



THE ADVOCATE OF TRUTH



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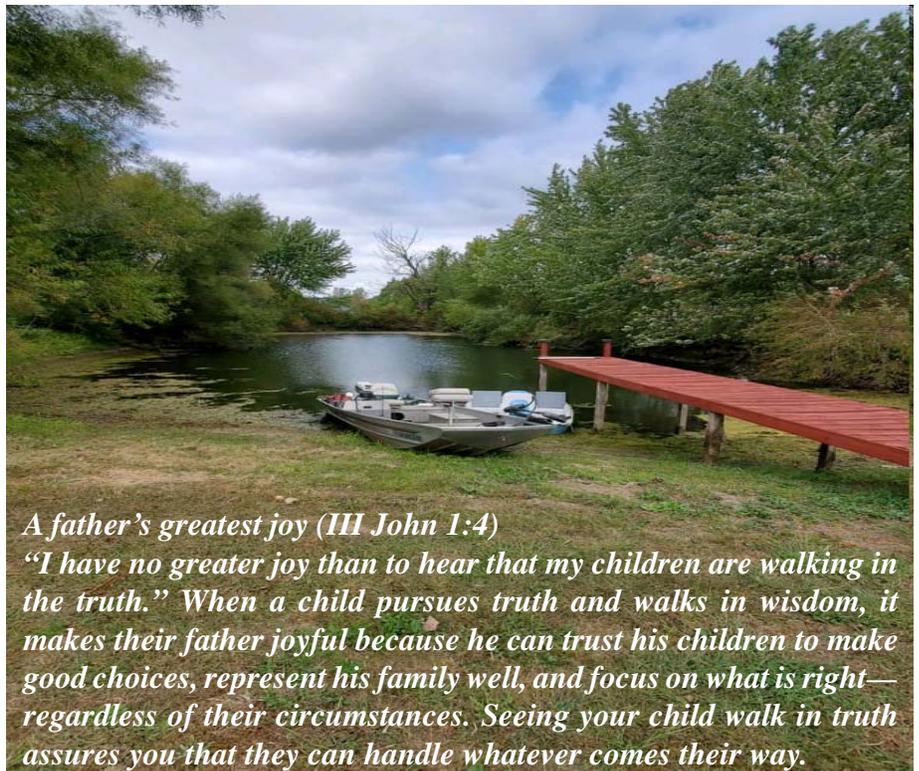
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*A father's greatest joy (III John 1:4)
"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." When a child pursues truth and walks in wisdom, it makes their father joyful because he can trust his children to make good choices, represent his family well, and focus on what is right—regardless of their circumstances. Seeing your child walk in truth assures you that they can handle whatever comes their way.*



Parable
of the Farmer
or Plowman
By Gary
Mills

There is a little known parable of the farmer or plowman used by the Prophet Isaiah. Before reading the parable, let's review the current situation in the time of Isaiah.

Judah and Israel had split into two nations. During the reign of king Ahaz, Judah was at war with Syria and Israel. Judah turned to Assyria (Mesopotamia) for help, which turned out to be a mistake. Assyria tried to then take control over Judah and acted as a tyrant, demanding tribute and trying to assert their will on the people. What did Judah do? King Hezekiah of Judah turned to Egypt and wanted to form an alliance with them. Otherwise considered a good king, Hezekiah in this instance displeased the Lord.

Isaiah the prophet and advisor to the king strongly objected to this pact with the Egyptians. In Isaiah chapters 28 thru 33 he strongly spoke against this false sense of security in making a covenant with Egypt. He felt it opened the doors to idol worship and also relied on Egyptian military might instead of trusting in the Lord. What alternative did Isaiah offer instead of trusting Egypt's military might? He gives it in Isaiah 28:14, 16: "Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." Make haste means have to flee. This passage is a reference to the future coming of Christ. Isaiah is reminding Judah to trust in the Lord and His promises. These verses are also referenced in the New

Testament in I Peter 2:6, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."

The people of Judah had two main objections to Isaiah saying to trust in the Lord instead of trusting the military might of Egypt. The first objection was that the people wanted God to act quickly and destroy the Assyrians in one fell blow. But this was not the Lord's way in this situation. Isaiah tells how God makes His will known in Isaiah 28:13, "But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."

The other objection stated that Judah was God's people and He would never allow them to be hurt. This is basically saying 'Why should we fear the Lord? He will never hurt us no matter what we do.'

This brings us to the Plowman's (or farmer's) parable Isaiah told in Isaiah 28:23-29. "Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground? When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place? For his God doth instruct him to

discretion, and doth teach him. For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen. This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.” Note: Fitches are a plant that grows in the Mediterranean countries, and is cultivated in Egypt and Syria for its seed. The seeds are used as a condiment.

This parable answers Judah’s predicament. First God acts in His own right time and manner. Just like a farmer knows what time to plant crops. Second God deals with His people as He does, whether kindly or in punishment, for their own spiritual good. God is always working to achieve salvation for his faithful servants.

When we go thru times of frustration or difficulties in our lives we need to remember the parable of the Plowman. We need to trust in the Lord that His promises are sure. This is our way to salvation.

New Suit
contributed by Mary Herrera

When Billy Graham was 92 years-old, he was struggling with Parkinson's disease. In January, a month before his 93rd birthday, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because of his struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, "We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you." So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said:

"I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great

physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train, when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets.

It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor said, “Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.” Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

The conductor rushed back and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one." Einstein looked at him and said, “Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going."

Having said that, Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this:

"I not only know who I am. I also know where I'm going. May your troubles be less, your blessings more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door. Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."

May each of us have lived our lives so that when our ticket is punched we don't have to worry about where we are going.



suffering; an exc
adj. [13c: from Lat
purge verb 1 a to r
some thoughts or
purities. 2 to rid

by *Bibi Shimoon Allicock*

Purging is thorough cleansing of someone or something, and as children of God, we must be purged from our sins. This can be done when someone has sincerely repented of his or her sins, being properly baptized, and after the laying on of the hands of the ministers in order for them to have the reception of the Holy Spirit. They then live a different life, which is one that will portray the fruit of the Holy Spirit. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Old things or the fruits of the flesh are: "...Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings;..." while new things or the fruits of the Spirit are: "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..." (II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:19-21 first part; 22-23).

We see for King Josiah to get the children of Israel to worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness, he had to do a purging of the land of Judah and Jerusalem. "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images. And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of

them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them. And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem" (II Chronicles 34:1-5).

Almighty God always instructed the children of Israel, after they had won various battles, to break down the idols and cut down the groves of the nations so that no one would worship thereon. "When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and re-

deemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them" (Deuteronomy 7:1-11).

In the book of Judges, Almighty God commanded Gideon, a mighty man of valour, to break down the altars of Baal and cut down the groves to be burned in order to purge his father's house, because he was an idol worshipper. "And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man...Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites. And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down" (Judges 6:11-16; 24-26).

We see here Gideon was telling the LORD that they were the poorest in Manasseh, and he was the least of his father's house, and how is it possible that God would

deliver Israel through him. We must not underestimate the power of Almighty God: For whatsoever He says, He will do; He definitely will do it. His yea is yea, and His nay is nay. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:19).

Moses told Almighty God he was not eloquent in speech. Let us see what was Almighty God's response as He showed him His might and His power. "And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they (the children of Israel) will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand" (Exodus 4:1-4).

"And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh" (Exodus 4:6-7).

Even though Moses saw the power of Almighty God and told God that he was not eloquent, yet when God sent the plagues upon Pharaoh, and his household, and his substances, the same Moses used the same mouth that God gave him to intervene on Pharaoh's behalf, and God answered his prayers. "And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs: And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants. And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt. And

Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD...And Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh: and Moses cried unto the LORD because of the frogs which he had brought against Pharaoh. And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields" (Exodus 8:1-6; 8; 12-13).

Let us see how Gideon purged the altar of Baal. "Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing" (Judges 6:27-29).

"Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar" (Judges 6:30-32).

The prophet Malachi declared: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will

come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts..." (Malachi 3:1-7 first part).

"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers. And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's

sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD" (Ezekiel 20:33-44).

In the book of Psalms, the Psalmist David asked Almighty God to purge him with hyssop; today we have to ask Him to purge us with the precious blood of the Lamb. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom...Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me" (Psalm 51:7; 1-6; 9-11).

When the prophet Isaiah was commissioned to do the Master's will, he quoted: "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged...And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed" (Isaiah 6:5-7; 9-10).

Almighty God tried to purge Ezekiel's wife, but she refused to be purged; as a result, she died and the prophet Ezekiel was not to cry or mourn for her. "She hath wearied herself with lies, and her great scum went not forth out of her: her scum shall be in the fire. In thy filthiness is lewdness: because I have purged thee, and thou wast not purged, thou shalt not be purged from thy

filthiness any more, till I have caused my fury to rest upon thee. I the LORD have spoken it: it shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent; according to thy ways, and according to thy doings, shall they judge thee, saith the Lord GOD. Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men. So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died..." (Ezekiel 24:12-18 first part).

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus came and suffered, bled, and died at Calvary so that we could be purged from our sins and our iniquities by His precious blood. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." The apostle Matthew declared the words of John: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance...And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Hebrews 1:1-3; Matthew 3:7 last part -8; 10-12).

As our Lord had died so that we could be purged from our sins, let us try our best to live pleasing and acceptable unto Him, which is our reasonable service. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of

faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people...Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:19-22 first part; 23-30; 38). Amen.



India

My cup runneth over

P S A L M 2 3 : 5

Drinking from My Saucer
by John Paul Moore
Contributed by Mary Herrera

*I've never made a fortune and its probably too late now,
 But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
 And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed,
 I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
 I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough,
 But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.
 I thank God for His blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed,
 I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
 I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin,
 But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.
 So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed,
 I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
 If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough,
 I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.
 And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads,
 Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.*



A CHARCOAL FIRE

By David Royer

Background for Context

Idea for article by Charles Pope, <http://blog.adw.org>

The Use of Irony in John's Gospel:

Irony is a literary technique that highlights a striking difference between two or more situations; this difference is known by the audience or readers while the characters in the narrative are unaware.

The raising of Lazarus points to a supreme irony in the Gospel of John. Jesus's very act of raising Lazarus from the dead confirms the Jewish temple leaders' conviction to kill Him. The contrast could not be more apparent. Jesus, who brings life, is opposed by the death-dealing conviction of His opponents. Consider some other examples of John's irony:

1. Jesus has been brought before Pilate on trumped-up charges. Yes, they have an innocent man on trial and conspire to have Him murdered. Despite this wickedness, John reports, *"Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover"* (John 18:28).

In their foolishness and blindness, they will consider themselves worthy of eating the Passover because they did not enter the house of a Gentile. Never mind that they

have conspired to murder an innocent man (who happens to be the Son of God)!

2. Who is blind here? – In the story of the man born blind (John 9), there are numerous ironies. The blind man himself says to the Pharisees who interrogate him, *"The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes"* (John 9:30). The blind man (who ironically can now see better than the supposed teachers and enlightened ones) instructs them on what they should know: *"Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing"* (John 9:32-33).

In other words, who is really the blind one here? Why should the student have to teach the teacher?

The significance of this article:

While looking through the Book of John for other ironies, I came across two separate events involving CHARCOAL FIRES. There is mention of many fires being built throughout the Bible, but there are only two that use the Greek word, that means "a heap of burning coals" or "charcoal fire." The irony: Apostle Peter was right there beside both charcoal fires.

The first charcoal fire that John wrote about is found in John, Chapter 18. However, before this fire event, the

Last Supper with Jesus took place. At this Supper, Peter claimed that he would always remain faithful no matter what others did, even if it meant dying for the Lord. Jesus specifically warned Peter that he would deny Him three times that very night. *“Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice”* (John 13:38).

Beginning with verse 17 of chapter 18, Peter denied Christ three times, twice while warming himself by a charcoal fire. *“And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself”* (John 18:18). Followed by verses 25-27: *“And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not. One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.”*

Mark 14:72 relates to Peter’s denial: *“And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.”*

Several days after Jesus’ resurrection, John continues to write in his ironic fashion and points out that this second fire also uses charcoal. Jesus prepares breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee for the returning fishermen: Peter, John, and other disciples. (This was the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead.) *“But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus...As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread”* (John 21:4&9). Jesus was now recognized.

Around the breakfast fire, Jesus questions Peter much as Peter had been asked days earlier by servants. *“So when*

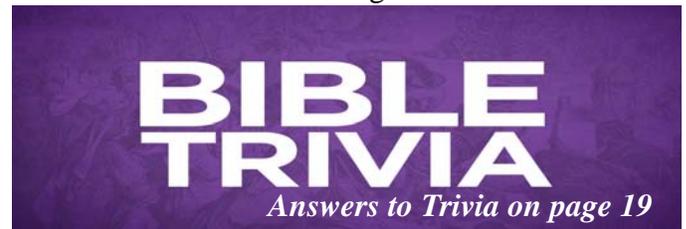
they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs” (John 21:15). Our writer, John, does not lose the irony here as Jesus asked this question three times.

Each time Peter reaffirmed his love, Jesus commanded him to “tend” or “feed” His flock. Peter’s love was to be expressed in actions, not just words of faithfulness. There was an opportunity to reaffirm his love for Jesus for each previous denial. Peter’s betrayal did not place him beyond God’s mercy and love. Jesus restores him. Having been restored, Peter continued to be faithful to Jesus with great courage, eventually being crucified for his faith.

John’s style of writing provides us with thought-provoking concepts:

- * At a charcoal fire, Peter had betrayed the Lord!
- * At a charcoal fire, the Lord restored Peter!
- * Our own acts of betrayal have not placed us beyond His love and mercy.
- * Jesus will set you on a new course.
- * Jesus’ call is to “Follow Me” to the very end.

Remember these biblical events whenever you hear a rooster crow or smell a burning charcoal fire.



1. John the Baptist
2. Samaritan
3. plowing with twelve yoke of oxen
4. Bethany
5. Hagar
6. keeping his father's sheep
7. Jochebed
8. casting a net into the sea
9. Jabal
10. Hephzibah
11. mending nets
12. hornets

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Instructor of Truth 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 18A - DANIEL 2 (NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM OF THE IMAGE)

QUESTION: In the second year of the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar what did he do?

ANSWER: "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him" (Daniel 2:1).

QUESTION: What did he command?

ANSWER: "Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king" (verse 2).

QUESTION: What did the king say?

ANSWER: "And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream"

(verse 3).

QUESTION: How did the Chaldeans answer?

ANSWER: "Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation" (verse 4).

QUESTION: What was the king's reply?

ANSWER: "The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof" (verses 5-6).

QUESTION: How did they respond?

ANSWER: "They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it" (verse 7).

QUESTION: With what words did the king answer?

ANSWER: "The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed (until I die and no other takes the throne): therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof" (verses 8-9).

QUESTION: What did the Chaldeans say?

ANSWER: "The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh" (verses

10-11).

QUESTION: How did this unsettle the king?

ANSWER: "For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon" (verse 12).

QUESTION: What decree did he make?

ANSWER: "And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain" (Verse 13).

QUESTION: What did Daniel say to Arioch?

ANSWER: "Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king?" (verse 14-15 first part).

QUESTION: What then did Arioch do?

ANSWER: "Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel" (verse 15 last part).

QUESTION: Where did Daniel go and what did he ask?

ANSWER: "Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation" (verse 16).

QUESTION: What did Daniel then do?

ANSWER: "Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (better known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego), his companions" (verse 17).

QUESTION: What did he ask his companions to do?

ANSWER: "That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon" (verse 18).

QUESTION: How did God answer?

ANSWER: "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven" (verse 19).

QUESTION: What was Daniel's response?

ANSWER: "Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter" (verses 20-23).

QUESTION: To whom did Daniel go and what did he say?

ANSWER: "Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation" (verse 24).

QUESTION: What did Arioch do and what did he say?

ANSWER: "Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation" (verse 25).

QUESTION: What question did the king ask?

ANSWER: "The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?" (verse 26).

Part 18B continued in July Advocate

The Way, Error, and Doctrine of Balaam

By David DeLong

We read about a prophet named Balaam beginning in Numbers 22. The story goes that the children of Israel encamped in the plains of Moab by Jericho. Balak, who was the king of the Moabites at that time, was very fearful of the children of Israel and wanted to defeat them. He therefore sent to Balaam to curse the Israelites for him because he believed that anyone Balaam blessed or cursed was in such a state.

The elders (princes) of Moab and Midian who came to Balaam stayed with him that night while Balaam prayed to the Lord what he should do. The Lord told Balaam not to go with these elders and not to curse the Israelites. Balak sent other princes, more honorable than the first ones, to try to change Balaam's mind. When Balaam asked the Lord what he should do, the Lord told him this time to go with the princes but only speak what the Lord tells him to.

The Lord was angry with Balaam for wanting to go with these men and He sent an angel to stand in his way. Balaam was riding upon his ass, and three times she tried to avoid the angel (with a sword in his hand). Balaam became angry at the ass and three times smote her, apparently with a staff. After the third time God opened the ass's mouth and she spoke to Balaam about the situation. Now the Lord opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the angel that would have killed him with the sword except the ass had turned away from the angel.

Balak then took Balaam into the high places of Baal so that he could see the Israelites and curse them. Balaam had Balak build seven altars and sacrifice seven oxen and seven rams. Then Balaam met with the Lord who caused Balaam to bless the Israelites.

Next, Balak took Balaam to the top of Pisgah where seven altars with seven bullocks and seven rams were offered. Again, the Lord made Balaam to bless the Israelites.

Balak was displeased so he took Balaam unto the top of Peor to curse the Israelites. Again Balaam instructed

Balak to build seven altars and offer seven bullocks and seven rams which Balak did. Again Balaam blessed the Israelites.

Balaam then spoke some parables of what was to be in the latter days, even speaking about the Lord Jesus Christ. Then Balaam returned to his place.

Though the Lord had Balaam bless the Israelites, they fell into grievous sin. We learn of this in Numbers chapter 25. "And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; be-

cause he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel. Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites. And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Vex the Midianites, and smite them: For they vex you with their wives, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake" (verses 1-18).

Balaam was later killed, presumably because he was an instigator in this matter of Peor. In Numbers 31:8,15-16, when the Israelites fought against the Midianites but took some of the people and cattle as captives and spoil, we learn: "And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword...And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD."

Now we come to the matter of the way, error, and doctrine of Balaam. As to the way of Balaam we turn to II Peter 2:14-16 and read about false teachers: "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet." The way of Balaam is the same way of the false teachers. They are basically only interested in gaining wages for hire. Many false teachers will teach anything that the congregation wants them to teach as long as they receive a paycheck.

When we cover the error of Balaam we must turn to Jude 11. This verse is relating to the "filthy dreamers" of verse 8 which "despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." Verse 11 says: "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error

of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." The error of Balaam consisted in a rebellious attitude, even when the revealed will of the Lord was shown to him. Of course, as we have already mentioned, Balaam wanted the "wages of unrighteousness" in his rebellion.

The doctrine of Balaam is mentioned in Revelation 2:14 where the Lord has a few things against the Church in Pergamos. This verse reads: "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." The doctrine of Balaam was teaching Balak how "to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." Balaam was not allowed to curse Israel so he got around this by having them eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication in the matter of Peor.

This is basically the way of all false teachers. They will teach anything for money. They have a rebellious attitude even in the revealed will of the Lord. And they often lead a life of fornication, even with women members of the church. But their way, error, and doctrine always leads to death. If not physical death, then at least spiritual death. Romans 6:23 reads: "For the wages of sin is death..."

May we never become a Balaam. But even more than this, may we never allow a Balaam to come into our churches. This happened to the Church in Thyatira in Revelation 2:18-23. Verses 20-23 read: "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

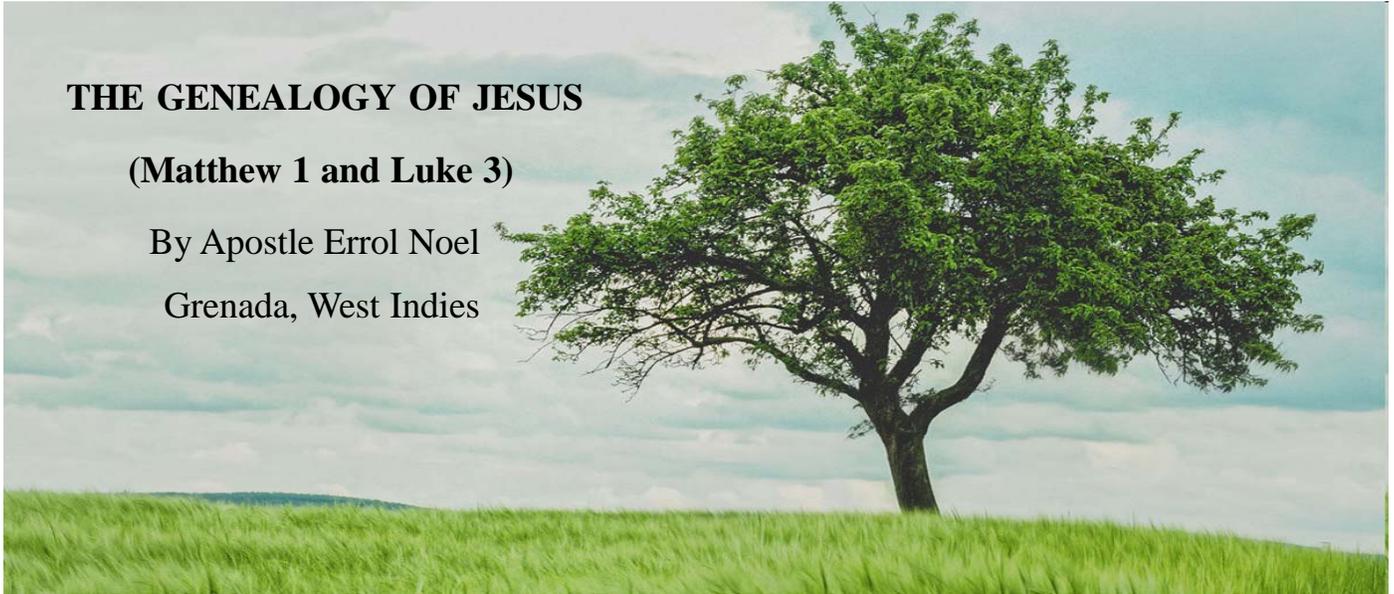
May the Lord give us the wisdom, strength, and will power to fight against the way, error, and doctrine of Balaam and the teaching of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:15) and other false teachers in our lives and in our churches. God bless each and every truth seeker!

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

(Matthew 1 and Luke 3)

By Apostle Errol Noel

Grenada, West Indies



This short study is done in answer to the following question, “Why Solomon is mentioned in the Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, and in Luke 3 he is not mentioned, but Nathan is mentioned?”

In Matthew 1:6 the Bible says, “And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; also in I Chronicles 28:5 David said, "And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son ..."

In Luke 3:31, last part, the Bible says, "...which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David." In I Chronicles 3:1-5 a tally of David’s sons was given and among them in verse 5, Nathan and Solomon are mentioned.

In Matthew one the genealogy of Jesus seems to have been drawn through Joseph the husband of Mary (who was the supposed father of Jesus) because it says in the 16th verse, “And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” Note the word “begat” (born of) so the understanding is that Joseph was Jacob’s biological son or offspring. That line had the genealogy through Joseph as lineage came through the father (Joseph being the supposed father but in line from David through Solomon.)

In Luke the genealogy seems to have been drawn through Mary who bore Jesus. Luke 3:23: "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,".

Joseph is stated in Matthew as the son of Jacob, while in Luke he is stated as the son of Heli.

Some research shows that Joseph could not have been the son of Jacob and Heli as all information sets Jacob and Heli apart as two separate individuals.

Looking back, Matthew said Jacob begat Joseph. Luke said Joseph was the son of Heli. One thought is that for Joseph to be called the son of Heli (and not stated that Heli begat Joseph) he had to have been the son-in-law of Heli. See I Samuel 24:16 where Saul who was the father-in-law of David referred to him as his son.

Conclusion: The Matthew genealogical line was drawn through Solomon (David’s son) and Joseph (of the same genealogical line) the supposed father of Jesus, while in Luke it was drawn through Nathan (another son of David) and Mary’s father Heli with the connection to Joseph who was Heli’s son-in-law and Mary’s husband.

Both Solomon and Nathan connect the genealogical lines in David.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

By David Royer

When thinking of “professing your faith”, I have always assumed that, when asked, I boldly declare publicly my intention to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. In addition, that Jesus died as the ultimate sacrifice for my sins and that He overcame the power of death when God, His Father, raised Him from the grave after three days and three nights.

After all, isn't that what Paul said in Romans 10: 8–10? “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

How can our words save us? They do not. Compare the words “we confess” as similar to baptism and our works. Being baptized by itself cannot save us. Baptism should symbolize the new life we have in Christ, the inner change of allegiance we possess. Without that new life and change of heart, baptism would simply be a religious ritual. Neither can our good works save us. If works could save us, then Christ died for nothing!

Jesus even rebuked certain Jews' hypocrisy based on their empty profession. “He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me” (Mark 7:6).

Baptism, good works, declarations, prayerful, studious in Scriptures, commemorating the Lord's Supper annually, and other professions of faith are stellar but powerless in themselves.



The key is our HEART

Our physical part in salvation is minimal because salvation is a spiritual work performed by the Holy Spirit within us. Salvation is by grace through the gift of faith, not by the

words we speak or actions we take. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Salvation occurs when this Holy Spirit moves into our repentant heart and begins the sanctifying and justifying work of making us more like Jesus. Here is how Apostle Paul describes this process:

“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Romans 8:27-30).

Dr. R.C. Sproul (1939–2017) coined a phrase that helped me understand “profession”.

He said: “It is the POSSESSION of faith, not the PROFESSION of faith, that transfers us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.”

We are not saved by a mere profession of faith but by the possession of faith. When faith is truly present in the heart, it necessarily, inevitably, and immediately bears fruit as exemplary works of service to God and our community. So, let us possess, embrace, communicate and live life by demonstrating our faith that God is graciously working on our heart by His Holy Spirit.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

Thank The Lord Today

By Del DeLong

*When I get down on my knees,
I thank the Lord each day,
For all the blessings given me,
And safety on my way.*

*Sometimes we get too busy -
To thank the Lord each day,
But the first words from my lips,
Must be, "Thank you Lord" today.*

*To fathom what God's Son has done -
By the gift that He has given,
And realize God gave His only Son,
Who now is back in heaven.*

*When Jesus died, He became the only one,
Who made my sins forgiven.
And through the obedience of this Son,
Eternal life is given.*

*We wait now for His return to earth -
We need to spread the word,
So we can all escape the dirth,
Of plagues that come afterward.*

*Take the time to thank the Lord,
Each and every day.
Follow Him and spread His Word,
He has given us the way.*



Picture of a beautiful garden in Panama.

We have so many things for which to be thankful. As children, we learned to say "thank you". It is important to remember to thank God for His many blessings.

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness" refers to (Moses; Satan; John the Baptist). Mark 1:3-4*
2. *The leper who returned to thank Jesus was a (Samaritan; Jew; Gentile). Luke 17:16*
3. *Elisha was (caring for sheep; plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; under a juniper tree) when Elijah cast his mantel upon him. I Kings 19:19*
4. *Christ ascended to heaven near (Bethany; Jerusalem; Capernaum). Luke 24:50*
5. *The first handmaid mentioned in the Bible was (Bilhah; Leah; Hagar). Genesis 16:1*
6. *David was (keeping his father's sheep; feeding oxen; fishing) when Samuel anointed him. I Samuel 16:11*
7. *The first Hebrew woman who disobeyed a king's law was (Sarah; Jochebed; Rebekah). Exodus 2:1-4; 6:20*
8. *Peter and Andrew were (casting a net into the sea; mending their nets; walking to Nazareth) when Jesus called them to be apostles. Mark 1:16*
9. *The first man mentioned in the Bible to have cattle and dwell in tents was (Jabal; Abram; Abel). Genesis 4:20*
10. *(Herodias; Hannah; Hephzibah) was the wife of Hezekiah. II Kings 21:1*
11. *James and John were (eating fish; mending nets; fishing) when Jesus called them. Mark 1:19*
12. *God sent (flies; hornets; snakes) before the Israelites to drive out the enemies. Joshua 24:12*

**LESSON I
THE CAPTURE**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:45-53.
Golden Text: Matthew 26:50.

“And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Jesus and the disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked His disciples to pray with Him, but instead they slept and left Jesus alone. Let us continue the story.

1. While Jesus was speaking, who came to the Garden, and who was with him? Matthew 26:47.
2. What sign was Judas to give to let the men know which one was Jesus? Matthew 26:48-49.
3. What did Jesus say to Judas, and what happened to Jesus? Matthew 26:50; Luke 22:48.
4. What did one of the disciples do to the servant of the High Priest? Matthew 26:51. Read John 18:10 to find out which disciple did this.
5. What did Jesus say to Simon Peter when he cut the servant's ear off, and what did He do for that servant? Matthew 26:52-54; Luke 22:51.
6. Did the disciples stay with Jesus throughout His capture? Matthew 26:56 (last part).

**LESSON II
PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST**

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:66-72.
Golden Text: Mark 14:71.

“But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.”

NOTE: Jesus is taken before the High Priest and questioned. Peter had followed him from afar and goes into

the palace to sit with the servants. (Luke 22:54). We will now study of Peter's denial.

1. Where was Peter at this time, and who came up to him? Mark 14:66.
2. What statement did she make? Mark 14:67.
3. How did Peter deny this statement, and what happened next? Mark 14:68.
4. Who saw him again, and what did those who stood by say to him? Mark 14:70.
5. In what uncouth manner did he deny this? Mark 14:71.
6. What happened the second time? Mark 14:72 (first part).
7. What did this make Peter remember, and what did he do? Mark 14:72 (last part).

**LESSON III
JESUS OR BARABBAS**

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:6-15.
Golden Text: Mark 15:15.

“And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.”

NOTE: The chief priests bound Jesus and took him before Pilate. Pilate questions Jesus and finds no wrong with Him. Let us find out what happens as Pilate talks to the crowd.

1. At the feast of the Passover, what did Pilate do? Mark 15:6.
2. Whom did Pilate bring before the multitude? Mark 15:7.
3. Did this please the multitude? Mark 15:8.
4. How did Pilate answer the multitude, and why had

they delivered Jesus unto him? Mark 15:9-10.

19:6, 12, 16. It was the Jewish Temple guards.

5. What did the chief priests do? Mark 15:11.

6. What question did Pilate ask them? Mark 15:12.

7. What did the multitude cry out again? Mark 15:13.

8. What did Pilate then say, and how did this affect the people? Mark 15:14.

9. What did Pilate finally do, and why? Mark 15:15.

**LESSON IV
JESUS SUFFERS FOR US**

Scripture Reading: John 19:1-15.

Golden Text: John 19:2.

"And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe".

NOTE: What does "crucify" mean?

Answer: To put to death by nailing the hands and feet to a cross.

1. What cruel thing did Pilate do? John 19:1.

2. Did the Roman soldiers have any part in causing Jesus to suffer? John 19:2-3.

3. Could Pilate find any fault in Jesus even though the Jews cried out to crucify Him? John 19:4-6.

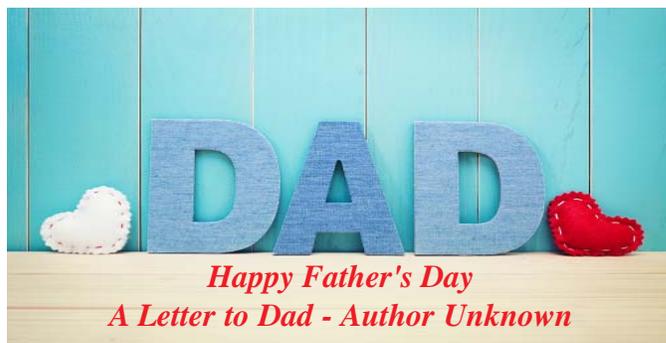
4. Why did Pilate go to the judgment hall to talk to Jesus? John 19:8-9.

5. What were his words to Jesus? John 19:10.

6. What did Jesus mean by His answer in John 19:11?

7. When Pilate tried to let Jesus go, what did the Jews do? John 19:12-15.

8. Who were the actual people that crucified Jesus? John



There are so many things I'd like
To tell you face to face;
I either lack the words or fail
To find the time or place.

But in this special letter, Dad,
You'll find, at least in part,
The tellings that the passing years
Have left within my heart.

The memories of childhood days,
And all that you have done
To make our home a happy place,
And growing up such fun.
I still recall the walks we took,
The games we often played;
Those confidential chats we had
While resting in the shade.

This letter comes to thank you, Dad,
From needed words of praise;
The counsel and the guidance, too,
That shaped my grown-up days.
No words of mine can tell you, Dad,
the things I really feel;
But you must know my love for you
Is lasting, warm and real.

You made my world a better place,
And through the coming years,
I'll keep those memories for you
As cherished souvenirs!



A STRONG FAMILY

"You just ought to feel my muscle, Papa," said Johnny. "Don't you think it's big and hard?"

The flannel shirt was pushed up into wrinkles at the shoulder, and a very soft and pink arm presented itself proudly for inspection.

"Pretty good for seven years," said Papa, smiling. "I hope some day to see you as strong as a family I know."

"What's their name?" asked Johnny, forgetting his muscle to the first hint of a story.

"This name is Never," answered Father, with a funny little wrinkle at each eye-corner, as if a tiny little smile was curled up there.

"Never! What a funny name!" exclaimed Johnny. "What are their other names?"

"Oh, there are a lot of them. There is Mr. Never drink; he has such clear eyes, and such a steady step, you'd know him anywhere; a strong fellow is Mr. Never-drink, always ready to lift his end of the log."

"Another is Mr. Never-swear; you will know him by the company he keeps; and suppose he grows strong by not wasting his breath."

"Then there's Never-lie, whom everybody trusts; and Mr. Never-be unkind, whom everybody loves; and Mr. Never-forget, who loses nothing; and Mr. Never-be idle, who does the world's work; and Mr. Never-be discouraged."

Papa stopped and laughed aloud, for Johnny was in the midst of a big yawn.

"You don't seem to care much about my strong people,

Johnny," he said.

"I like stories about sure-'nuff people", replied Johnny.

"All right. Once there was a little boy who wanted to be very strong; oh, as strong as Samson! So he went to the strongest man on N street, and asked him how to get strong and hardy."

"By not touching strong drink," said the strong man on N Street.

He asked another strong man the same question.

"Never-swear," said the man. "It takes you into low company, where God and men are dishonored."

"Another side, Never-lie. A single lie takes away a man's courage."

"Who was the little boy that talked to all these strong people, Papa?" interrupted Johnny suddenly.

"He was a little boy that I want my own boy to be," answered the Father. "I want him to make friends with the Nevers, because they are the friends of God. And their family motto is this, "thus said the Lord, Thou shalt not."

A RIDDLE

*I was a prisoner indeed,
Yet when they brought to me
Another man to share my lot
I gave him liberty.*

WHO AM I?

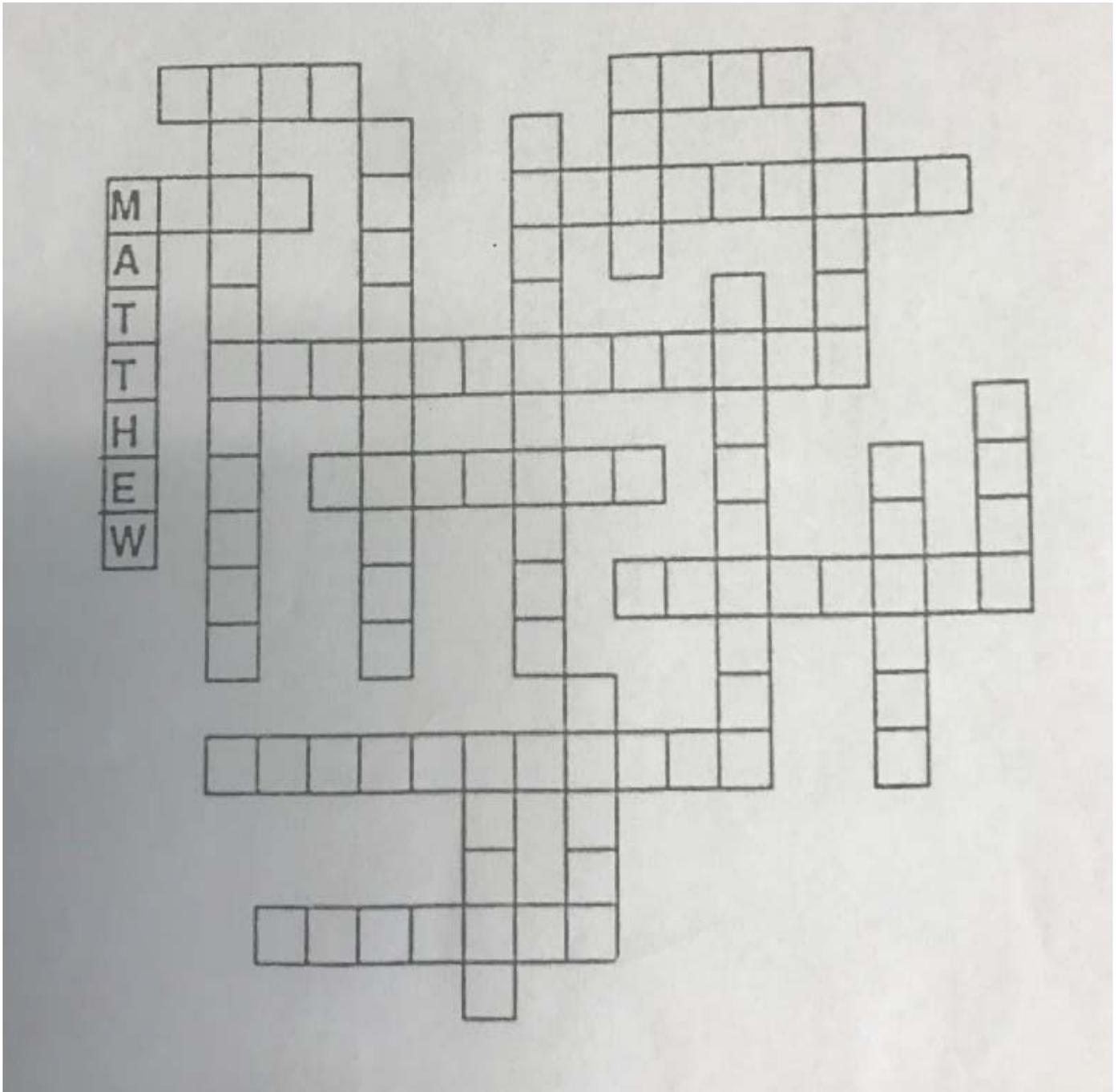
(The answer is found in II Kings 13:20-21).

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Fit the names of the New Testament books into the puzzle below.

The numbers are not used in the puzzle.

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, ACTS, ROMANS, I & II CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, I & II THESSALONIANS, I & II TIMOTHY, TITUS, PHILEMON, HEBREWS, JAMES, I & II PETER, I & II & III JOHN, JUDE, REVELATION



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***WHAT DADS WANT
By Delwin DeLong***

*A hammer, saw or wrench,
Are things Dads like to get.
Pliers and a ruler,
Are always a sure bet.*

*Dads like to build with wood,
And sometimes metal too.
They like to build with nails,
And fix things up with glue.*

*The best thing that Dads want,
Is obedience and love -
A character that's flawless,
That's guided from above.*

*Dads love to see their children,
Walk in all God's ways,
To keep all His commandments,
Each and every day.*