:25-27). This in no way implies that God wants to force man to recognize Him and follow His teachings. God does not force anyone! He warns and counsels so that man does not die; but at any time God may leave man in the midst of his rebellion and spiritual blindness.

### **6. What soul is mentioned in I Thessalonians 5:23?**

The soul, to which Paul refers in this verse, is the seat of the affections and passions; of feelings such as love, happiness, joy, hate, anger, rancor, jealousy, etc. It is the seat of sensations and appetites, of intentions, and propensities of different kinds. Soul and heart are synonymous. The heart is the seat of affections and passions.

**7. Does the soul have feelings?** Genesis 34:3-8; I Samuel 18:3.

**8. Does the soul get distressed?** Genesis 42:21; Exodus 23:9; I Samuel 1:10

**9. Does the Lord have a soul?** Leviticus 26:11; God is jealous.

**10. Does Jesus have a personal soul:** “Then saith he unto them, my soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.” (Matthew 26:38). The soul of Jesus was saddened.

### **11. What does the soul war against?**

“...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (I Peter 2:11).

### **12. Can God upset the soul of man?**

Yes, of course! Since the soul referred to in I Thessalonians 5:23 is the seat of man’s affections and passions, let us read the following:

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause **God gave them up unto vile affections:** for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.” (Romans 1:22-26).

**NOTE:** In a generic term, the word SOUL denotes every individual created with spirit, soul, and body. When it says “the soul that sins shall die” it refers to the destruction of a person or an individual composed of these three entities.

“...the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4).

**NOTE:** The entity called “soul” which is the seat of the affections, feelings, and passions, cannot be controlled in its passions by the human spirit or mind of man; therefore, man needs the Spirit of God to control his personal mind. “...But we have the mind of Christ” (I Corinthians 2:16).

**13. What did Jesus say about the soul?** “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Let us note the Lord mentions both, the body and the soul.

### **14. What body is mentioned in I Thessalonians 5:23?**

This is the body that was formed by God from the dust of the ground, and which was animated and nourished by God’s creative energy, therefore it contains salts: minerals, iron, phosphorus, calcium, sodium, etc. The body is a perfect organized system enabled in such a way to be the habitation of man, and to be an external receiver of different

physical sensations such as pain, hardness, softness, caresses, taste, sounds, etc., which are transmitted to the mind and soul of the individual. This body was designed by God in a wonderful way to perform any physical activity, composed of bones, muscles, nerves, veins, arteries, and a variety of vessels and organs through which blood and other fluids circulate. This body is the house of the spirit and soul of man, and therefore, it is completely linked or related to them.

### **15. Should we watch and keep our body from sin?**

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Romans 6:12).

“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body” (I Corinthians 6:13).

“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body” (I Corinthians 6:18).

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (I Corinthians 6:19).

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:20).

“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” (II Corinthians 4:10).

**NOTE:** Our mind must control the senses of our body, for the body has its own spirit (physical senses) that can induce the heart and mind to sin. This is why the recommendations given in Romans 6:12, “**Let not sin therefore reign** in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

### **16. Will a person be judged by the works done in his**

### **body?**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10).

### **17. Does a man’s body have senses of its own?**

**NOTE:** The body of man is by nature bound to the soul and spirit of man. How is this? The body has senses (spirit) of its own: It gets tired, hungry and thirsty, and also gets sick. It has sensors or devices to perceive cold and hot, and it hurts when it is hurt or mistreated; it feels the need to be caressed, cared for, loved, etc. In the body resides the sense of perception of the external environment through touch, smells, sounds, vision around him, etc.

- It gets tired. Genesis 25:29; Job 22:7; Isaiah 40:28; John 4:6.

- Hungry. Isaiah 29:8

- Gets ill. Matthew 9:20; Matthew 26:41; II Corinthians 11:29

- Feels the cold and heat. Job 24:7; John 18:18.

- Hurts when it is physically abused. Isaiah 53:4; Zechariah 13:6; John 16:21.

- Grows old. II Chronicles 24:15; Job 4:11; Job 15:10; Proverbs 22:6.

- Feels pleasure in being caressed. Ecclesiastes 2:10; 10:19.

### **18. Why was it necessary for the Son of God to acquire a human body?**

“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me” (Hebrews 10:5).

**NOTE:** Through His body as a “son of man”, the Lord Jesus was able to know and experience human temptations.





**ARE YOU WAITING ON THE LORD  
OR WAITING  
FOR THE LORD TO DO IT FOR YOU?**

By Adam Windholz

Reprinted from the July 22, 1991

**The Advocate of Truth**

This is a question many should ask themselves when they say they are going to wait on the Lord. Many people have heard this line so often, they say “so in other words, you are not going to do anything.” As humans, when we really want to do something, we do not want to wait on the Lord. However, when it comes to something we do not want to do, then we say, “well we better wait on the Lord.

Many people believe that when they want to do a certain thing, all they can do is wait. For example, if a man would like to become a minister, shall he just wait till God calls him in person? What about praying, fasting, and studying? Why are these left out while we wait? I am sure if the Lord is willing, eventually a door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 states, **“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”** We cannot knock and stop. Let us keep knocking until we are answered. We are admonished in II Timothy 2:15 **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God...”** We cannot wait for God to do everything for us. We must do our part also.

We are told in Psalm 37:5, **“Commit thy way unto**

**the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”** So we can see there is more to it than just waiting. Nowhere are we told in the Bible to stop labouring in the Gospel. Remember what Jesus said in the parable of the talents. Matthew 25:27-28: **“Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.”** Therefore, we are told what little we have will be taken from us if we do not use it to bring forth fruit to God.

There are so many examples in the Bible of those who waited on the Lord and continued with all their might while waiting. One such example is the story of Cornelius, a Gentile in Acts 10:4-30: **“Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God...Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.”**

So many times we expect the Lord to do everything for us without having to do anything ourselves. Let us prayerfully look at the Word of God to see if this is the way it really works. II Thessalonians 3:10 states, **“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”** Therefore, if we are not willing to continue working for the Lord while we wait, then we should also wait for the Lord to feed us which would be tempting our God. Furthermore, knowing our appetites, most would not wait for the Lord to feed them.

In reading about the children of Israel, we find that many times God performed miracles for them. However, many times they had to stand up for themselves and show themselves approved to God before they received heavenly help. This still holds true today. We must also work for God, and be tried by God, before we reap His blessings. Therefore, we cannot set back and expect everything to be done for us. It is true we must wait on the Lord and be patient, but there are many things we can

do and accomplish for God while we wait.

How many of us are waiting for a positive sign or miracle? Jesus said in Matthew 12:39, “...**An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall be no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.**” The time for signs are over, and miracles are often given to those who labor, rather than those who wait. Let us all be found labouring for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when He comes back to this earth. As it states in I Timothy 4:16 and II Timothy 3:14, “**Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.**” “**But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.**”

We must continue serving the Lord always and not use waiting as an excuse to stop doing God’s will. So let us wait on the Lord and continue to do our part while waiting, instead of expecting the Lord to do everything for us. We must serve God instead of thinking He should serve us.



*“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

*Isaiah 40:31*

## When Good Things Happen To Bad People

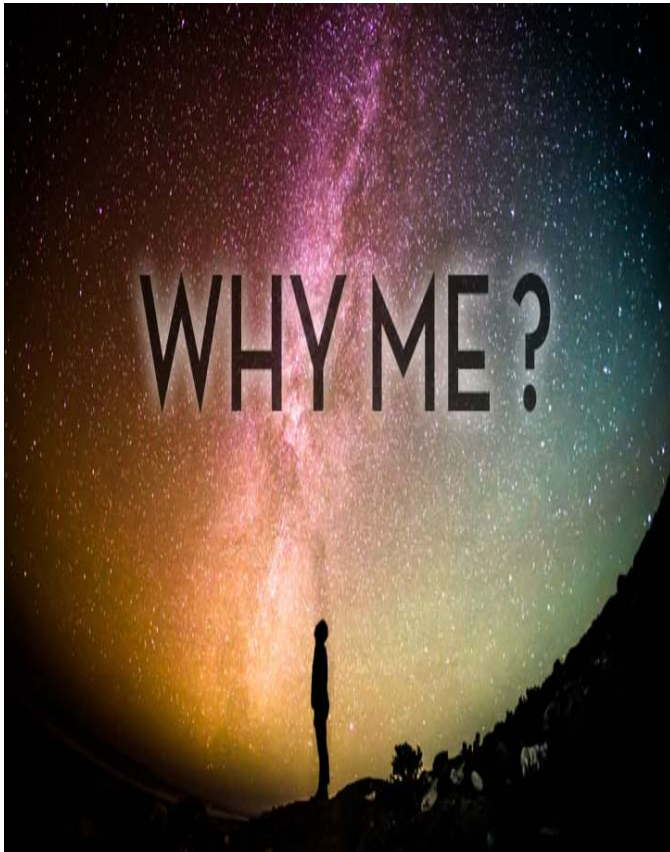
By David DeLong

Bad things may happen to good people, and good things may happen to bad people. Why is this so? We learn, for instance, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:44-45). The Lord sends His rain on the just and unjust. He does this to bless the just person, and to call the unjust person to repentance and into a relationship with Him.

David noticed this situation with wicked people. Sometimes they seemed to be more blessed than the righteous. In Psalm 73:2-12 we read: "But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches."

Even though the Lord may bless wicked people with temporary blessings, it seems that many of them still do not give God the glory for it. They, many times, still continue on in their wicked ways. God may send the blessings upon them to be merciful to them, but like the above Psalm indicates, "pride compasseth them about as a chain".

Let us not be too concerned if we are experiencing many difficulties in life, while wicked people seem to be overly blessed. The Lord has His righteous ways, even if we do not fully understand them.



By Laura Tennant

Reprinted

A few months ago one of my co-workers was hospitalized and then released home. I called him on the phone to let him know I was thinking of him. During our conversation he asked the question, “Why Me?” I tried to answer him the best I could, but my few words seemed empty and comfortless. I don’t know that he really wanted an answer, but rather someone to listen. He recovered from his illness and returned to work, only to find himself with more medical problems. Again he was in the hospital. He called me from his hospital room to get information for short-term disability. Again his question was, “Why me?” I could only answer, “I don’t know, Robert.” When we ask a question, we expect an answer, and we usually expect one immediately. But with God, there sometimes is no answer, immediate or otherwise. With this repeated question, Robert seemed already defeated. My husband and I prayed for Robert that Sabbath. When I returned to work Monday, I was told that he passed away. Since

then those words, “Why Me?” have occupied my thoughts.

Every one of us has been confronted with life circumstances that compel us to ask this question, or something similar. There are times when events in our lives seem overwhelming or unfair. Perhaps you have lost a loved one prematurely or a life-altering illness has become part of your daily life. Your children may have come into harm’s way or may have made some wrong decisions and caused you grief or embarrassment. Perhaps your finances have been affected, or you have lost your job. Any number of circumstances may have happened and caused you to feel as if you were being singled out, only for you to ask the question, “Why Me?” Be assured you are not alone.

Our feelings of “Why Me?” are real. They are based on real events. They reach to the very core of our being. We, however, are quick to judge the event as good or bad. When we choose to believe that ALL the events in our life are good for us, even the ones that seem frustrating and painful for now, we are in agreement with God! Only God knows why we are going through these circumstances. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Our question might be a fleeting one or one that lingers and gnaws away at our very peace of mind, defeating a victory that is assured every child of God. Or thoughts can turn inward until the only voice we hear is our own, neglecting God’s leading.

Our question might be, “Why isn’t this happening to someone else?” We read in Matthew 5:45 the second part, “for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” God never promised to help us avoid problems. He promised to help us get through them. “. . . and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5, last part). The Lord is our help. “Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield” (Psalm 33:20). We read in Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” As I read these two verses in Psalms, I



am reminded that I am not alone. “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2).

Sometimes circumstances are necessary to draw us closer to Him. Take a few minutes to read Hebrews chapter 11, then ask yourself, “What is the evidence of those people’s faith in God?” Is it that God saved them from trouble or that they followed God in spite of their trouble? God’s Word can be comforting and inspiring, but only if we allow it to work in our lives. Likewise, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?...For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:17-26). Sometimes it is so much easier to consume ourselves in self-pity. Are we equipped to handle life’s situations? “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Each of us is confronted with different situations. What may move one individual to question his circumstances or cry out because of them many not compel another. Why is it some people seem to be able to bear things so much easier than others? Perhaps the answer is, “They are going it alone,” or perhaps “They are not doing as well as we think.” Don’t be afraid to cry out to God, but remember to listen. He will hear your cry. God is not singling us out to punish us or make our life harder, but to allow us to grow and to rest in His perfect peace. We must all learn to rest and not wrestle. “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him” (Psalm 37:7, first part). “Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation” (Psalm 62:1).

Our world seems to revolve around us, but God often uses the events in our lives to do a work in the life of someone else. God wants to take our disappointments,

problems, losses and weaknesses, along with our victories and teach us through them. Through our problems, He teaches us to draw closer to Him. Our problems force us to either become closer and more dependent upon God or faint and be separated from Him. The answer to our question should be, “Because He loves me so much, He wants me to know His love is with me no matter what happens in my life.” Our relationship with God isn’t reflected in a lack of trouble. Instead, it’s strengthened through trouble. That is why we can thank God even for our trouble. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 15:57).

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4). We must remember we are not victims but victorious if we belong to Him. Remember these words of a well-known song? “Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! O glorious victory, That overcomes the world.” We may not always get an answer, but the victory still can be ours. “For whatsoever is born of God, overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4). Let us remember those who have been victorious, those who have gone before us, so we need not ask the question, “Why me?”





*CREATION AND VICTORY*

*Delwin DeLong*

*'Twas dark and gloomy here below -  
Before the Maker's plan;  
With just one touch, He could bestow,  
A habitat for man.  
But war came first in heaven high -  
In Satan sin was found;  
And then from God came forth the cry -  
Satan is cast down.*

*Creation came next on the scene -  
And God stretched forth His hand;  
He made the water fresh and clean -  
Then divided it from the land.  
Six days of work brought forth the sun,  
The moon, the air, the trees;  
The animals and man were done -  
So God then took His ease.*

*The Seventh Day God took His rest -  
And surveyed all He'd done;  
The stage was set, the Lord had blessed -  
But was the battle won?*

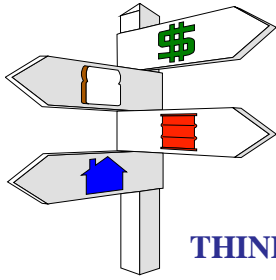
*The Sabbath Day was set aside  
For man to take his rest  
From weekly work, all done with pride -  
the Seventh Day was blessed.*

*For man was given eternal life  
If he would just obey;  
But Satan's ways had caused more strife -  
He'd lead the man astray.  
The influence of sin was strong,  
Man could not stand alone;  
He had the choice of right from wrong,  
But the strength of sin had grown.*

*God knew t'would happen just this way -  
He had to conquer sin;  
Our Lord the greatest price did pay  
To overcome and win.  
His only Son He sent to earth -  
He sent Him as a man;  
So even from the time of birth,  
His struggle here began.*

*The devil tried in every way  
To beat God's only Son;  
But triumph came one dreary day  
When on the cross He hung.  
The third day Jesus rose again -  
A triumph over death;  
The devil lost his bid with sin,  
He'll soon be laid to rest.*

*But man can't bear up against sin -  
Unless Christ comes inside;  
He will help us then, the fight, to win  
And gain eternal life.  
And even though God's won the fight -  
Our battle is not done;  
We need His help to do what's right  
Till our own victory's won.*



### **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.*

### **THINK ABOUT THIS**

This month let us focus on the mental health of our young people during times of crises.

The following is an abbreviated article which appeared in **USA TODAY** entitled *Young people feel crises tightening around them*. Its subheading states that mental health support needs are increasing:

Kathryn Boit feels “guilty for struggling so much” these past few months.

As president of the Harvard Student Mental Health Liaisons, she has college friends, acquaintances and strangers reach out to me for resources and advice, she said. “I don’t know the answer anymore.”

It’s no wonder Boit, a Harvard sophomore, feels overwhelmed. Prevalence of depression among college students increased since the pandemic closed campuses this spring compared with fall 2019, according to a survey of 18,000 college students published by the Healthy Minds Network on July 9. And of the nearly 42% of students who sought mental health care during the pandemic, 60% said it was either much more or somewhat more to access care.

Mental health among young people has been worsening for years. A 2019 analysis of teens reported 13% of U.S. teens ages 12 to 17 (or 3.2 million) said in 2017 that they had experienced at least one major depressive episode in the past year, up from 8% (or 2 million) in 2007.

Looking at the climbing data on anxiety yields even starker numbers. The Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA asked incoming college freshmen if they “felt overwhelmed” by all they had to do. In 1985, 18% replied yes. In 2000, that climbed to 28%. By 2016, it rose to nearly 41%.

Roughly 48,000 people in the U.S. died by suicide in 2018, and the rate has increased to 35% since 1999, according to the Centers for disease Control and Prevention. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among ages 10 to 19, after accidents.

But the intersection of crises – CO-VID -19, economic struggles and racial injustices – could make it worse still.

Teens need mental health support in quarantine, just as others do, said Jennifer Rothman, the National Alliance on Mental Illness senior manager of youth and young adult information, support and education.

Call volume at NAMI’s HelpLine is up 65% compared with last year, she said, averaging more than 200 calls a day. Most calls ask for support with anxiety.

Teenage requests are similar, Rothman said. “and especially with CO-VID-19, and the social isolation, the change in structure and day-to-day activities and routines, we’re seeing an increase in some of these symptoms” of anxiety and depression.

Class schedules and extracurricular activities provided stability, said Boit, who has borderline personality disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. But when classes went online and time zones made connecting more complicated, motivation to seek help dropped.

“A Zoom call can’t replace a shoulder to cry on or the warmth of a hug,” Boit said.

She’s continuing with group therapy remotely, but because of interstate medical restrictions, she’s not sure she can do teletherapy with her Massachusetts psychiatrist from New York State, where she has lived with her boyfriend since April.

“Do I get a temporary therapist? The question or if I bother is on my mind every day,” she said. “It’s so hard to even want recovery when it feels like the world is against you.”

### **‘Where were you’ moment**

According to a report in June from the American



Psychological Association, more than 80% of U.S. adults report the nation's future is a significant source of stress in their lives.

But a vast majority of older adults say they find preventive measures, such as face masks reassuring. Gen Z adults were least likely to say it was reassuring (67%). Gen Z was also most likely to find these measures stressful (58%), according to the report.

Rothman attributes Gen Z's mental health challenges to the idea that "this is their first 'where were you' moment in their lifetime and they've had to adapt their lives to meet the restrictions of this pandemic."

"Gen Z depend on their social connections, and with the restrictions around large group gatherings, sheltering in place, virtual classes vs. in-person and the uncertainty for the future. It's causing a lot of uneasiness, stress and anxiety," she said.

We should not trivialize (teenagers') stressors or grief in the context of the larger issues playing out during this pandemic," said Beth Marshall, associate director of the John Hopkins Center for Adolescent Health, during a faculty roundtable in May. "Their grief over what they are experiencing – or not getting to experience – is real.

Anushe Engineer, a junior at Scripps College in California, said part of the reason she and her peers are struggling right now is that "college students are gearing up for jobs and employment and getting out into the 'real world, but that real world isn't ready for them yet, which causes a lot of anxiety.

"From the class of 2020 to the next several graduating classes, college students will be entering a terrible job market with low prospects and fewer chances of opportunity," she said. "That's not set in stone, but it would be stupid to be oblivious to the realities we're facing."

### Comment

Although this abbreviated article puts stress on the COVID-19 pandemic, it tells the mental state of mind that all young people (except those who know God) have in times of crises. In the beginning of the article, it states

that Kathryn Boit doesn't know the answers anymore when her collage friends, acquaintances and strangers reach out to her for resources and advice. The workable answer is for her and those who ask resources and advice from her to get to know God and understand that He will comfort them. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all COMFORT; Who COMFORTETH us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

Boit hit the nail on the head when she said, "A Zoom call can't replace a shoulder to cry on or the warmth of a hug." Sexual harassment has been an issue in the past. Not all men who touch ladies mean to harass them. They just want to show the lady that they care about her and what she may be going through.

The article states that mental health among young people has been worsening for years. This is because the signs of the times are evident and the young sink deeper into stress and anxiety. Again, let all young people read and believe II Corinthians 1:3-4.

### A SIGNS OF THE TIMES REVIEW

Many find it hard to believe that we are living in the "not be yet". "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows" (Mark 13:7-8).

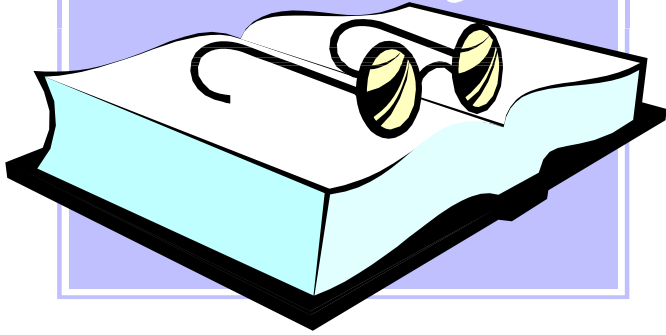
The gospel OF THE KINGDOM must be preached. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Men posing as Jesus will try to deceive people in the last days. "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:23-24).

*Continued on page 17*

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Will you please comment on the state of the dead? Please put emphasis on the Believer.

**Answer:** In sound sleep, a person is unconscious. Time goes by unmeasured. The mental functions which are active during consciousness are suspended for the time being.

If a person was conscious after death, he would know all things that are going on. Job 14:20-21 shows to us that Job could not know anything further about his family after he was put into the grave. He did not know the honor or dishonor that might have happened to his sons. In death a person loses all sense of time, also all the attributes of the mind, along with his loves and envies. *"The dead know not anything."* The day they die, *"their very thoughts perish."* If good people were going to heaven when they die, they certainly would be singing and praising God. The worship of God goes on daily in heaven (Revelation 4:8-10). But there are no saints in heaven to praise the Lord (Psalm 115:17). *"The dead praise not the LORD..."* *"For in death there is no remembrance of Thee..."* (Psalm 6:5). When Lazarus was in the grave, Jesus said: *"Our friend Lazarus SLEEPETH."* If some part of Lazarus was in heaven, would it not have been robbing Lazarus of something wonderful?

If something of a man goes off to heaven when he dies, why did not Jesus have the privilege to go to heaven at death? But after three days and three nights of being in the grave He still said to Mary: *"Touch me not for I have not yet ascended to my Father in heaven."* Jesus was sleeping awaiting the resurrection of His body. All saints are doing the same.

If, as stated in Ecclesiastes 9:5, the dead know not anything, then they have no knowledge of the lapse of time. *"Six thousand years in the grave to a dead man is no more than a wink of the eye to the living."* To them, consciousness, our only means of measuring time, is gone; and it will seem to them when they awake that absolutely no time has elapsed. And herein lies a most comforting thought in the Bible doctrine of the sleep of the dead, that in death there is no consciousness of the passing of time. To those who sleep in Jesus, their sleep, whether long or short, whether one year, one thousand years, or six thousand years, will be but as if the moment of sad parting were followed instantly by the glad reunion in the presence of Jesus at His glorious appearing and the resurrection of the just.

It ought also to be a comforting thought to those whose lives have been filled with anxiety and grief for deceased loved ones who persisted in sin, to know that they are not now suffering in torments, but with all the rest of the dead, are quietly sleeping in their graves (Job 3:17).

In Romans 6:23 we learn that "... the wages of sin is

death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” This Scripture is plain enough to be easily understood. “The wages of sin is death.” The question that arises is: “What is death?” Man has always pondered the question. As children, most of us learned in public schools and elsewhere that the main difference separating man from the animals is the fact that man has a soul. Animals, we are taught, lacked a certain thing that man was born with. This thing that man possesses and not animals is called a soul. This causes man to live on while animals do not live on after death. Sometimes this soul in man is called a “Ghost”. People do not agree too generally on what becomes of the soul and the ghost at death. Too many people are misinformed about this subject and therefore are so afraid of it. *“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 5:18-21).

The Word of God teaches that the soul or ghost of a person stays with the person wherever he is buried and placed and remains there until the time of the resurrection. The Bible teaches that a resurrection is necessary for one to leave the grave. The Spirit that raised up Christ from the dead will quicken your mortal body on the day of resurrection, and you will be changed. Everyone must wait or rest in the grave for the proper change to come. And all the other promises made by the Word of God are sure, so you can be sure that your mortal body will become immortal at the resurrection, if you are a Believer.

It would appear from the many ideas that man has about death and the soul that goes somewhere at death would be found in the Bible and we could study it. Would it not then appear from the text of Romans 6:23 that death

and eternal life are opposites and cannot exist together with a soul? So then life eternal is a gift and must be given to us from the giver of all life.

Yes, everyone must die. The saints die at the coming of the Lord which have not gone to rest in the grave. Their death is a moment, a twinkling of an eye and their mortal bodies put on immortality. So will the death of all saints, of all ages, be just a twinkling of an eye for them to change from dust to immortality and all shall be caught up at the first resurrection to be forever with our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Question:** Will the promise ever be fulfilled, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”? (Luke 2:14).

**Answer:** Yes, in the establishment of the kingdom of the Prince of Peace. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

### Signs of the Times - continued from page 15

II Timothy 3:1-5 tells us what moral conditions will be characteristic in the last days. “This know also, that in the last days perilous (dangerous) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

An increase in knowledge and travel is a sign of the last days. “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Daniel 12:4).





*Get That 20/20 in 2020 San Antonio Youth Retreat*





## **THE DOG THAT WAS TOO BIG**

By Louise Hannah Kohr

Gregory Allen sat down on the floor suddenly and put his arms around his small, black dog Scamp. He was afraid for a moment that he was going to cry. If Judith said anything, he would say something also.

Judith knew just how Gregory felt about Scamp. It certainly wouldn't take much to bring tears into her brown eyes. The only difference between Gregory and Judith was that Judith was sure that God would hear their prayer.

Gregory had scoffed, "What time has God for a little dog like Scamp?"

Judith had answered slowly and thoughtfully, "Maybe God won't spare Scamp. He does not always do as we wish, but we can ask Him to do what He knows is best."

The time was about the day of Paul Revere in the early 1770's. The law said that no one must keep a dog beyond ten inches in height. Dogs beyond ten inches would be allowed to stay in Boston only by special permit. Bigger dogs were considered a nuisance, especially at butchering time.

They hadn't been happy to tell Gregory and Judith that Scamp had to go. He had grown beyond ten inches, and they couldn't hide the fact any longer. He was an outlaw. He would have to be turned over to the constables. This was Scamp's last night with them. Tomorrow he would have to go. It wasn't any fault of his, and there was nothing that could be done about it except, as Judith believed, to pray.

Scamp seemed to realize that things were not right. He whined a little and slapped his tail anxiously on the wide, pine floor boards of the room.

"Don't you worry, Greg," said Judith scratching Scamp's ears lovingly. "I'll talk to God about it."

Greg let Scamp sleep under his bed that night. If his

mother saw him, she didn't say anything.

The next morning Gregory and Judith set off early for the constable's office. Scamp was at their heels. They weren't saying much because there wasn't much to say.

Nothing had seemed to come from Judith's prayer. "I didn't ask God to let us have our own way," Judith told Gregory. "I just asked Him to be with us."

Maybe that was the trouble, Gregory thought. Maybe Judith should have asked God to let them keep Scamp.

Finally, Greg said, "Mr. Baylor's dog is twice the size of Scamp."

"Mr. Baylor is councilman for this district. You know that," Judith said. "He has a great deal of influence in the town. Father says he keeps Ponder for a watch dog, to guard the city papers."

"Well, then, there's Ridnour's dog. Look at the size of him."

Judith sighed. "I know Ridnour has special permission to keep his dog to look after his sheep. Father says Ridnour pays a lot of taxes. You know as well as I do that there are lots of big dogs in Boston. Father asked for permission to keep Scamp and..."

"And he was refused," Gregory muttered.

"It's because we are just a common, honest family, Father says."

"Well, I wish we weren't so honest," Greg said glancing down at the little dog that trotted at his heels.

"Greg," Judith protested, "you don't wish any such thing. You shouldn't say so, either."

"Well, we could keep him just one day longer," Greg said. But then Father said Scamp had to be given up that day.

Then, as if what Greg had said had been a sign, Scamp darted past them and started full speed down the street. Greg and Judith were after him in a flash.

"Come back here, Scamp! Here, Scamp!" Greg shouted. The little dog paid no attention to them.

"He knows," Judith panted. "He never ran away from us like that before."

Scamp darted the full length of the block with Greg and Judith in hot pursuit. At the corner, he suddenly changed his course and turned northward. He ran another block, and he dashed across the street right into the open door of the little church and disappeared into the quiet shadows of the sanctuary.

**continued on page twenty-two**

## LESSON I

## FOR DELIVERANCE

## THE GIBEONITES AVENGED ON SAUL

**Scripture Reading:** II Samuel 21:1-22.

**Golden Text:** II Samuel 21:9 (first part).

**"And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD:..."**

**NOTE:** We have already learned that Absalom tried to steal the throne from David. This must have been one of the most troublesome things in David's reign. It involved the defection of some of David's most trusted advisors and utterly broke his heart. You may read chapters 17-20 of II Samuel to learn how Absalom was killed and how David was restored to his throne.

1. Why had there been a famine in the land for three years? II Samuel 21:1.
2. David called the Gibeonites unto him. Who were the Gibeonites, and what did David want with them? II Samuel 21:2-3.
3. What request did the Gibeonites make of King David? II Samuel 21:4-6.
4. Did the king spare any of Saul's family from death? II Samuel 21:7.
5. Who was delivered into the hands of the Gibeonites? What happened to them? II Samuel 21:8-9.
6. What did Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah, do? Did David hear of this? II Samuel 21:10-14.
7. David and his servants again fought the Philistines. Read II Samuel 21:15-22, and then tell the story in your own words of the battles with the giants.

## LESSON II

## DAVID'S SONG OF THANKS

**Scripture Reading:** II Samuel 22:1-51.

**Golden Text:** II Samuel 22:33.

**"God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect."**

**NOTE:** King David is very thankful to God for delivering him from all his enemies. Some of the same thoughts which we read in this chapter appeared in many of David's Psalms.

1. Why is David speaking to the Lord at this time? II Samuel 22:1.
2. What did he call the Lord in II Samuel 22:2-3?
3. From what had David been delivered? II Samuel 22:4-8.
4. How does David picture God when He is wroth? II Samuel 22:9-16.
5. How had the Lord delivered David? II Samuel 22:17-21.
6. Had David been upright before God? II Samuel 22:22-29.
7. Read II Samuel 22:30-44, and then name the many ways in which the Lord had helped David.
8. Did David realize he could do all things with the help of the Lord? II Samuel 22:45-51.

## LESSON III

## DAVID'S LAST WORDS

**Scripture Reading:** II Samuel 23:1-23.

**Golden Text:** II Samuel 23:2.

**"The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."**



NOTE: We have been studying for some time the life of David. We are going to study now about the coming of his glorious but troubled existence. David was a grand character, impulsive, intensely human, generous to a fault; and though he did some things that were very wrong, he was strongly devoted to God and His ways. David stood like a rock for God.

1. What were David's last words? II Samuel 23:1-5.
2. What did he say about the sons of Belial? II Samuel 23:6-7.
3. David's mighty men are all listed in this chapter. Read II Samuel 23:8, and tell what this man did.
4. Tell how Eleazar smote the Philistines in II Samuel 23:9-10.
5. Who was Shammah,, and what did he do for David? II Samuel 23:11-12.
6. What did three of the thirty chiefs do to help David defeat the Philistines? II Samuel 23:14-17.
7. Who was Abishai? How did he help defeat the Philistines? II Samuel 23:18-19.
8. Who was Benaiah? What acts did he perform to help David? II Samuel 23:22-23.

**LESSON IV**

**THE NUMBERING OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH**

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 24:1-10.**

**Golden Text: II Samuel 24:1.**

**"And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah."**

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied about the close of David's reign as king. We are going to study now about how David numbered the people and how God regarded

the act a sin to be punished.

1. What did the king demand Joab do in II Samuel 24:2?
2. Did Joab believe David was right in taking a national census? II Samuel 24:3.
3. Did Joab finally obey King David in this matter? II Samuel 24:4.
4. Name the cities where they numbered the people. II Samuel 24:5-7.
5. How long did it take them to do this? II Samuel 24:8.
6. How many people were in Israel and Judah? II Samuel 24:9.
7. Did David immediately realize he had sinned? II Samuel 24:10.

**GUESS WHICH BIBLE CHILD**

**Some friends of Peter once gathered in  
A home to offer prayer,  
Because he was in prison cast  
And this girl was with them there.**

**She heard a knock, went to the door,  
And there was standing Peter.  
Amazed she ran to tell them all,  
But no one would believe her.**

**GUESS WHO? Acts 12:13**

**Answers to TESTIMONY**

- TENTMAKER**
- JEHOSHEBA**
- DISCIPLES**
- CENTURION**
- PATRIARCH**
- TESTAMENT**
- SCORPIONS**
- BRIMSTONE**
- DROMEDARY**

**continued from page nineteen**

At the door Greg stopped, breathless, and looked at Judith. "Maybe Scamp knows more than we think he does. Maybe he believes that God can help him."

"I prayed, you know. But let's ask Mr. Andrews. Maybe he knows a way that we can keep Scamp."

Mr. Andrews, the minister, was very kind when they went in the study to see him. He said he would like to hide the dog for them, but he couldn't. Nothing is hid from God, and Scamp was outside the law.

There was one thing Mr. Andrews could do. He would speak to Judge Radley, who was one of the elders of the church. He was also a man of importance in Boston. His word was law.

"So," Mr. Andrews concluded, "you may leave Scamp here in the church tonight. I will speak to the judge this evening. You may come for your dog in the morning, and I shall know if he may go home with you."

Greg didn't sleep much that night, and neither did Judith. For that matter, neither did Mr. Andrews nor the townspeople who lived near the little church.

Scamp had never been left alone in a dark church. He missed his friends. He laid back his small black head and howled and howled.

Mr. Andrews studied late into the night. When he had prayed, he climbed into his bed and tried to sleep. But sleep wouldn't come. Through the darkness came the dismal wail of the lonely little dog in the church next door.

As Mr. Andrews listened, Scamp's howls changed to quick, sharp yelps. Something was wrong. The minister listened again and was sure of it. He slipped quickly into his clothes and hurried over to the church.

There was a smell of wood smoke as he lifted the latch which wasn't from the log fire he had put out before he left his study. It was fresh burning wood.

In the little room in the back of the church, a fire was smoldering. A spark had caught in the wood box. Scamp was everywhere, dancing about the feet of his minister, barking short, clean yelps. Mr. Andrews quickly put out the blaze.

"I don't know, old fellow," he said to the dog, reaching down to pet him. "I'll have to see. You deserve a reward for watchfulness. I wonder what would become of my people without a place to worship."

The next day Judge Radley himself knocked at the Allen's home and asked to see Master Gregory and Miss Judith. He had with him a very important paper.

"Hrmph!" said the judge, clearing his throat. "It is a great thing your dog has done. Therefore, the city of Boston grants him herewith the right to live unmolested by the law."

Judith and Greg bowed in their best manner and thanked Judge Radley. But as soon as he was out of sight, they set off for the church to get Scamp.

"It's strange the ways things work out sometimes, isn't it?" Greg commented as they hurried down the street in the direction of their dog.

"Maybe," agreed his sister. "But I guess all along it's God's hand that's guiding everything."

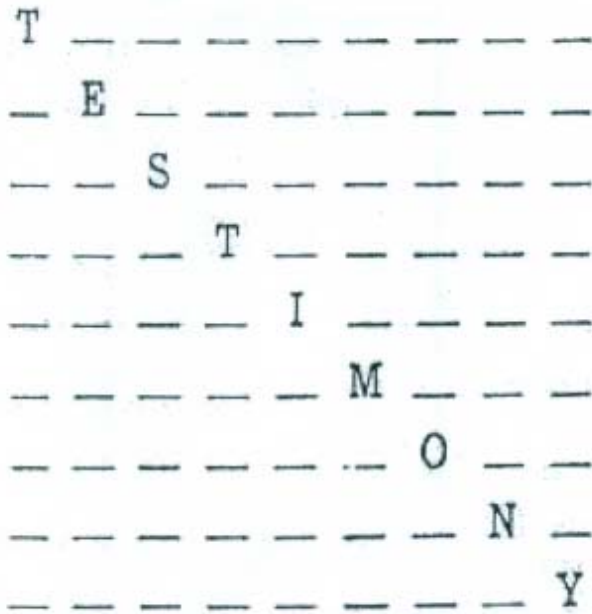
"Even little dogs?" Greg wondered.

"Well, a dog is bigger than a sparrow, and the Bible says he looks out for them," Judith answered, as her brother lifted the latch to the church door. "Anyway, one thing I do know - He hears prayer!"



*"...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).*

"He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true" (John 3:33).  
Using the clues given below, fill in each blank space.



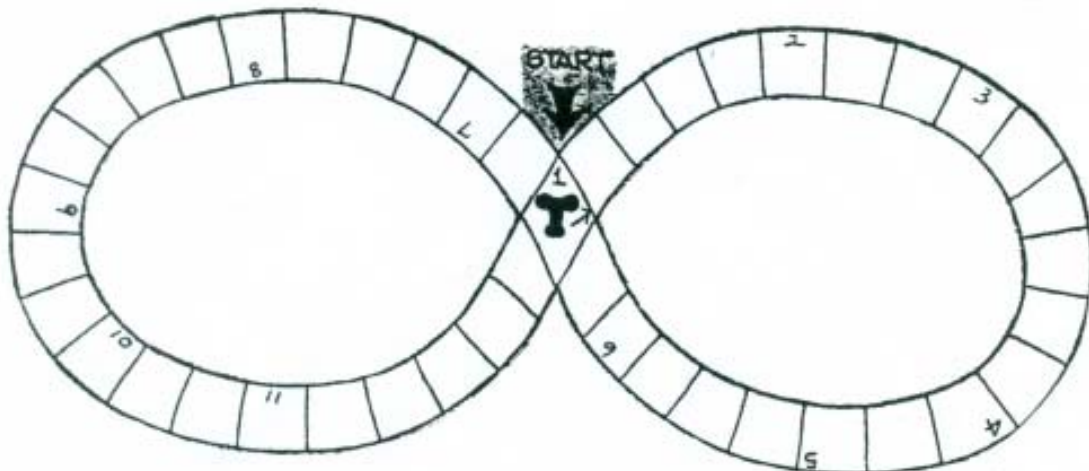
1. Paul's occupation; also that of Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:3).
2. She hid her baby nephew from the wrath of a murderous queen (II Kings 11:2).
3. The twelve apostles; followers (Luke 9:1).
4. He said, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof:" (Matthew 8:8).
5. Greek term meaning "head of the family; opposite of matriarch" (Hebrews 7:4).
6. Genesis to Malachi is called the Old \_\_\_\_.
7. Rehoboams' 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).

*Use the clues to fill in the spaces.  
The last letter of each word becomes  
the first letter of the next word.*

1. Solomon had this built so that Israel would have a place to worship God.
2. The garden that God created where Adam and Eve lived.
3. Jonah was instructed by God to go to this city to warn the people.
4. The youngest son of Noah.
5. He was hid in the bulrushes as a baby and helped lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
6. His purpose is to undo God's work and tempt men to sin.
7. These were put through Jesus's hands and feet when he was put on the cross.
8. One of the strongest men in the Bible. His strength was in his long hair, and when Delilah learned his secret, she cut his hair.
9. God instructed him to build an ark to escape the great Flood.
10. A musical instrument with strings that David played.
11. One of the 12 apostles that assisted Jesus in feeding the five thousand people.





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***THE PRAYER OF A PEOPLE***

*"Oh Father, come quickly,"  
Your people now pray;  
We're footsore and weary, and need You, today,  
Your face we are seeking as we bow to pray.*

*We earnestly tell You, we need You today,  
Our freedom has vanished somewhere on the way;  
And our rulers would tell us  
Where and when we can pray.*

*Our steps grow more slowly,  
Our hearts lose all hope;  
For Satan has brought us to the end of our rope.  
Oh, Father in heaven, won't You speed up Your plan  
And come and rule o'er us, as only You can?*

*We are constantly seeking Your mercy and grace,  
And long to behold the sight of Your face;  
We need You dear Father, we are so alone,  
Please come to us quickly,  
We need to come home.*

*--Betty Whetstone*

