

The Advocate of Truth



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The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHING HOUSE
P.O. Box 328
Salem, WV 26426-0328**

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Volume LXVIII

Number 2

July 22, 2019

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USPS 542-940

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The photograph on the front cover was taken by Amarisa Gonzalez, 11 year old daughter of Manual and Denise Gonzalez.

INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE AMERICAN FLAG

Independence Day is really the birthday of the United States of America. It is celebrated on July 4 each year. It is also celebrated in the possessions of the United States. It is the time the Second Continental Congress, a meeting of delegates from the colonies, adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The ideas expressed in the Declaration have inspired freedom-loving people throughout the world.

John Adams, one of the signers of the Declaration, said, "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore."

On Independence Day, many more people than usually do will display the American flag which colors are red, white and blue. Someone has said that these colors can have a similar significance in both American Patriotism and Christianity. The Secretary of the Continental Congress

reported on the Seal and the American flag, saying that white signifies purity and innocence; red signifies hardiness & valor; and blue is the color of the Chief. In Christianity, red signifies the valor of Jesus whose blood was shed for us. White signifies His purity, and blue signifies God's justice and mercy.

Our American flag also consists of thirteen stripes, seven red and six white. The stripes represent the original thirteen colonies. In Christianity, stripes often represent the spilling of Christ's blood. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED" (Isaiah 53:5).

There are also fifty stars on our American flag which represent the fifty states of the Union. When Christians look up and see the stars, they may think of God's invisible attributes. "For since the beginning of the world the invisible attributes of God, e.g. his eternal power and divinity, have been plainly discernible through things which he has made and which are commonly seen and known, thus leaving these men without a rag of excuse" (Romans 1:20, Phillips Translation). --Bond Tennant



"I pledge allegiance
to the flag
of the United States
of America,
and to the republic
for which it stands,
one nation
under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and
justice for all."

SIN: ITS ORIGIN

Reprinted

The Bible teaches that SIN originated in the heart of a created being who was “LUCIFER,” the Shining One, and who was also “the Anointed Cherub that covereth.” A description of this person is given in the Bible book of Ezekiel, chapter 28:11-19. It is the description of the being who is Satan. He was called “the anointed cherub that covereth” because of his appointed place near the throne of God. He was then also called “Lucifer,” the Shining One, (Isaiah 14:12), because he shined with the brilliance described in Ezekiel 28:13: “...every precious stone was thy covering...” He flashed with the light and brilliance of the Jewels named in that description. Therefore, he was called “Lucifer – the Shining One.”

His sin was the sin of pride: “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty: thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness...” (Ezekiel 28:17). Reference is made to this sin of pride in the words of I Timothy 3:6: “...lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” It is also to this person, Lucifer, that the words of Job 41:34 apply: “...he is a king over all the children of pride.” Because of this “heart” in the “anointed cherub,” “Lucifer,” God said to him, “...iniquity was found in thee...and thou hast sinned” (Ezekiel 28:15-16). For that sin God said to him, “...I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”

The ORIGIN of SIN is also set forth in the words of Isaiah 14:12-14. Lucifer said “...in (his) heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” For that sin Lucifer fell from heaven and became Satan the Adversary. The Lord refers to that event in His words recorded in Luke 10:18: “I was looking on when Satan as lightning fell out of heaven,” (Greek). He then lost his place as “the anointed cherub,” and “Lucifer,” the Shining One, became Satan, the Adversary

of God and Christ and children of God (I Peter 5:8). He succeeded in seducing one-third of the angels of God, and involved them in his fall. See Revelation 12:4.

The ORIGIN OF SIN in man is recorded in Genesis 3. Lucifer, who had now become “the Devil and Satan,” became “the Tempter,” and entered the garden of Eden, and “beguiled Eve in his craftiness” (II Corinthians 11:3). Satan cast aspersion on God, and tempted Eve through the “lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life,” (Genesis 3:6 and I John 2:16). Eve “being beguiled (fell) into transgression” (I Timothy 2:14). Adam “hearkened unto the voice of his wife,” and also fell into transgression, and thereby “sin entered into the world” Romans 5:12). That is the HISTORY of the ORIGIN of SIN – the story of Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-14 and Genesis 3.

However, the Bible tells us of the inner ORIGIN of SIN, and it applies to both angels and mankind. It is the Master Passage of the Word of God on the inner ORIGIN of SIN. It tells us of the real genesis – ORIGIN-of SIN. That passage is James 1:13, 14, 15. Verse 13 shows that sin did not ORIGINATE in God: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of – from – God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he Himself tempteth no man.” Verses 14 and 15 show the ORIGIN of SIN; its GENESIS: “but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust – desire and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth SIN.” The words to notice are “lust” and “enticeth.” The word “lust” means “strong and earnest desire” for something. The word “enticed” means “seduced by a fancied advantage.” It may be stated that “desire” in itself is not SIN, but if it is “desire” out of the limits of the bounds and will of God it may eventuate in SIN. Now Lucifer, the Anointed Cherub, desired something beyond the limits and bounds of the will of God for him; he desired to set his throne “above the stars of God,” he desired “to make himself like the Most High.” He was “enticed,” that is, seduced by a fancied advantage,” and in doing that he sinned and fell from his first estate; and that is the ORIGIN of SIN in the universe. The same thing is true of the ORIGIN of SIN in MAN. It was “...when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, (that) she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave

also unto her husband with her, and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6). She was drawn away by her own desire and enticed. She was “seduced by a fancied advantage,” and Adam was enticed with her, and so “through one man SIN entered into the world.

SIN – ITS NATURE

The nature of sin is known from its first occurrence, which, as I have shown, was in Lucifer, the Anointed cherub. From the record in Isaiah 14:12-14, it is seen that Lucifer chose himself; that he acted from himself and for himself; that he chose his self before God, his Creator. The Hebrew reading emphasizes this self-choosing in Lucifer by repeating the word “thou.” It reads: “And thou, thou hast said in thy heart, I...I...I.” Which reminds me of what Shakespeare wrote: “That bare vowel, I, shall poison more than the death-darting eye of a cockatrice.” Napoleon said to his wife, Josephine, when she revolted from his selfish ill conduct, “I have the right to meet all your complaints with an eternal I.” And when Napoleon was feted in Paris, he was seated on a throne over which, in letters of gold, these words were placed, “I am the I am.” No one was scandalized because they knew what Napoleon thought of himself.

The NATURE of SIN, from the first record of it in the Universe, is shown to be in the heart before it is in the act. Lucifer said “in (his) heart, “...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” And it was said to him, “Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty,” and therefore God said to him, “unrighteousness was found in thee.”

The Lord Jesus taught that the NATURE of SIN is first a state of the heart. He said: “For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed.” And following his enumeration of sins, He further said, “All these evil things proceed from within” (Mark 7:21, 23).

That the NATURE of SIN is self and selfishness is shown in its first occurrence in MAN. “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and she gave unto her husband with her, and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6). Both Satan and MAN desired

self rather than God, and unregenerate man has done that ever since. Someone said of Goethe, a German poet and philosopher, that he was “a Narcissus in love with himself.” Narcissus was punished by falling in love with his own handsome reflection! William Law wrote that “Self is the only root, or rather the sum total of all sin. Self is the whole evil of the fallen nature. Self is the root, the tree, and the branches of all the evils of our fallen nature.”

The NATURE of SIN has been defined as any transgression of and want of conformity to the Divine Law. “Sin is lack of conformity to the moral law of God, either in act, disposition, or state.” In other words, it is any wrong in thought, word, or deed. When we ask, what is Sin? We must go to the Word of God for the answer. What does it say that SIN is? How does it denominate SIN?

“SIN is lawlessness.” I John 3:4.

“All unrighteousness IS SIN.” I John 5:17.

“To him therefore that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it IS SIN.” James 4:17.

“But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit SIN.” James 2:9.

“He that despiseth his neighbor SINNETH.” Proverbs 14:21.

Failure to help one in need – “thy poor brother” - is denominated SIN. Deuteronomy 15:9.

Wages held over from laborer is denominated SIN. Deuteronomy 24:15.

A vow made to God and not kept is said to be “SIN IN THEE.” Deuteronomy 23:21.

Neglect of prayer, especially on the part of a preacher, a prophet, is denominated “SIN against the Lord.” I Samuel 12:23.

“...Whatsoever is not of faith IS SIN.” Romans 14:23.

“Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?” (Proverbs 20:9) “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (I John 1: 8, 10).

Idolatry in the Church?

Daniel Cruz

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me", Exodus 20:3. God provided a written warning to all mankind of the temptations that we would encounter. This was written thousands of years before our time. Yet, God in His infinite wisdom decided to remind us of the ideas and philosophies we create that will lead us astray and fall from the goodness that He desires for us. Our service to The Lord should be of pureness and sincerity, without cause or being scorned from the world. God loves us enough to show us the ways that we can fall and overlook how we are to serve Him. God shows us obedience in the beginning of all that we are capable of through Him and thus gives us authority to represent Him in Spirit and Truth. We cannot use this as a way to establish hierarchy in the Church. Let us examine this thought and see what the Bible has to say about such things.

In the beginning God granted authority to Adam and he was commissioned. Genesis 2:19 shows God creating beasts and birds for the use of man. He granted man to name His creations and God saw that it was not sufficient for him and created a companion to assist Adam for this work. Yet, Adam given all this rule over the earth, he did not heed to God's advisement and followed the subtlety of the enemy. God only required obedience from Adam and for Adam to be His servant. I'd like to look at the word servant and remember the importance for us as children of God to remember and practice this as His children.

We are in a time of many misguided conceptions that create confusion and chaos. Our polluted society has given thought that God's existence has become background noise and no longer mainstream. Organized church is considered indifferent and bias towards society and are shunned upon. The media has labeled religion as a money making organization with no consequences. So, what are we to do with all the negative backlash that is thrust upon us? Deuteronomy 6:24: "And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our

good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day." We must remain steadfast in the Truth, not allowing the enemy to seep into the Church with this vanity. Our lives as children of God does not consist of a position or title. We cannot base our faith on the approval of man or give us validation. I Timothy 1:4: "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do". The Apostle Paul contended with self made entitlements within the Church. He reminded them that all things pertaining to the Church are by faith. I Corinthians 10:14: "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." We cannot progress with the thoughts and binds that man or even ourselves are placed upon us. We must abstain from these things and seek God for understanding and justification. (See Col 3:5).

Allowing man's thoughts and understanding to overtake us and then succumbing to them only digs us into a deeper hole of lies and deception. We are to be vigilant in our walk with the Lord. Using the Holy Spirit and His Word as guidance and instruction. I Corinthians 12:3: "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." The wisdom of the Lord will guide us and give us the validations in our lives that no man can refute. God does not require our obedience in our stature or accomplishments that are self willed. He requires our allegiance to His Word. Titus 2:12: "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world".

Brethren we cannot not fall victim to the world and the enticements that it offers. Our growth and fortitude must be in serving the One True God. Cliche as it may sound, following God's instructions is the only way today. Our hope should not be in the things of today but, in the promise of eternal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

GIVE YOUR HEART TO JESUS

Reprinted

May you realize that Jesus is coming very soon. The world is filled with violence on every hand as it was in the days of Noah. Jesus said the same conditions would exist in the latter days or at His coming. God loves you and you are worth more than all the world to Him, otherwise He would not have sent His only begotten Son (John 3:16) to die on the cross for your sins.

There are many signs fulfilling before our eyes of which Jesus spoke. We see reveling, rioting, murder, strife, greed and the love of money and power. We read it in our daily newspapers, see it on television and hear it on radio. What does it all mean? It can only mean one thing – that the whole world is holding God’s Holy Law in contempt and are trampling on its precepts in one way or another. It is time the Church and all His true followers of the Kingdom be witnesses. Matthew 24:14 tells us the gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then the end shall come.

Let us remember it was the popular church in the time of Christ that put Jesus on the Cross and persecuted His followers and continued to do so all through the ages. This same power, today, is using falsehoods for excusing themselves from keeping God’s Holy Laws and do away with them more and more each day. If you love Him, you will do as He says and not be transgressors of His Law. We read in I John 3:4, “*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*”

Jesus made it very clear in Luke 16:17 that it was easier for heaven and earth to pass away than one tittle of the law to fail, and in Matthew 5:17-19 He clearly stated

again, in one of His greatest sermons, that He did not come to destroy the law or the prophets but to fulfill. Not one tittle or jot shall pass from the law until all be fulfilled. Now, I ask you a question, “Has all been fulfilled?” Some would try to make you believe that all has been fulfilled. Let us hear what Jesus says in Matthew 7:15, “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*”

Many false prophets and teachers are teaching away a portion of God’s Holy Law, and little do they realize they are dealing with God in heaven and sending countless souls to eternal death, while professing to be saving souls. Such teachers will one day be judged by that very same law they rejected. God’s Holy Law, including the Sabbath, will be kept in the earth when His Kingdom comes (Isaiah 66:22-23).

Give your heart to Jesus, and do not be a victim of false teachers who discredit God’s Holy Law. Do not let anyone tell you otherwise. I John 2:4 says, “*He that saith, I know him, and kepteh not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*” To be in Him, we must be followers of Him. Jesus said, “*...I am the way, the truth, and the life...*” and He declared in chapter 19 of Matthew, verse 17, the last part, “*...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*” Again, there is the promise of Blessing given if we do His commandments. If we do His Commandments, we may have the right to the tree of life and enter through the gates into that city. Now, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Note: The following article came from a pamphlet featuring *The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States*.

RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTION

On June 28 1787, the Constitutional Convention found itself in great confusion, and they could not agree upon a course of action when the serene Benjamin Franklin arose in his place and addressed the President, George Washington:

“Mr. President: The small progress we have made after four weeks’ close attention and continual reasonings with each other, our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many Noes as Ayes, is, methinks, a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running all about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which, have been originally formed with the seeds of their own dissolution, now no longer exist. And we have viewed modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances.

“In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark, to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not, hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for the Divine protection! Our prayers, Sir, were heard;-and they were generously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle, must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind of Providence we own this happy

opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend?, or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without His aid?

“We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that-‘Except the Lord Build the House, they labor in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel; we shall be divided in our little partial local interests, our projects will be confounded and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest. I therefore beg leave to move-

“That henceforth, Prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.”

—

The result-*ordo ab chao*-everything fell into shape as if by magic and the Constitution of the United States was born.



A Rose Within

Author Unknown

A certain man planted a rose bush and watered it faithfully, and before it blossomed, he examined it. He saw the bud that would soon blossom and the thorns. And he thought, "How can any beautiful flower come from a plant burdened with so many sharp thorns?" Saddened by this thought, he neglected to water the rose, and before it was ready to bloom, it died.

So it is with many people. Within every soul there is a rose. The God-like qualities planted in us at birth grow amid the thorns of our faults. Many of us look at ourselves and see only the thorns, the defects. We despair, thinking that nothing good can possibly come from us. We neglect to water the good within us, and eventually it dies. We never realize our potential.

Some people do not see the rose within themselves; someone else must show it to them. One of the greatest gifts a person can possess is to be able to reach past the thorns and find the rose within others. This is the characteristic of love, to look at a person, and knowing his faults, recognize the nobility in his soul, and help him realize that he can overcome his faults. If we show him the rose, he will conquer the thorns. Then will he blossom, blooming forth thirty, sixty, a hundred-fold as it is given to him.

Our duty in this world is to help others by showing them their roses and not their thorns. Only then can we achieve the love we should feel for each other; only then can we bloom in our own garden.

Never Judge!

By David DeLong

There are times when others hurt us,
And even hold a grudge;
But, we must never hurt them back,
And never try to judge.

Someone in his walk of life
May slow down to a trudge;
But, we can walk beside him,
And never try to judge.

Sometimes a brother needs our help,
Perhaps, a little nudge;
Remember that the Lord helps us,
And never try to judge.

Obstacles are in the path,
And some won't even budge;
Prayer's the only answer, friend,
And never try to judge.

When we all have overcome,
It's sweet as chocolate fudge;
It's by the hand of our dear God,
So, never try to judge.



What God Has Promised

By David DeLong

There are a number of things that the Lord has promised to do for His children, if they are faithful to Him. I would like to consider seven of them. The first thing I want to bring to our attention is the promise of food, drink, and clothing. Jesus said in Matthew 6:31-34: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

The Apostle Paul wrote: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:6-8). So, if we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we can be sure that we will never lack for food, drink, and clothing. This is a promise from the Lord. We should be content, knowing this.

The second promise from the Lord that we will consider is that of protection. In Psalm 91:1-4 we find this promise: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

Dwelling in the secret place of the most High implies a very close relationship with the Lord. It involves an intimacy with Him that few people have. But, having such an intimacy with Him brings the promise of protection to that individual.

Verses 11-13 gives a further promise of protection to

the one who is intimate with the Lord: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet."

A third promise that the Lord gives to His people is that He will always be with them. In Hebrews 13:5-6 we learn: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." This promise was a bastion of hope for the ancient martyr for Christ. It has sustained many a saint through the dreariness of persecution. And it will always be an anchor for the soul of everyone who follows Christ, in truth, with his or her whole heart.

Fourth, we will look at the promise of help to overcome temptations. In I Corinthians 10:13 we read: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." We need to be looking for that way to escape from the temptation. Also, James instructs us: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:12-15).

However, when a child of God is tempted to sin, and he yields to the temptation, there is the promise of God for forgiveness. I John 1:9 tells us: "If we confess our sins,

he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." A saint may think that since he or she has yielded to the same temptation a number of times, the Lord won't forgive them any more. A text of Scripture that has helped me in this area is found in Matthew 18:21-22: "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." If the Lord expects us to forgive our brother that much, then He will do the same for us. However, we must temper this text with the text which Jesus spoke to the woman taken in adultery. After forgiving her He said: "...Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

A sixth promise that the Lord has given to His people is the promise of the Holy Spirit to indwell them. The usual way that the Holy Spirit is received is by the laying on of hands of the minister, or ministers, after baptism (see Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-7). Jesus taught: "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good

gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11:10-13).

If the Holy Spirit is indwelling a child of God, then the last promise that we will consider is an automatic one--that of being in the first resurrection. Romans 6:5 reads: "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection". (See also Romans 8:11). Revelation 20:6 informs us: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

The purpose of God's promises to His people is summed up in II Peter 1:4-8: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Order At The Lord's Supper

By David DeLong

There is a difference of beliefs concerning the order of events at the Lord's Supper. For instance, some believe that the footwashing comes after the emblems are partaken of, and some believe that the footwashing should be first. I hold with those who believe that the footwashing should be first, and I will use the Scriptures in my attempt to prove this.

In Matthew 26: 17-19 we read: "Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them;

and they made ready the passover."

Luke adds a few more details to this event. "Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And he shall show you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready

the passover" (Luke 22:7-13).

Luke 22:14-18 next informs us: "And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." The cup which Jesus gave to the disciples at this time appears to be a part of the passover meal since He hadn't instituted the Lord's Supper yet.

Now we go to John chapter 13:1-17 for a look at what transpired next. "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended (this is the passover supper being ended, or in its final moments, not the Lord's Supper), the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

After Jesus washed the disciples' feet, we go back to Matthew 26 where we find Jesus finishing up the passover meal. "And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said" (verses 21-25). John 13:18-30 adds a few more details to this sad episode. "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night."

Matthew 26:26-30 then shows the institution of the Lord's Supper. "And as they were eating (they are still

finishing up the passover meal), Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

Another verse, which shows a principle from God's Word, which indirectly has a bearing on the footwashing taking place before the Lord's emblems are eaten comes from Proverbs 15:33: "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility." Before we have the honor of partaking of the Lord's emblems at the Lord's Supper table, we must humble ourselves by washing each others' feet. God bless each and everyone to study this important topic.

Forgiven

(Taken from a Tract)

It was said, by a preacher in London, that there is not a man in all London that Jesus Christ cannot save. When William Dorset, the preacher, made that statement, a woman challenged him to his word. She told him that there was a man who said he was beyond salvation.

Very early the next morning the two came to a run down tenement building. The woman told Dorset that the man was in the top story in a back room.

As Dorset climbed the stairs alone, he found each flight in worse shape than the one preceding it. At the top, he found a door hanging by one hinge which barred his entrance. With some effort, he managed to squeeze into the windowless room; and when his eyes became accustomed to the darkness, he found a young man lying on some dirty straw in the corner.

Dorset's soft tone greeted the young man as his friend. The young man made it clear to Dorset that he had no friends in the world, but Dorset insisted that the young man had at least two--Jesus Christ and himself.

The young man protested that Jesus could not be a friend of his, because he had broken all His laws and disgraced Him by his actions. It was then that Dorset proved to the young man from the Scriptures that Jesus truly was his friend. The young man listened intently as Dorset told of the love of Jesus and how He would forgive anyone who would ask. The young man accepted these words and found pardon, but he was yet unhappy. He told Dorset that he knew his heavenly Father had for-

given him, but now he needed the forgiveness of his earthly father.

Since the young man was about to die, Dorset decided to go and see his father; even though his father would not allow the young man's name to be spoken in front of him. The father's house was a beautiful mansion with servants and much finery. An English gentleman shook Dorset's hand as he entered the mansion. The cordial greeting turned very cold when Dorset mentioned the nature of his business. The father stated emphatically that his son's name was not to be mentioned in front of him, and with that he asked Dorset to leave.

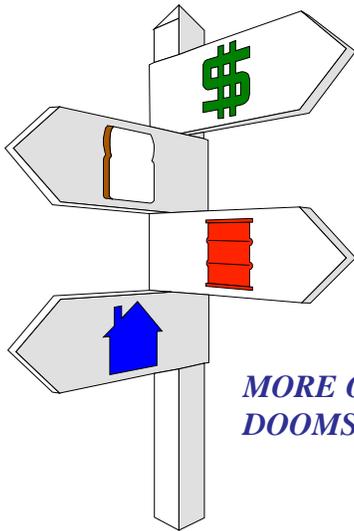
Dorset then explained that the man's son was dying. This seemed to change the father's attitude, as Dorset explained that the only thing the young man wanted now was forgiveness from his earthly father since his heavenly Father had already forgiven him.

The English gentleman ordered his carriage and the two men went quickly to the young, dying man. As they traveled, the wealthy English gentleman explained that he would have forgiven his son long ago if only the son had asked. The father's eyes fell upon his pitiful son lying there in the dark corner. With a feeble voice the son begged forgiveness from his father. As tears fell to the gentleman's cheeks, his words came from within his heart as he told the son that he was forgiven.

The boy could now die in peace knowing that both his heavenly Father and his earthly father had forgiven him.

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.



MORE ON THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK

Sometime ago a feature about the Doomsday Clock was featured in this column. The following article which appeared in **USA TODAY** gives the current status of this clock as of January 25, 2019. The article is entitled *Doomsday holding steady at 2 minutes*:

According to the Doomsday Clock, it's two minutes to midnight. That's the same time as last year and remains the closest it has been since 1953 at the height of the Cold War.

Each year, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a nonprofit group that sets the clock, decides whether the events of the previous year pushed humanity closer to or further from destruction.

The closer to midnight we are, the more danger we're in. According to the group, the clock "conveys how close we are to destroying our civilization with dangerous technologies of our own making."

"A new abnormal: It is still two minutes to midnight," the Bulletin reported Thursday. "Humanity now faces two simultaneous existential threats, either of which would be cause for extreme concern and immediate attention.

"These major threats – nuclear weapons and climate change – were exacerbated this past year by the increased use of information warfare to undermine democracy around the world, amplifying risk from these and other threats and putting the future of civilization in extraordinary danger."

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown, executive chair of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: "Humanity

faces two dire and simultaneous existential threats: nuclear weapons and climate change. The longer world leaders and citizens thoughtlessly inhabit this abnormal reality, the more likely it is that we will experience the unthinkable.

"We're playing Russian roulette with humanity."

Speaking about climate change, MIT scientist Susan Solomon said: "If we don't start reducing emissions in the next decade, it's pretty clear we'll have a world we don't want to live in. This coming decade is absolutely critical, and we're running out of time."

The furthest from midnight was in 1991, when the clock was 17 minutes to midnight after the end of the Cold War.

"If the world seems less dangerous than it did a year ago, it's because we're becoming numb to the chaos and instability underpinning the nuclear balance of terror," said Derek Johnson of Global Zero, a group that seeks to eliminate nuclear weapons. "We can't afford to bury our heads in the sand."

"There is no such thing as an acceptable level of existential risk," he said. "Whether it's two minutes to midnight, five minutes or ten – it's all too close to global catastrophe."

The clock has been maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists since 1947. The group was founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop nuclear weapons in Manhattan Project.

Comment - Not to worry! Climate change and nuclear threats will not annihilate the world, although it may seem possible. God is in control, and He will establish His kingdom, and all the disasters, both natural and manmade, in the world are only part of the signs of the times before Jesus appears to take the saints to the New Jerusalem. From a physical standpoint, it is always "darkness before dawn" for God's children.

THE REPORT IN -During the time of writing this column, the Mueller report has finally been released. The reason for the report was to ascertain if there was collusion with the Russians by President Trump in regard to influencing the presidential election. The report took over six hundred days, and many witnesses were indicted for not telling the truth. At this time, the report is being reviewed by the attorney general to see if there are any portions that can not be read because of their top-secret status.

President Trump feels very good that he will be vindicated from all wrong doing. However, there are several other investigations being done in state courts in regard to his business affairs.

A MINORITY AMERICA --ARE YOU WORRIED?- I read in the newspaper that over half of white Americans are worried about the time when minorities become the majority in their country. Anti-Immigrant sentiments has contributed to this. A portion of the article in **USA TODAY** reads, “Anti-immigrant views are nothing new in the USA, even as historical circumstances change, and look similar across periods, says Jack DeWaard, a sociology professor at the University of Minnesota who studies demography and migration.

“What seems to be different is there’s sort of a politics of fear and resentment,” DeWaard says. “The issue of migration has become so much more politicized, hijacked and divorced from facts and reason than it ever has in the past.”

"Fears tied to becoming a majority-minority country can partially be explained by demographic segregation and inequality in society," he says.

"DeWaard says there’s an increasing lack of empathy in society."

“The refusal to put yourself in someone else’s shoes ... people are just unwilling to do this,” he says.

Comment - DeWaard has hit the nail right on the head! Lack of empathy (without natural affection) is a sign of the times according to II Timothy 3:3.

BIBLE CLASSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - According to a reliable source, there is a push to have Bible classes in public schools. Some lawmakers and

Christian groups say that they want to restore traditional values in schools and give students a chance to study the religious text deeply.

Comment - Could it be that these Christian groups and lawmakers are wrong when they say that these Bible classes will restore traditional values in schools? Traditional values are best taught at home where the meaning of religious text can best be studied and applied.

TORNADOES AND FLOODS - Recently there have been several tornadoes and floods. Tornadoes have been very deadly in the South. Alabama suffered a major tornado killing 23 people. There were three in northwest Louisiana, one in central Arkansas and one in northern Mississippi.

Floods were in 65 counties and four tribal areas in Nebraska. Three deaths were blamed on the flooding.

CLOSING STORES -I read that there are 5,500 stores set to shut down in 2019. They include many stores of famous named retailers.

THINK ABOUT THIS -I was reading in the book of James. I saw in James 5:1-6 where it speaks of rich men. I thought about the income inequality in America and the many CEO’s and others who rake in millions and sometimes billions. Keep in mind that it speaks of the last days. Let us quote it from **The New Testament In Basic English**: “Come now, you men of wealth, give yourselves to weeping and crying because of your bitter troubles which are coming to you. Your wealth is unclean and insects have made holes in your clothing. Your gold and your silver are wasted and their waste will be a witness against you, burning into your flesh. **YOU HAVE PUT BY YOUR STORE IN THE LAST DAYS.** See, the money which you falsely kept back from the workers cutting the grass in your field, is crying out against you; and the cries of those who took in your grain have come to the ears of the Lord of armies. You have been living delicately on earth and have taken your pleasure; you have made your hearts fat for a day of destruction. You have given your decision against the upright man and have put him to death. He puts up no fight against you.”

Let us keep in mind that it is not sin to be rich or one of wealth. It all depends on how one acquires and uses his wealth.

BIBLE

Study



Question: Who was Rhoda? Did she have any good qualities?

Answer: All we know of Rhoda is told in Acts 12:13-16: “And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter’s voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.”

These verses in Acts accurately depict the situation. Rhoda, the servant girl, answered a knock on the door and was stunned to recognize Peter’s voice. Let us think about the thought that those inside thought it was Peter’s angel. Early Jews believed that each person’s guardian angel closely resembled him or her. If Rhoda really heard Peter’s voice, perhaps it was Peter’s angel speaking rather than Peter himself!

Even though Rhoda is mentioned only briefly, we know several important things about her. Rhoda was a “girl.” The Greek word used suggests that she was probably around twelve years old. While Rhoda may have been a servant girl, she was deeply involved in the life of the Jerusalem congregation. When she heard Peter’s voice, it was because of her gladness that she ran back without

Questions and Answers

opening the door. She was excited and thrilled and eager to share the news with those inside.

Rhoda was also a persistent girl. She didn’t let doubts of those inside sway her. She kept on insisting that Peter was really there. While those inside argued, Peter kept on knocking. Finally, several persons went out, opened the gate, and were astonished when they saw Peter.

Question: Will you list a few verses in Psalms and Proverbs that forbid gossip?

Answer: Yes, we will.

“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully” (Psalm 52:2).

“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile” (Psalm 34:13).

“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter” (Proverbs 11:13).

“A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends” (Proverbs 16:28).

“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Proverbs 26:20-22).

Question: Will you please help me understand the subject of hell. Exactly what is it? Is it what most people

think it is?

Answer: Many misunderstand the subject of hell. Most hold to the pagan doctrine of eternal torture. This doctrine was adopted by the Holy Roman Catholic Church early during the Dark Ages. Thus, many believe in the hell of the dark ages instead of in the hell of the Bible. It is important that we carefully examine and learn thoroughly the Bible teaching on hell.

In the Old Testament, the only word translated hell is sheol. In the New Testament, hades corresponds to sheol in the Old Testament. In the Authorized Version of the Bible, sheol and hades are translated hell 41 times, grave 32 times and pit 3 times. This issue was evaded by the translators of the Revised Version of the Bible as they left the words sheol and hades untranslated.

The Bible says, "...there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave (sheol), whither thou goest"; "...in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave (sheol) who shall give thee thanks"; "...the grave (sheol) cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalm 6:5; Isaiah 38:18). This is contrary to the idea that hell is a place of fire, torture, etc. Good people as well as bad go to sheol (hell) at death.

Jesus poured out His soul unto death. In a prophecy of the first advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, Isaiah 53:10, 12 says, "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand...Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." After His death, Jesus descended into hell (or grave). However, His soul (or being) was not left in hell. "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10). "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption...He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption"

(Acts 2:27, 31).

In earlier times, hell simply meant to hide or to cover. Helling potatoes meant putting them into pits. Helling a house meant covering or thatching it. Until the Dark Ages, hell had no reference whatsoever to a place of torture.

Through Christ, God ransomed all from the power of the grave and not eternal torture. "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: Oh death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes" (Hosea 13:14). None will come forth until they are called forth at the second advent of Jesus. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead" (I Corinthians 15:21).

In the New Testament, the word Gehenna is also translated hell. Its Old Testament equivalent is Ge-Hinnom. Into this valley outside of Jerusalem, refuse was cast. It was destroyed there either by fire or by worms. Gehenna is referred to as the place "where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Read Mark 9:43-48. This is the second death. It does not mean that the literal worms and fire will exist there eternally, but that God's destruction of the wicked is sure and complete.

When the grave (sheol or hades) delivers up the dead, it will forever cease to exist. Death and hell along with the beast, false prophet and the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire. Fire is used as a symbol of destruction in the Bible because it destroys all combustible materials that are put into it. "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20). "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:14-15). Again, this is the second death! It is utter, complete and eternal destruction from which none can ever be recovered.



The Philippines

Some of our brothers and sisters at the 11th General Conference, 2019, Camp Batu.





LESSON I
DEATH OF MOSES

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 34.

Golden Text: Deuteronomy 34:7 (first part).

“And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died...”

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Deuteronomy 32:48-50.
2. Why was this to be? Deuteronomy 32:51-52.
3. When Moses went up into the mountains, what did the Lord show him? Deuteronomy 34:1-3.
4. What land was he able to see? Deuteronomy 34:4.
5. Did Moses die on the mountain as God had said? Deuteronomy 34:5.
6. Where was Moses buried, and was this burial site marked? Deuteronomy 34:6.
7. Was Moses still strong and well till his death? Deuteronomy 34:7.
8. How long did the children of Israel weep for Moses? Deuteronomy 34:8.
9. What new leader took over the work of Moses? Deuteronomy 34:9.
10. Was there ever again a prophet such as Moses? Deuteronomy 34:10.

“...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

LESSON II
THE TWO SPIES AND RAHAB

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-11.

Golden Text: Joshua 2:1 (first part).

“And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two

men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho...”

NOTE: Moses, the great leader of Israel, is now dead, and God has appointed Joshua to lead in his place. As our lesson starts today, Joshua sends two spies to Jericho to spy out the land.

1. Where did the two spies lodge for the night in Jericho? Joshua 2:1.
2. Did the king of Jericho find out the spies were in the city? Joshua 2:2.
3. What did the king say to Rahab? Joshua 2:3.
4. Did Rahab tell the king the men were there? What did she do? Joshua 2:4-6.
5. Did the king believe what Rahab said to him? Joshua 2:7.
6. Did Rahab tell the spies why she had hidden them from the king? Joshua 2:9-11.

NOTE: Rahab had heard of the miracles performed on behalf of Israel and was convinced Israel's God was the true God.

LESSON III
THE TWO SPIES AND RAHAB
(CONTINUED)

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:12-24.

Golden Text: Joshua 2:15.

“Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.”

NOTE: We last learned that Rahab hid the two spies from the king and his soldiers. We will now learn how the spies escape and the promises they make.

1. What promise did Rahab ask the spies to make? Joshua 2:12-13.

2. Did the men make her the promise? Joshua 2:14.
3. How did Rahab help the men escape? Joshua 2:15.
4. What did the spies tell Rahab to do so they would know her home and spare it? Joshua 2:18-19.
5. Where did the spies go after they left Rahab's house, and how long were they there? Joshua 2:22.
6. What did the spies tell Joshua on their return? Joshua 2:23-24.

NOTE: With Rahab's help, the spies were able to report back to Joshua. Rahab's faith also saved her life as we will learn in a future lesson. Rahab later married an Israelite and became an ancestress of Boaz, David and Christ.

**LESSON IV
CROSSING THE JORDAN**

Scripture Reading: Joshua 3:1-17.

Golden Text: Joshua 3:17 (last part).

“...and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.”

NOTE: Remember in our last lesson the two spies came back with a good report that truly the Lord had delivered the land into their hands for the people of that country were all frightened of them. In our lesson today, another miracle happened.

1. Beside what river did Joshua and all the children of Israel camp? Joshua 3:1.
2. After three days what happened? Joshua 3:2-3.
3. Why were the people told to sanctify or purify themselves? Joshua 3:5.
4. Who was to go before the people? Joshua 3:6.
5. What did the Lord tell Joshua? Joshua 3:7-8.

6. What did Joshua tell the children of Israel? Joshua 3:9-13.

7. What happened as the people moved forward to cross the Jordan? Joshua 3:14-17.

NOTE: When the ark stood at the water's edge, the river rose up in a great lap or wall around the city of Adam, which was 16 miles north of where they were to cross. Below, all the river bed was dry enough to walk on. This was the time of year when the Jordan overflowed and all its banks so the miracle was all the more wonderful.

8. When the children of Israel first started on their journey from Egypt, almost the same thing happened. Can you tell about it? Exodus 14:21-22.

THE LITTLE BIRDS

By Vivian G. Ross

*Some birds who spent the summer
Flying round my house,
Have gone away this winter
To the warm and sunny South.
It seems they got together
And flew away from here,
They won't be coming back again
Till spring comes back, I fear.
But I will put some crumbs out
For those who did not go,
And they will not be hungry
Even in the snow.*



HE IS RISEN

(DO YOU KNOW THAT JESUS IS ALIVE?)

You have heard how the Son of God, Jesus, once lived in this world and how He was killed by wicked men and nailed to a cross of wood.

The third day, after he died, some of His friends were in a room together. They were talking about Him. Some said, with beaming faces, "He is alive again for we have seen Him." But others said, "Oh, how could that be?" And there was such a great big longing in their hearts to see Him.

All in a moment, Jesus stood there with them. The doors were locked. No door had been opened or closed. How did he get in?

But that made no difference to the Son of God, who was risen from the dead. Before He was crucified, He walked upon the water and raise the dead. What would a closed door mean to Him when those who loved Him were on the other side of the door?

Jesus spoke so sweetly to His friends, "Peace be unto you," meaning "MY loved ones, be happy and rest in My love, for I love you dearly and give My peace unto you." What more could He say? Still these friends seemed frightened. This was all so strange to them because they had seen Him die on that awful cross. They knew He had been dead.

But Jesus told them not to fear. They looked at His hands and the marks of the nails that fastened them to the cross which were there. They looked at his feet and the marks which were there also. And, even more, they saw the hole in His side; for a soldier had pierced His side with a spear, and that made the blood flow out upon the ground.

When they saw these marks, they knew that it was Jesus. They were so glad that their precious Lord was alive and that He loved them still. They scarcely knew how to act.

Jesus breathed on them and said, "receive ye the Holy Ghost." With His breath He gave the Holy Spirit of God to them. But God raised Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit was still with Him.

Jesus is now in heaven, but he will come again, and then we who love Him shall see Him and hear Him speak and see those marks in His hands and in His feet.



THE MAGIC WORDS

By Vivian G. Ross

*When I call out to Mom and Dad
In a loud or unkind way,
They never seem to hear at all
A thing I have to say.
But if I use the "magic" words
Like "Thank you very much."
Or "Would you help me, Mother, please?"
Or "Pardon me," and such:
They turn around and smile at me
In just the happiest way.
And listen, oh, so nicely
If there's something I must say.
I want to learn to be polite,
And kind and thoughtful, too.
So I will use the "magic" words,
And smile each time I do.*



BIBLE VERSES

1. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."
2. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."
3. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
4. "Judge not that ye be not judged."
5. "Jesus wept."
6. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the word was God."

We have listed six Bible texts above.

Below in the puzzle you will find each of the words from each text listed. See how many you can find.

J	K	E	E	P	K	I	T	H	E	A
E	U	H	O	L	Y	O	T	H	A	O
S	W	D	T	H	N	Y	R	W	N	S
U	A	O	G	S	E	O	I	I	D	T
S	N	H	R	E	O	L	T	L	D	A
N	D	D	Y	D	P	A	O	L	D	U
T	H	A	T	B	E	P	R	O	V	E
L	S	U	R	O	N	D	G	O	W	P
A	L	L	J	U	D	G	E	D	A	S
X	S	X	Z	Q	I	I	O	T	S	H
B	H	K	U	X	Y	V	V	O	C	W
E	A	N	D	Y	I	E	Z	I	D	R
G	L	D	A	Y	H	N	H	E	C	E
I	L	O	X	Y	E	W	Y	O	U	M
N	A	B	B	E	K	H	O	L	D	M
N	S	E	A	B	B	W	E	P	T	B
I	H	S	O	K	N	A	C	H	D	E
N	A	T	O	A	N	O	F	K	U	R
G	L	H	F	I	N	D	Y	O	T	G
W	L	I	A	W	N	D	D	U	H	T
I	G	N	S	A	O	R	H	T	E	H
T	O	G	T	S	N	D	T	O	I	E
H	D	S	L	L	J	I	R	D	K	N
S	H	A	L	O	W	O	N	E	N	D
M	B	E	L	O	P	E	N			

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The Sabbath

By David DeLong

Oh, blessed day, the Sabbath,
To cease from work, and rest;
It starts on Friday evening, when
The sun sinks in the west.

It lasts all day, on Saturday,
And ends with setting sun;
Oh, what a priceless privilege
To keep it with the One

Who made this day for mankind,
And sanctified the day;
He is the Lord of Sabbath, too,
The Life, the Truth, the Way.

We meet with holy brethren
Upon this holy day;
We meet to worship God, and sing,
To preach, and also pray.

And when the Sabbath sadly ends,
What strength it gave the meek!
With joy we now look forward to
It coming back next week.

