

The Advocate of Truth

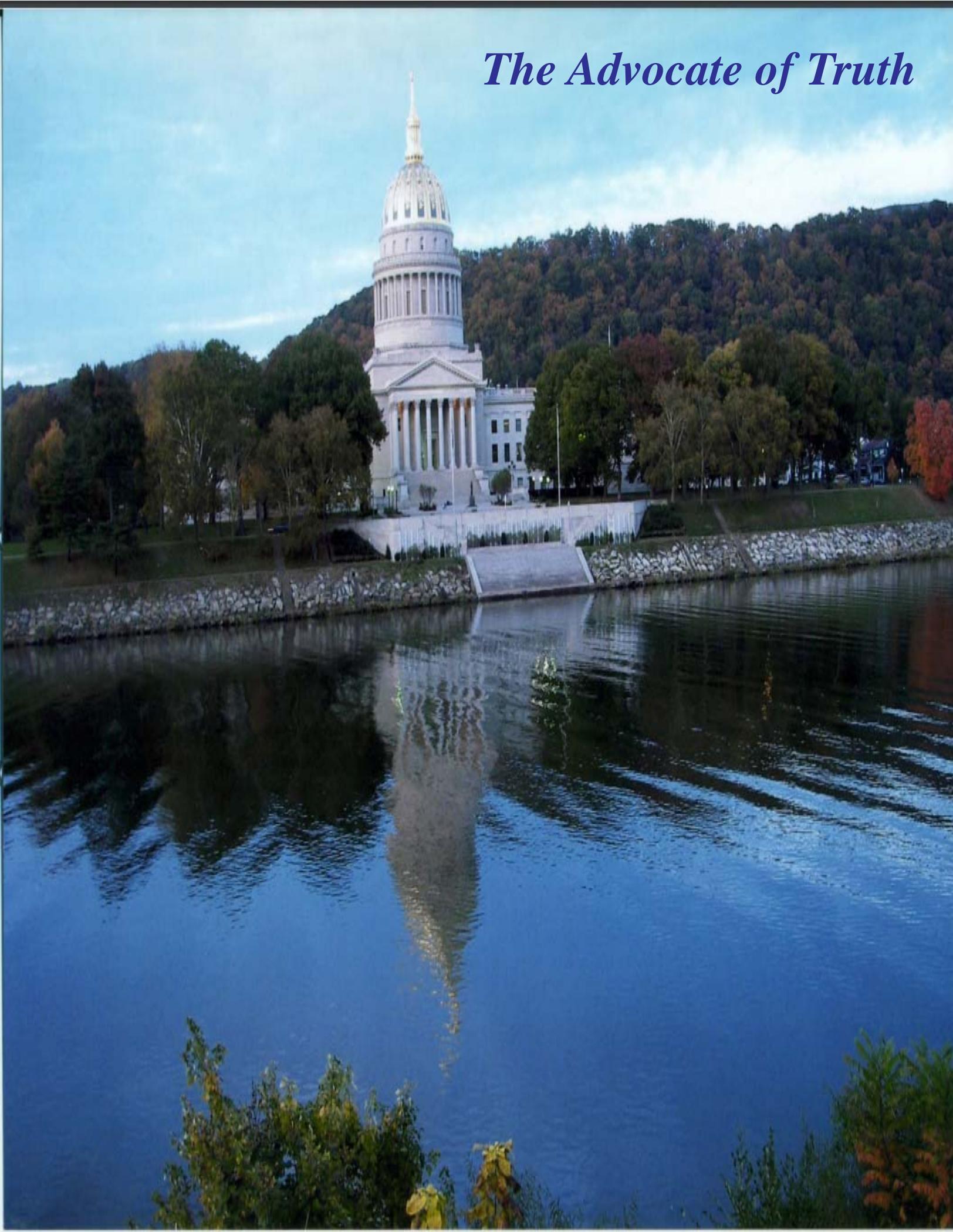




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THANKS

Be to God

By Carlo Rasmussen (Deceased)

The Apostle Paul wrote these words in his second letter to the Brethren who were at Corinth. The full sentence is, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15). Paul wrote here of the Grace of God which abounded in the Corinthian Church of God. In verse 11 we read where we "Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." This same thought applies to the Church of God today, for when we're full of the Grace of God and receive the bountiful blessings God gives to us we give thanks. There is a special reason why we should be especially thankful to the Lord in these times. We need to give heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

At the present time God has seen fit to place the world in the period of time called the dispensation of Grace. We are privileged to live in an age when one need not come through animal sacrifices and ceremonial ordinances to reach the Lord God. This is the time, or age, of grace. To many this is a mystery. Paul writes of it as a mystery in his writings. God has chosen this to be as a mystery for it will only be revealed to those who truly seek Him with all sincerity and truth. Upon a humble and sincere search of the Scriptures, the Lord will reveal the truth in His own time and way. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). This period of "Grace" wherein we live has been misunderstood through the tricks of Satan himself. There is deception as to what has actually been accomplished for the world and what is expected of the world. There are those at one extreme who claim the understanding that in this time of Grace we

do not need to be mindful of the moral code, the Ten Commandments. They claim the Commandments have been "nailed to the cross." On the other extreme there are those who say we must also observe the ceremonial laws, or feast days of the Mosaic Law. Neither of these two extremes is the will of God for this present "age of Grace."

Thanks be to God for the revealed truth to all who sincerely seek it in the Scriptures. Let us thank the Lord, who has shown a more sure way than that of total lawlessness or total bondage. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Let us consider this truth as we prayerfully study the Living Word of God.

Thanks be to God for the comfort of knowing His Ten Laws of Love continue to remain in effect and as steadfast and sure as the Lord Himself. We are reminded of this in John's first letter where he writes, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). The Law of Love is the only guide for the life of the true child of God. John further writes that it is a "sin" to disobey, or transgress the law in I John 3:4.

It is from breaking one of the Commandments whereby sin is committed. From failing to truly love God and our fellow-man we commit sin. The only way to fully understand what sin really is, we must gain full knowledge of the Ten Commandments. The Apostle Paul confirms this in Romans 7:7 where he writes; "...I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." This same thought applies to all the Ten Commandments of God, the Royal Law. Within these judgments is revealed also everything

necessary to allow all men to live together in peace. There is no other law, with this end in mind, that has been written which has not already been covered within the Ten Commandments. The spiritual guidelines are pointed out within the first four Commandments, for therein we see how to show our love unto God Himself. Here we have that "First and great commandment," spoken of by Jesus (Matthew 22:38). For any to claim they know the Lord Jesus and then deny a portion of what He represented would be sin, for He represented all the Royal Law. If we deny the Law, we then deny Jesus; and if we deny Jesus, He will also deny us before the Father in heaven. It is a true saying that we do not receive salvation from keeping the Ten Commandments. The Commandments are our Divine Daily Guide, wherein is made known the complete will of God for man. Salvation comes only through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ. Should we stumble in our daily walk, or find ourselves moving astray from God's will, (the Ten Commandments), then we humbly come to God and ask forgiveness and are under the Blood of Jesus Christ through the Grace of God. The Grace of God is unmerited favor wherein all God's children are. At the time God has forgiven us, we again become free from being under the Law and maintain ourselves within the boundaries thereof.

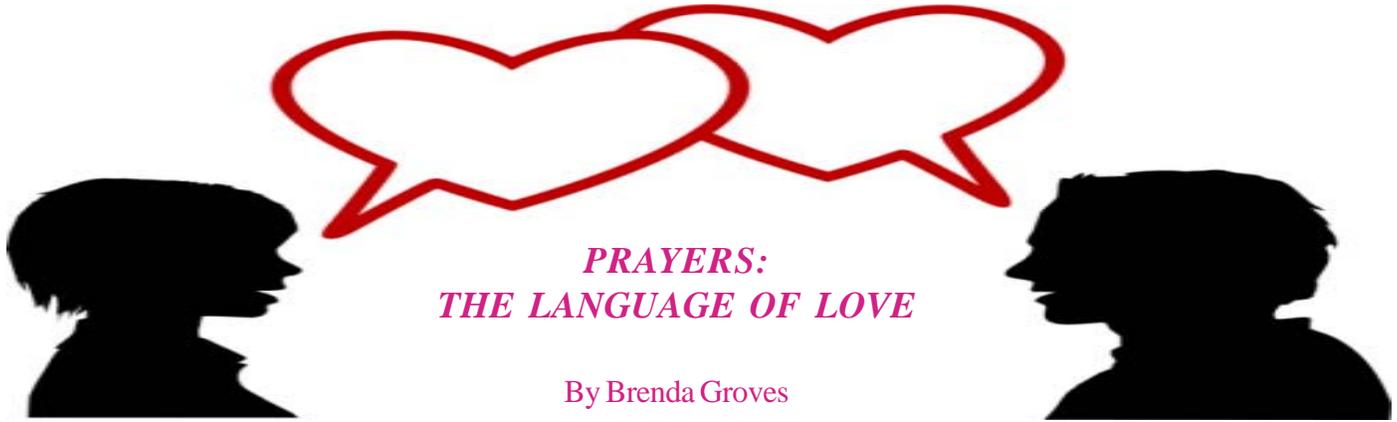
Thanks be to God for His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom He gave because of His love for the world; "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). In Jesus Christ we have the center of the plan of salvation for all who will accept Him according to the Scriptures. Before Jesus died on the cross he said; "It is finished." At that time the large veil in the temple was torn into two parts, (Mark 15:38). Now the most holy place of the Levitical Priesthood was opened for all to see and herein was a large rock, for the ark had already been removed. A good thought to consider here would be that rock represents Jesus Christ. He is now our priest officiating only within the Most Holy Place in heaven. Here also would be revealed for all to know that ceremonies and binding regulations of the feast days have passed away.

That spiritual usefulness of the Levitical Priesthood was dead for all was now exposed. Now they had become the mere symbols of That which they testified to, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the time had come when the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to be the bread of unleavened sincerity and truth partaken of daily in our lives through

the Scriptures within the heart of the believer. Now the Feast of Tabernacles would also become a daily spiritual feast where the indwelling Holy Spirit of God would abide within the heart and there in thus emanating from the believer its fruits from within the converted heart of the individual. Our bodies now become the "tabernacle" of God. Pentecost now represents the beginning of the indwelling Holy Spirit and we would do well to consider a reminder of Pentecost each time a new babe in Christ is begotten and a spiritual life is begun through Jesus Christ at baptism. Yes, dear reader, as Jesus said, "It is finished." Now we are under the Melchisedec Priesthood with Jesus Christ as the High Priest. No more is there a need to observe the Mosaic Law in this age.

The age of Grace is truly a wonderful age for the believer of God. It is a time for all the nations of the world to come and accept the Lord in the fashion He desires most, through a humble and sincere heart. This the Lord values above all else in His creation. Soon this age will come to an end. This time will have reached its fullness and the age of Grace will give way to the Last recorded period of time in the Scriptures. Let us continue to press onward in this present time wherein the Grace of God abounds towards all in Christ. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.





PRAYERS: THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

By Brenda Groves

When I was a young child I recall praying to God on a daily basis. It was more like just talking to Him. I thanked Him for candy, for my family, for our house, for my dog, for my cat, but NEVER for spiders.

I do remember my first religious prayer, “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep and if I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.” You know, that prayer never really gave me any comfort as a child. I even recall a few times I laid awake for hours to make sure that I didn’t die in my sleep. Lol. In my opinion that’s a terrible prayer.

As I got older my prayers became more selfish, “God, give me this” or “fix that,” or even “make my sisters be nice to me.” (It was never, “help me be nice to them.”)

In my teen years it seemed my basic need was “not to get caught” doing something so my prayers consisted of this main request. And this is also when life got busy. So I developed my own “shotgun” approach to prayer where I would fire off a barrage of requests to God while curling my hair with one hand and applying mascara with the other.

When I entered my twenties I was faced with real adult issues and situations. My prayers got serious. Marriage, motherhood, job, finances. And several addictions I didn’t discuss with the Lord very much except for a few, “forgive me’s” from time to time along with several resurrected, “don’t let me get caught,” requests.

Then in 1996 at the age of 33 I came to the end of myself and for the first time and with my whole heart I

finally spoke a prayer in faith, “God change me.”

For the first time I was not praying for a better life/ circumstances or even for someone else. I did not want to be me anymore (John 12:25).

I had prayed at God for all of my life but I had not met God. I had times where I experienced His presence or comfort but again I knew that I had never met Jesus.

So I got down on my knees one night and said, “God I have heard about You my whole life but I don’t know You. I have prayed to You all of my life, but I never met You. Jesus, I am not moving one step until I speak to You.”

This prayer was answered instantly (Rev. 3:20).

Suddenly I felt like a huge weight had been lifted off of my shoulders. Then waves of God’s unconditional love, grace and mercy flowed through my entire soul and body.

Then a peace like I had never known came into my heart and I knew God.

I remember with tears streaming down my face and with my next breath I said, “God YOU ARE REAL! Jesus YOU’REALIVE.”

For the first time I knew God as my heavenly Father, as if a veil had been lifted off of my face. I knew I had made peace with Him. I knew that my sins were forgiven – all of them. Not just because someone told me, now I knew this truth in my heart, at that moment. I met Love and I knew Jesus could save anyone.

But here is the strange part. That is where my faith stopped in a way. I still found myself asking heavenly Father to do something in my life. And I was seeing some of my prayers being answered but I still struggled with many things.

Finally, ten years later, after being sick and facing a diagnosis of MS, the Lord brought a Bible teaching into my path. Actually, several teachings: "Spirit, Soul and Body," "You've Already Got It," "God Wants You Well" and praise Jesus, "A Better Way To Pray."

Long story short, with this correct teaching of the Word of God I was able to position myself to receive by faith what the Lord has already provided by grace in other areas, not only saved from the lake of fire..

Within a relatively short time I was healed of MS, delivered from a drug addiction and cigarette addiction.

My prayer life has changed from "God do something" to "Thank you Lord for what You have already done."

And by faith I began reaching out and receiving this "abundant life" that Jesus spoke about in John 10:10.

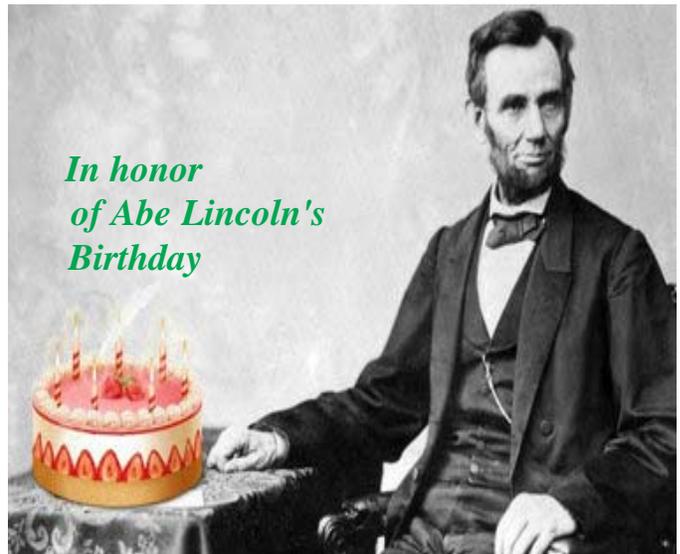
Now, most of our time is spent enjoying each other's company. John 17:3 "For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

I haven't arrived but I've left and I want to encourage you to take a look at your prayer life. What kind of results are you getting? Are you frustrated? Do you feel defeated? Or that your prayers are falling on deaf ears." Maybe it's because you are asking the Lord to do something He has already done.

Don't settle for less than God's best. Why would we do that? Jesus paid for it. I want it all, I don't want to waste one drop of His grace.

In Jesus name, I pray that everyone reading this column, including myself, has the eyes of our understanding opened to receive greater revelation of what the Lord Jesus has done for us, here on this earth as it is in heaven.

--Taken from The Post, Texas City



WORDS THAT LIVE IN HISTORY

When the battlefield at Gettysburg was dedicated to the memory of those who had fought and died for the unity of their country and for its continuance as a land of free people, Edward Everett, a man of highest culture and classic education, was chosen as the orator of the day. He spoke for an hour and 57 minutes, and all agreed that it was a most eloquent oration. After that a dirge was sung. Then came the dedicatory address by the president of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln rose with all the dignity of his honest nature and of his high office, and stepped to the front of the platform. A hush came upon the multitude as they looked at his kindly face, deeply lined and weary with the burdens of the war years. He spoke for about two minutes. Everett's great oration is forgotten, but Lincoln's Gettysburg Address lives in the hearts of the American people, and will live as long as there are people on the earth who believe in government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Do you wonder, then, that in a supreme sense the words of Jesus Christ have lived through the centuries in the hearts of all right-thinking people? Do you wonder that people said of Jesus, "No man spake like this Man." His face radiated His love for men, and He carried on His heart their sins and sorrows.

A Tribute To Abraham Lincoln

By David DeLong

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 in a small log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky to Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Lincoln had an older sister named Sarah, and a younger brother, Thomas, who died in infancy. The Lincoln family moved from Kentucky to Indiana in 1816. Life for "Abe" was quite hard. When he was only eight years old he used an ax to cut wood on the frontier. In 1818 Abe's mother, Nancy, died of the "milk sickness" probably caused by the contaminated milk from cows which had eaten snakeroot. Abe entered a time of sorrow and loneliness.

Thomas Lincoln made a trip back to Kentucky, marrying a widow named Sarah Bush Johnston, in 1819. She brought along her three children into the marriage. This eased Abe's loneliness. When Abe and Sarah, his sister, were not needed at home they attended school in a log building. Abe had less than a year's schooling but he could read, write, and cipher to the rule of three. He would travel long distances to borrow a book to read.

When Abe was 14, Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln joined the Pigeon Creek Baptist Church. A number of denominations at that time had bitter rivalry against each other. That may have been the reason that Abe never joined a church nor attended services regularly. However, Abe was a very religious person with a good knowledge of the Bible. His speeches and writings contained a number of references to the Bible. When he became President he kept a copy of the Bible on his desk and read it frequently for guidance and comfort. Though Abe was a religious person, he may not have become a true Christian until about three weeks before his death.

In 1830 the Lincolns moved to the rich, black soiled prairies of Illinois. Though Abe was now 21, and could be independent, he stayed with his father until he was 22 before striking out on his own. He began life on his own in the little village of New Salem, Illinois. He served a stint in the Black Hawk war, becoming a captain, then ran for the state legislature, being defeated. He became part owner

of a store in New Salem, but the venture only brought him into debt. After his co-owner died in 1835, it took Abe several years to work his way out of debt. But this action helped earn him the nick name of "Honest Abe."

Besides being co-owner of the store in New Salem, Abe was appointed as postmaster of New Salem, and was also deputy county surveyor, a job for which he studied hard. During this time period he knew a girl by the name of Ann Rutledge. Ann died in 1835, leaving Abe grief stricken.

Abe ran again for the Illinois state legislature, this time as a Whig. He won, and served about eight years on the Illinois General Assembly. Here he met the Democratic legislator known as Stephen A. Douglas. During Abe's time as state legislator he helped in the establishment of the Bank of Illinois and in adopting a plan for railroads and canals, which plan broke down after the Panic of 1837. While in the legislature, Abe spoke out on the evils of slavery.

In 1834 Abe began his study of law which in 1836 allowed him to become a lawyer. He held positions with other lawyers until he came into partnership with William H. Herndon which he held even after he was elected President of the United States. While living in Springfield, Illinois Abe met, and married, Mary Todd who was from Kentucky. They had a stormy, but loving, marriage producing four sons, Robert Todd, Edward Baker, William Wallace, and Thomas (Tad). Three of the four sons died when still young. Abe and Mary remained married until Abe's death.

Lincoln ran for Congress in 1843 and 1844, losing the nomination both times. He then worked to elect Whig candidate Henry Clay for president. In 1846 Abe was nominated to the U. S. House of Representatives, taking his seat there in 1847 and serving one term until 1849. He then returned to Springfield where he resumed his practice of law. He became a prosperous lawyer.

The issue of slavery brought Abe back into politics.

This brought him into rivalry with Stephen A. Douglas who supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act which would allow territories to decide for themselves if they wanted slavery or not.

In 1856 Lincoln joined the newly formed Republican Party which was an anti-slavery party. He worked to get John C. Fremont elected as president, which failed. In 1858 Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas ran for the Senate of the U.S. They both engaged in what has become known as the Lincoln-Douglas debates, a number of debates in Illinois, centering around the issue of slavery. Douglas was elected to the Senate, but Abe had gained enough national attention that he was elected to the presidency in 1860.

God's hand in history is sometimes so well documented that it becomes obvious. Such is the case with Abraham Lincoln's election as President of the United States. Even before Lincoln took office, South Carolina had seceded from the Union, and by the time Lincoln did take office six more southern states had left the Union. Four more southern states followed suit.

Though it may not have been obvious at the time, the Lord allowed Lincoln, as President, to lead the United States through four years of Civil War, and allowed him to issue the Emancipation Proclamation which helped set the stage for the elimination of slavery in the U.S. Abe, however, was assassinated by a southern sympathizer named John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865.

--from the World Book Encyclopedia

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S CREED

I believe in God, the Almighty Ruler of Nations, our good and merciful Maker, our Father in Heaven, who notes the fall of a sparrow and numbers the hairs of our heads, I believe in His eternal truth and justice...

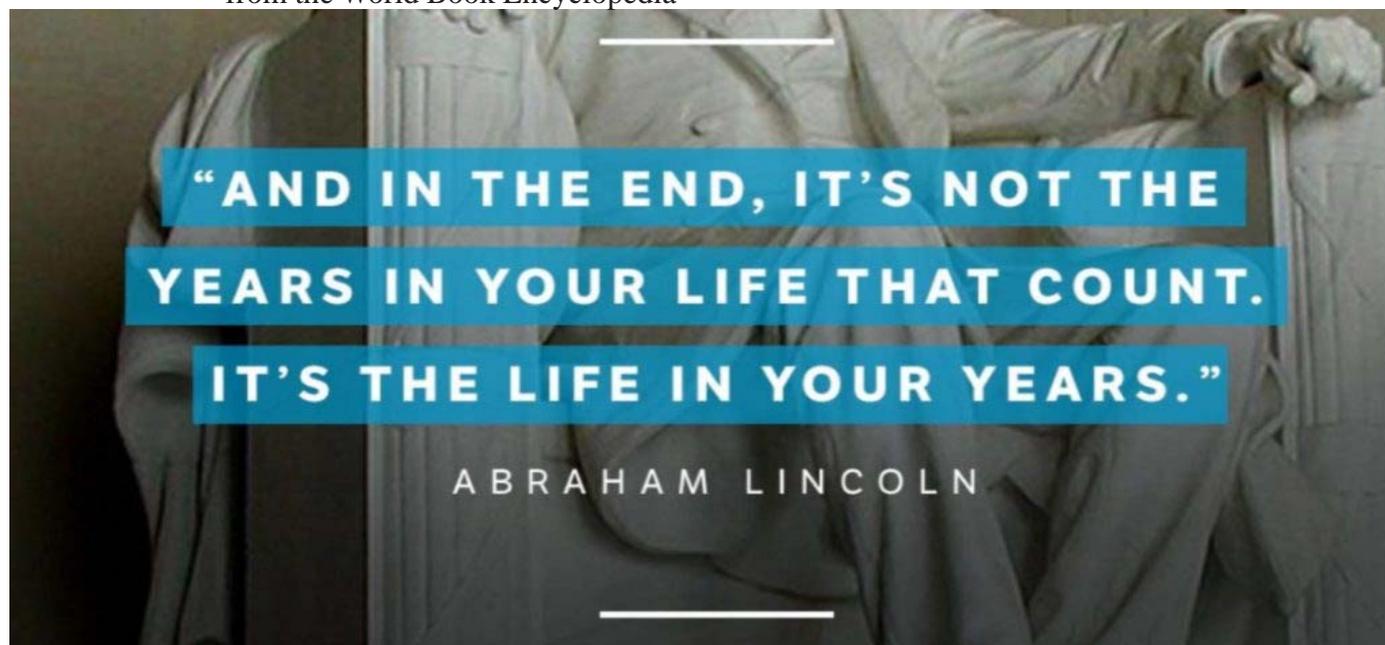
I recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scripture and proven by all history that those nations only are blest whose God is the Lord.

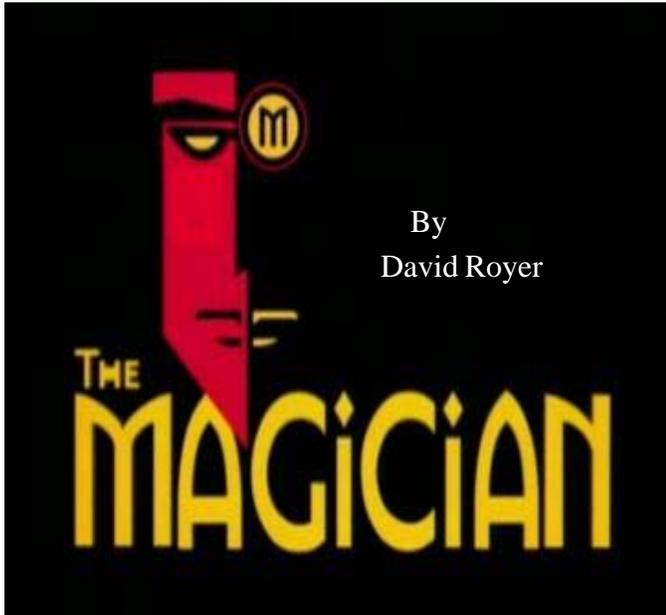
I believe that it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to include the influence of His Holy Spirit to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon...

I believe that the Bible is the best gift which God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this Book.

I believe that the will of God prevails. Without Him all human reliance is vain. Without the assistance of that Divine Being I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail.

Being a humble instrument in the hands of our Heavenly Father, I desire that all my works and acts may be according to His will; and that it may be so, I give thanks to the Almighty, and seek His aid.





By
David Royer

Before Jesus's ascension to Heaven, He commanded His Apostles to, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19), and, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus's "Great Commission" sent one of the Seven, Philip the Evangelist, also known as Philip the Deacon (Acts 21:8) to Samaria. The Samaritans were considered outcasts from Jewish society, mixing biblical teachings from the five Books of Moses with paganism.

While evangelizing in Samaria, Philip met a religious leader known as Simon the Magician.

Acts 8:9-11 gives us a great description of Simon. "But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries."

In addition to performing miracles, Philip gained followers with the proclamations that Jesus was the

Messiah and that His Kingdom would come. "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:6-8). Many Samaritans were baptized by Philip, including Simon, the Magician.

Good news travels fast. The apostles Peter and John went to Samaria to further instruct the new converts. They also "laid hands on them" and prayed for those baptized to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17-19). Now when Simon saw that authentic Christianity also involved receiving the Spirit of God, he wanted that gift. So, Simon offered the apostles money if they would give him this power.

The apostles rejected Simon as a man of bitterness. Peter rebuked Simon, telling him: "... Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee" (Acts 8:20-22).

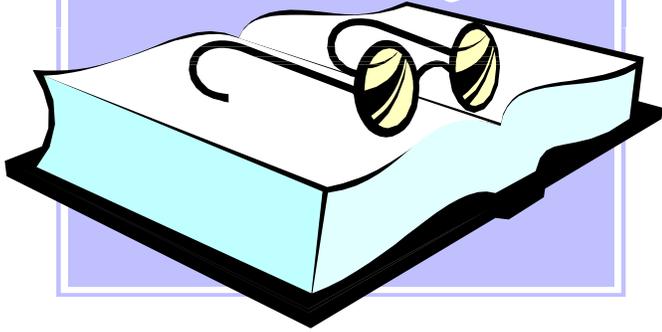
We can make a couple of assumptions: 1. By acquiring this gift, Simon thought he would be able to enrich himself by selling it to others for a good price, as he probably did with his magic. He would be able to regain his prestige of having the perceived power of God, which was now at stake, and 2. Simon was not truly converted. The story of Simon, the Magician ends here. The Bible does not tell us if Simon ever did repent. The lessons for us to keep in mind are that the gifts of God cannot be purchased, and that God knows our hearts and intentions.

Consider these questions and answers by David the Psalmist: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?"

"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully" (Psalm 24:3-4).

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Home Instructor Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

PART 3 - SOME SYMBOLS OF PROPHECY

Question: What is the meaning of a woman in prophecy?

Answer: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you (the church) as a chaste virgin to Christ" II Corinthians 11:2.

Question: What is the meaning of sea or water?

Answer: "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" Revelation 17:15.

Question: What is the meaning of a beast?

Answer: "The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings (or powers) of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king (power) of Grecia" Daniel 8:20-21 first part.

Question: What is the meaning of horns?

Answer: "...and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king (Alexander). Now that being broken, whereas four (horns) stood up for it, four kingdoms (originated by the four generals of Alexander's army) shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his (Alexander's) power" Verse 21 last part and 22.

NOTE: The four generals of Alexander divided the kingdom among them after the death of Alexander. Horns in prophecy therefore mean more than one nation working together. The Ram had two horns, Media and Persia.

Question: What is the meaning of a dragon?

Answer: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan" Revelation 12:9 first part.

Question: What is the meaning of a time?

Answer: "That they shall drive thee (Nebuchadnezzar) from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will...And they shall drive thee from men, and they dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" Daniel 4:25, 32.

NOTE: The word "time" in these verses refer to a year according to the Hebrew derivation from Strong's Concordance.

Question: How many days are in one of God's months?

Answer: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened" Genesis 7:11.

"And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat" Genesis 8:4. "And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days" Genesis 7:24.

NOTE: From the seventeenth day of the second month

to the seventeenth day of the seventh month is exactly five months. The waters prevailed for an hundred and fifty days. Divide one hundred and fifty by 5 and you will find that there are exactly 30 days to each month.

Question: How long would a time, times, and a half a time be?

Answer: "Since a time is a year, times would be two years, a half a time would be half a year or a total of three and one half years. This would be equivalent to forty and two months. Using 30 days to the month the answer is 1260 days.

Question: How long is a prophetic day?

Answer: "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise" Numbers 14:34.

"And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year" Ezekiel 4:6.

Question: What is the meaning of a sickle?

Answer: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle" Revelation 14:14

"And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven" Mark 13:27.

Question: What is the meaning of the Sea of Glass?

Answer: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" Revelation 15:2.

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as a crystal;

(glass)...And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass...And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" Revelation 21:10-11, 18, 21.

Question: What is the meaning of the Lamb?

Answer: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1:29.

Question: What is the meaning of the seven trumpets?

Answer: "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets...And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up" Revelation 8:2, 6-7.

NOTE: As these seven angels hold these seven trumpets they are holding the seven last plagues; and, as each sound their trumpet it is the pouring out of that plague.

Question: What is the meaning of the seven vials?

Answer: "And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" Revelation 15:7-8.

NOTE: The seven angels holding the seven vials are holding the seven last plagues and each angel has control over that plague.

Question: What is the meaning of angel or angels?

Answer: According to the Davis Dictionary of the Bible, Fourth Revised Edition, an angel is a messenger or a minister. As a celestial being they are a little higher than man (Hebrews 2:7) and are sent to bring messages to and minister to the people of the earth. As ministers in our churches they are spoken of in Revelation 1:20, 2:1,8,12,18.

REMEMBERING THE APOSTLE PETER

By Moisés Torres M.

Simon Peter, the apostle, was one of the most outstanding characters at the beginning of the Gospel and one of the closest disciples to the Lord Jesus Christ. Rough in personality, perhaps because of his job as a fisherman, but full of many qualities: impulsive but noble at the same time, knowledgeable, humble and obedient; He was a very observant man which helped him to perceive the greatness and majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ, and be able to identify Him as the Son of God with the help of the heavenly Father. (Matthew 16:16).

Peter always exhibited a great respect and fear towards the Lord Jesus Christ, who in turn sought him much and made him participate in many particular events in the company of other disciples like Andrew, James and John.

He was called by the Lord to witness that event of the Transfiguration on the high Mount. (Matthew 17:1), together with James and John.

On the Mount of Olives. (Mark 13:3), the Lord talked to them separately.

In Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:37); Peter was one of those who saw the Lord Jesus in his suffering before his crucifixion.

When Jesus healed a young girl, he allowed only Peter, James, and John to enter into the house where she was, (Luke 8:51-56). This may be seen as a mystery, or as if the Lord made a distinction among his disciples; but the Lord always had a reason, He had a plan for Peter, just as He has a plan for all of us.

Peter was the one who knelt before the Lord in great awe as he recognized His majesty, when his nets were filled with a multitude of great fish. (Luke 5:8).

It was Peter and John whom the Lord commanded to

prepare the Passover (Luke 22:8). And it was Peter, who knowing his master's majesty did not want him to wash his feet. (John 13:6-8). He did not understand many things yet. And although it was he who wept much for having denied three times being a disciple of Jesus, it was precisely he who hours before had cut off an ear of the servant of the Pontiff for defending his Lord and Master. This would seem to be an incongruity in the courageous character of Peter; but let us reflect the same may happen to all of us. Let us not look at Peter's human tendencies, but let us learn from him, for it might happen that in some way we were denying our Lord too.

Let us remember the words of the apostle Paul in Titus 1:16, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him..."



*Singing praises to the Lord.
From left to right - Brother Manuel Gonzalez
(California), Brother Joel Cruz (Dallas, Texas),
Apostle Moisés Torres M. (Mexico) and playing
guitar Brother Osman Pineda (Honduras)*



CROWNS - We learn that the crown has different meanings and has varied situations in the Bible. Those of the country of Moab magnified themselves instead of God and destruction came upon them even to the crown of their head, or that is to the top of the head, devouring them completely.

In Lamentations 5 we find the distress of Israel lamenting their shortcomings and confessing them to God and in referring to their crown that has fallen, or that is they have lost all power and authority, and have become servants to strangers and aliens. We today need to realize that God is in control and can set up powers and take down powers to fit His ongoing plan for Jesus to return.

The next crown I see is the crown of thorns that was put on Jesus's head. The purpose of that crown was so they could mock Him as the king of the Jews and to hit it with a reed to drive the thorns into His scalp. The executioners of that day and time liked to inflict as much pain and suffering on those being crucified as they could before they were placed on the cross.

The Apostle Paul compares an athlete competing for the crown of winning a race, to us running the race wanting the crown of life instead of the corruptible crown for self-glory. In the last days of his life Paul reminds us that he had fought a good fight and run a good race and knew because of that God had a crown laid up for him. He says he will receive it at the coming of Jesus, and we that love Jesus's coming will receive a crown also. James calls this the crown of life. It is the same crown that the church at Smyrna was promised if they remained faithful until they died.

Finally, when Jesus comes for the saints in Revelation 14, He is wearing a single crown as He is coming for one people, those who have taken Him as their savior. Hold fast to your faith, endure to the end and receive that crown, then we will become kings and priests in Jesus's soon coming kingdom.

Forgiveness

by Sister Makeda Richards

Grenada, West Indies

Have you ever felt deeply betrayed, hurt, or angered by someone?

You feel the bitterness in your heart because of how you've been wronged.

It's like pain that seeks vengeance, an eye for an eye,

But the logical part of you knows that for you to truly live, that pain has to die.

Well, that's when you think of forgiveness,

Only God can create such a quality giving your soul calmness.

It is an ease in your heart that relieves grudges,

And a healing that allows you to open up again and to spiritually flourish.

To make forgiveness easier for you,

Think about how you have sinned against God, too.

Furthermore, you should no longer hold a grudge against another,

Remember, God no longer holds us accountable and with our past he does not bother.

In fact, God forgives us as much as we forgive in all honesty,

So we have to let go of any of our heart's animosity.

Letting go will open us to blessings and spiritual prosperity,

And grant us a chance to be in God's kingdom for eternity.

The Gentiles

By David DeLong

Basically, any group of people who are not Israelites, Jews, or Hebrews, are known as Gentiles. So, we could probably say that Adam and Eve, and their descendants down to possibly Shem, were known as Gentiles. As a matter of fact, some of Japheth's descendants, as listed in Genesis 10:2-5 are given as being Gentiles. "The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations."

In the book of Judges we find a story where the children of Israel were delivered from their enemy by Deborah, a prophetess. Chapter 4:1-7 informs us: "And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead. And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles. And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel. And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand."

Sisera, the captain of Jabin, who lived in Harosheth of the Gentiles, was thoroughly defeated. However, he escaped on foot and went to the tent of Jael who invited

Sisera to come into the tent. After Sisera fell asleep, Jael took a tent peg and hammer and drove the peg through Sisera's temples, killing him.

Though the children of Israel became God's special people in the Old Testament, the Lord, thankfully, did not want all Gentiles destroyed. In Isaiah 43, verses 1 and 10 we learn about the Israelites: "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine...Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." Israel was to be God's witnesses to the Gentile nations about them. However, they failed miserably at being witnesses. We know that Jesus, God's only begotten Son, who came through Israel, did not fail at being God's true witness. In Isaiah 42: 1 and 6-7 we read: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles...I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

During the Millennium Gentiles will come to seek the Lord. We read in Isaiah 11: 9-10: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." The Lord speaks of Jerusalem during this time: "For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees" (Isaiah 66:12).

But before the Millennium begins there will be a great battle in the "valley of Jehoshaphat" also known as the "valley of decision" with the Lord fighting Gentile nations which have come against Jerusalem. Joel 3:9-16 proclaims: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."

This appears to be the same time period that Zechariah wrote about: "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zechariah 14:1-3).

Because of Judah and Israel's sins, the Lord brought them into captivity. Israel was captured by the Assyrians and Judah was captured by the Babylonians. Concerning Judah we read in prophecy Zechariah 1:20-21: "And the LORD showed me four carpenters. Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it."

In Jesus' first advent we read about a prophecy concerning Him and His mission: "Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:12-17). Another prophecy concerning Jesus is in Matthew 12:18 and 21: "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles...And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."

Jesus foretold of the destruction of Jerusalem and of events thereafter in Luke chapter 21. Verses 20-24 instructs us: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

Cornelius, the Roman centurion and some of his men, may have been the first Gentile converts mentioned in the New Testament (provided that the Ethiopian eunuch converted by Philip in Acts 8 was not a Gentile). We read about their conversion in Acts 10:44-45: "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

This conversion of Cornelius and his men fulfills what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:11-13: "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the

commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." And in Colossians 1:27 we find: "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

As a matter of fact the Apostle Paul was sent as an apostle to the Gentiles. In Acts 9:15 we read concerning Paul: "But the Lord said unto him (Ananias), Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." And in Acts 18:5-6 we read: "And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles."

Before this time Paul had preached to both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogues. For instance, we learn of this in Acts 13:42 and 44: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath...And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." In Acts 15:12-18 we learn: "Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world."

God allowed the Gentiles to obtain salvation because Israel fell through sin. We read in Romans 11:11-12: "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing

of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"

It has always been God's intention to save all people, Jews and Gentiles. I Corinthians 12:13 reads: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

Help Is On The Way!

By David DeLong

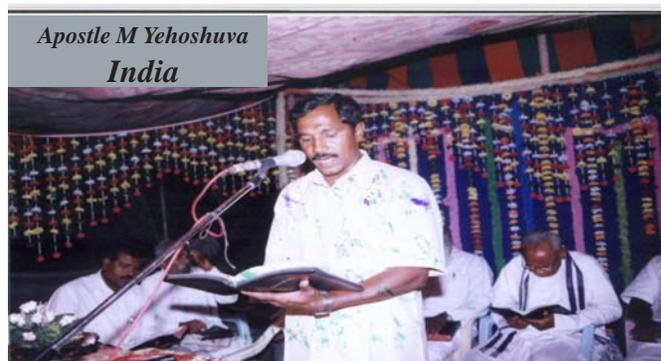
Your load, it may be heavy,
Sincerely you did pray;
Just trust the Lord of mercies
For help is on the way!

It took an angel three weeks
To break out from the fray;
And with the aid of Michael,
Help was on the way!*

This help was meant for Daniel,
And there was no delay;
As soon as he did chasten self
Help was on the way!

On this you can most surely trust,
Whether night or day;
As soon as you implore the Lord
Help is on the way!

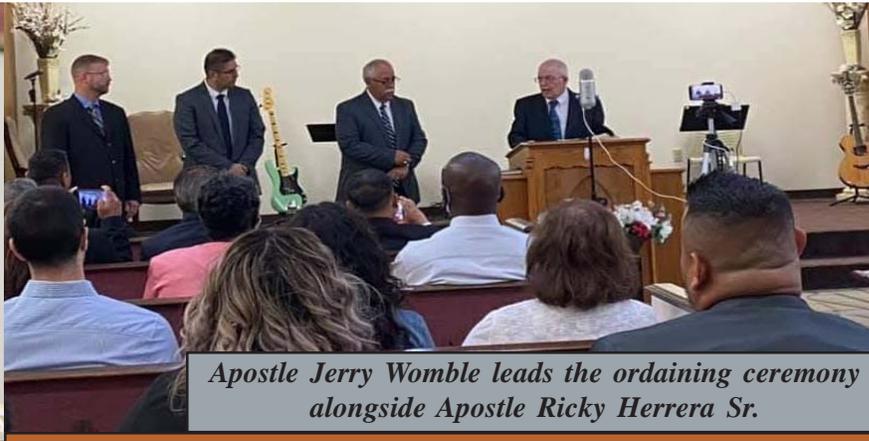
*See Daniel, chapter 10.



Apostle M Yehoshuva
India



Apostle Paul Herrera Sr.



Apostle Jerry Womble leads the ordaining ceremony alongside Apostle Ricky Herrera Sr.



Above -Brother Ben DeLong and Brother Richard Santiesteban embracing after being ordained. Below - Members of the Twelve and Seven during the Apostolic Council Meeting viewing pictures of India's Church.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in the lovely name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On June 10-11, 2021, the ministers gathered from around the world in the church of Dallas, Texas to conduct the business of the Church. The Board of Seven and the Apostles of the Church and other ministers from around the world discussed and approved a new church building in India along with the dispersment of monies to the foreign fields.

The apostles also approved Brother Gary Mills as the Managing Editor of the Advocate of Truth and our new Office Manager is Sister Christy Howell.

The council concluded the business before sundown on Friday, June 10 and on the Sabbath ordained two new ministers to the Church: Brothers Richard Santiesteban and Ben DeLong.

It was a successful meeting and we thank you for your continued support and prayers.



Members of the Twelve lay hands on Brother Gary Mills as he takes on an additional new role needed to be filled from the passing of Apostle Delwin DeLong.

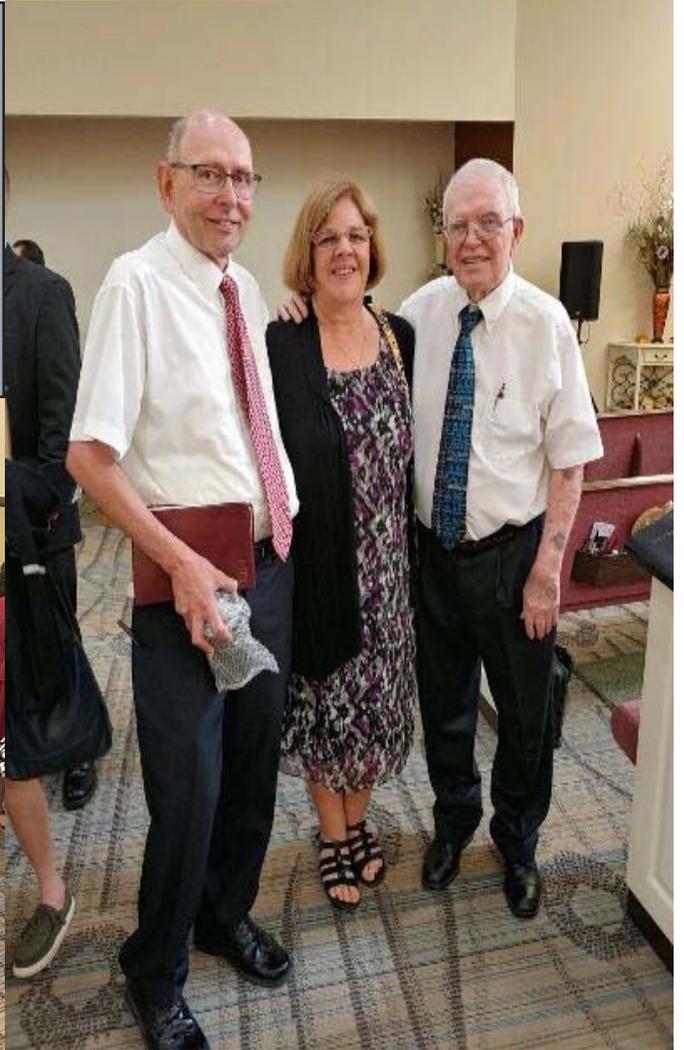


Members of The Church of God 7th Day at the Dallas, Texas Church when they hosted the Annual Apostolic Council Meeting this past June. Apostle Errol Noel (Grenada, West Indies) is waving hello to everyone in the back row.





Top left picture - Congregation gathering for Sabbath Services in the Dallas, Texas Church
Top right picture - Brother Ben DeLong and his wife, Sister Melany DeLong (West Virginia)
Bottom left picture - Brother Tommy Herrera Sr. (Houston, Texas) and Brother Walter Goff (Panama)
Bottom right picture - Brother Gary Mills and his wife, Sister Ludina Mills (Ohio) with Apostle Jerry Womble (San Antonio, Texas)



LESSON I

BEING AFRAID

Scripture Reading: Psalm 91:1-16.

Golden Text: Psalm 56:3.

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

NOTE: Sometimes we are afraid and fear different things that come up in our daily lives. Let us now study how we can overcome these fears and put our trust in God.

1. Should we trust God and not be afraid? Isaiah 12:2.
2. Instead of being afraid, what should we do? Mark 5:36.
3. Why are we told to fear not in Luke 12:7?
4. Instead of fear, what does Jesus give to us? John 14:27.
5. Would we fear God if we are doing wrong? Proverbs 3:7.
6. If we tell even the smallest lies, should we fear God? Revelation 21:8.
7. What did the angel say to the two women who came to visit Jesus' tomb? Matthew 28:5.
8. If we fear, are we made perfect in Gods' love? I John 4:18.

LESSON II

BIBLE ANIMALS

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:24-25; 7:1-5.

Golden Text: Genesis 1:24 (first part).

"And God said, let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind..."

1. Did God make all the animals? Genesis 1:25.
2. Why did He create the animals and living creatures? Revelation 4:11.
3. Did God make a difference between unclean and clean animals? Genesis 7:2-3.
4. Who gave names to all the animals? Genesis 2:20.
5. Will there ever be a time when children need not fear wild animals? Isaiah 11:6-9.
6. Every kind of beasts and birds have been tamed. What does the Bible speak of that which no man can tame? James 3:8-9.
7. Should we care for and feed any animals placed in our care?

LESSON III

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17.

Golden Text: Psalm 19:8.

"The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

1. What should the Commandment of God be to us? Proverbs 6:23.
2. Did Jesus come to destroy the Law that had existed since Creation? Matthew 5:17-18.
3. Did the Apostle Paul exalt the Law of God? Romans 7:12.
4. If we keep this same Law, what will it do for us? Psalm 19:7.
5. Are parents to teach their children the Law? Deuteronomy 6:7-8.

6. Did Jesus keep the Father's Commandments while here on earth? John 15:10.

7. What do we show when we keep the Commandments of God? John 14:21.

8. Who will have the right to the tree of life? Revelation 22:14.

LESSON IV

EZEKIEL

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-10.

Golden text: Ezekiel 2:1.

"And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee."

NOTE: In this lesson, we are going to briefly learn about one of the major prophets, Ezekiel. His name means "strength of God," and he prophesied while in Babylonian exile. The book of Ezekiel covers many predictions, and it includes a full vision of the final restoration of Israel.

1. What is the first thing we learn about Ezekiel? Ezekiel 1:1.
2. Even though Ezekiel was in captivity, was the Lord with him? Ezekiel 1:3.
3. When God spoke to Ezekiel, what did He call him? Ezekiel 2:1.
4. What did the Lord want Ezekiel to do? Ezekiel 3:17-21.
5. What was one of the grievous sins of the children of Israel, and what did God do to them for their sins? Ezekiel 6:4-7.
6. Does God promise to restore Israel even though they were scattered among the countries? Ezekiel 11:16-20.

SPECIAL DAY

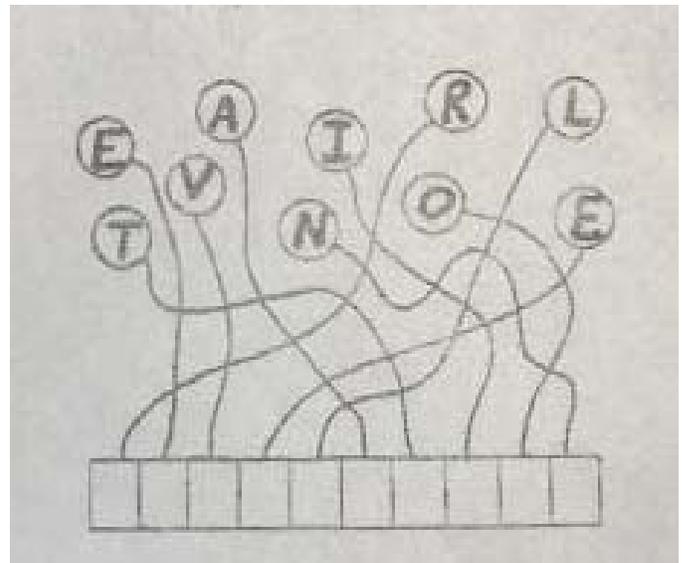
by Doris Sanders

*I am glad when Sabbath comes;
I put my toys away
And clean up everything so nice,
Because it's Jesus' day.*

*It's fun to go to Sabbath School;
I like the teacher there;
We sing, then close our eyes real tight
When we kneel for prayer.*

*We like to take a Sabbath walk,
My daddy, mom, and me;
I'm glad God made the birds and trees,
and flowers for us to see.*

*And when the Sabbath day is through,
We all kneel down to pray;
I am so glad that Jesus made
A special Sabbath day.*



You can find this book of the Bible by following the path of each letter to an empty square where you then write the letter. When all squares are filled, you will have the answer.



HOW LINCOLN HELPED A LITTLE GIRL SAVE MONEY

Once upon a time there lived a little girl in a little town in New York state.

She lived with her father and her mother and her brothers in an old-fashioned, homey home, where guests like to come. One of the guests who liked to come was the great Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. The little girl was always very happy when he came, and she used to like to sit in his lap and talk to him. She called him "uncle Abe," and he often called her "Sissy," though her real name was Julia.

One time when the President was visiting at Julia's house, Julia was counting the money in her missionary box. Mr. Lincoln watched her for a moment and then asked: "What are you doing over there?"

"I'm counting my missionary money, Uncle Abe," replied Julia.

Mr. Lincoln put his hand into his pocket and pulled out something and held it toward Julia. Julia drew back her box.

"Oh no, I can't take that, Uncle Abe," she said, earnestly; "I have to earn all the money I put into this box."

The next day, when he was ready to start for the train, he said, to Julia: "I wonder if you couldn't walk down to the depot with me, Julia?"

As they started down the street together, Abraham Lincoln shifted his valise to the other hand. It was an old fashioned valise with two handles.

"Do you suppose," he said, "that you could help me carry my valise? It's pretty heavy."

Julia took hold of one of the handles, and they carried it between them all the way to the depot, talking gayly as they went. At the depot, the President took the valise and pulled a shining coin out of his pocket, holding it out to the little girl.

"There, Julia," he said, "now you've earned your missionary money."

"O, thank you, Uncle Abe!"

And off he went away on the train, and Julia ran home with the shiny coin held in her hand. She thought it was the very brightest penny she had ever seen, and she hurried to put it in to the missionary box, where it could be safe and sound.

The next Sabbath the missionary boxes were opened. "How much money do you have in your missionary box, Julia?" asked the superintendent.

"Eighty-two cents," answered the little girl without any hesitation.

"Are you sure that was all you have? Where did this come from?" she was asked, and she saw the bright penny that the President had given her.

"Oh, that's the money Uncle Abe gave me!" she answered largely. "I earned it by helping carry his valise."

The shiny coin was a five dollar gold piece, and this is a true story of how Abraham Lincoln helped a little girl to earn her missionary money. I know this is true because the little girl, who is a little girl no longer, told me the story herself.

-Selected

WASHINGTONS SAYINGS -Speak not evil of the absent for it is unjust. It is much easier at all times to prevent an evil than to rectify mistakes.

ONLY A PENNY - A small boy observed that his mother put a penny in the offering plate at the Sabbath morning worship service. On the way home from church, she freely berated and criticized the poor sermon they had heard. "But Mother," said the boy, "What could you expect for only a penny?"

KIDS CORNER
BIBLE ALPHABET QUIZ

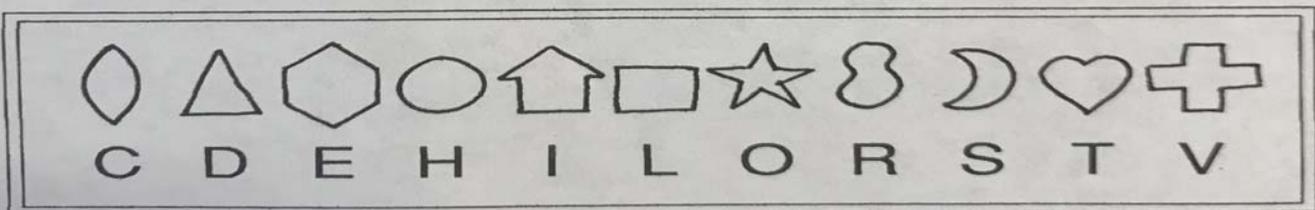
No man can serve two masters. Matthew 6:24
Use the code to find out whom we should serve.

by T.V. LaKahmaiah

- A - The first person to die _____
- B - Where Daniel was prime minister _____
- C - Famous trees of Lebanon _____
- D - The shepherd king _____
- E - He fell from the third story _____
- F - Where Paul found refuge in a storm _____
- G - The big man killed by a small stone _____
- H - Caused the death of David's son _____
- I - the father of Esau _____
- J - His daughter was restored to life _____
- K - A brook near Jerusalem _____
- L - The priests of Israel _____
- M - The girl who watched at a river _____
- N - the king who dreamed of an image _____
- O - Sister-in-law of Ruth _____
- P - Feast of the Exodus _____
- Q - A guard of four Roman soldiers _____
- R - Jacob's eldest son _____
- S - City destroyed by fire _____
- T - God's tenth _____
- U - A king of Judah _____
- V - The queen before Esther _____
- W - Where Israelites hung their harps _____
- X - A great Persian king _____
- Y - Implement used with oxen _____
- Z - A priest of David's time _____



CODE



Answers to Bible Quiz: Abel; Babylon; Cedars; David; Eutychus; Fair Havens; Goliath; Hair (Absalom's hair was in the branches of a tree when he was being chased); Isaac; Jairus; Kidron; Levites; Miriam; Nebuchadnezzar; Orpah; Passover; Quaternion; Reuben; Sodom; tithe; Uzziah; Vashti; willow; Xerxes; yoke; Zadok.

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THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

