

The Advocate of Truth

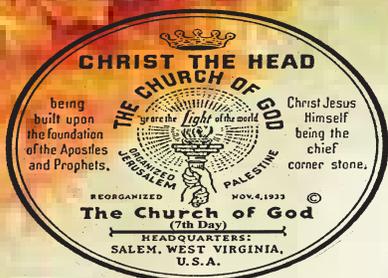


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The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

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**

Telephone: 304-782-1411

Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

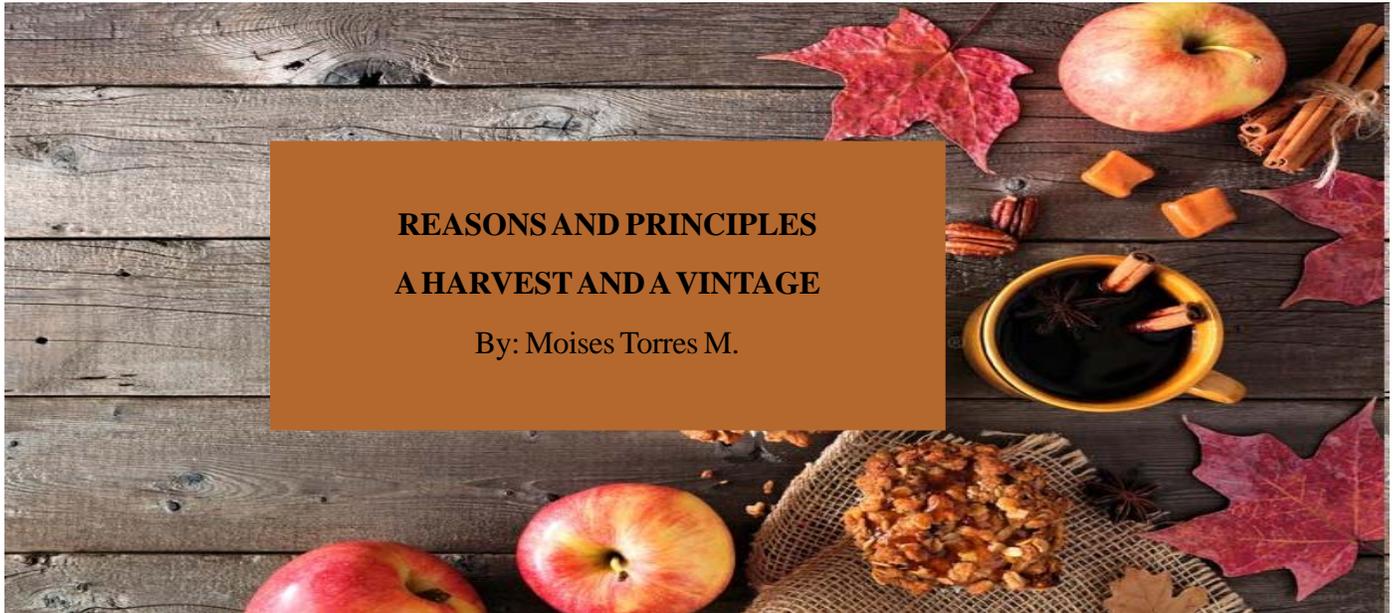
Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

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Volume LXXI **Number 6**
November, 2022
The Advocate of Truth
USPS 542-940

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever" (I Chronicles 16:34).





**REASONS AND PRINCIPLES
A HARVEST AND A VINTAGE**

By: Moises Torres M.

The book of Revelation chapter 14:14-20 describes two different events represented by a harvest and a vintage, prophetic symbols of the two phases of the second coming of Christ.

Let us first look at the HARVEST.

1. What did John see in Revelation 14:14-16?

REVELATION 14:14-16: “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the **Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.** And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.”

2. Who is the reaper in this account and how is he presented?

In these verses the REAPER is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who is represented as having a golden crown on His head, and in His hand a sharp sickle. He is commanded to reap the harvest of the earth. “Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for THE TIME IS COME for thee to reap; for the HARVEST of the earth is ripe... and the earth was reaped.”

NOTE: The Apostle Paul says “...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

3. Whom does the “harvest of the earth” represent?

The word “harvest” symbolizes in agriculture the cereals or grains that are already “ripe” or ready to be reaped. Mowing the “golden harvest” that covers the crops ready to be reaped and harvested, whether they are wheat, oats, barley, etc. This harvest represents all the saints who have reached maturity to be reaped. This is why the verse says, “for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” Only those who have reached spiritual maturity according to the mindset of Christ will be reaped in this phase of the HARVEST or RAPTURE of the coming of the Son of God. The one seated on the cloud is presented as having a golden crown on His head, which identifies Him as the KING OF THE SAINTS (read Revelation 15:1-3).

Let us now read about THE VINTAGE:

4. What does Revelation 14:17-20 say about this?

REVELATION 14:17-20: “And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.”

NOTE: This other event speaks of a vintage, not a harvest. A vintage is the gathering of the grapes when they have reached maturity. And this time it is an angel who has a sharp sickle in his hand to harvest the bunches of grapes from the earth because the grapes are ripe.

5. What do the ripe grapes ready for harvest represent?

The ripe grapes represent all the Gentile nations who did not accept the gospel of salvation, and who will come up against Jerusalem to destroy the people of Israel in the battle of Armageddon. When the angel harvests the vine of the earth he casts the grapes into the great winepress of God’s wrath. “And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.”

NOTE: A stadium or (furlong, V.R.S.) is a Greek measure of length of approximately 1/8 (one-eighth of a mile), which multiplied by 1600 yields a total of approximately 200 miles. This is the measure of the “great winepress” of God’s wrath also referred to as the Valley of Jehoshaphat or Valley of Decision by the prophet Joel. Some Bible student commentaries claim that 1600 stadia is the distance between the Valley of Armageddon and Bozrah, the ancient capital of Edom, the city of Esau, brother of Jacob, now located in modern Jordan.

6. What does the prophet Joel say about this event?

JOEL 3:12-15: “Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. **Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision:** for the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.”

7. How does Isaiah prophesy about this?

ISAIAH 63:1-3: “Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments **like him that treadeth in the winefat?** I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.”

NOTE: Edom means “red”; this was the name Esau received because of the red dish of pottage he exchanged for his birthright. The color red is the color of blood; therefore, Edom represents in prophecy all the bloodthirsty nations and peoples that have caused so much death in the world since ancient times. From Edom come the Idumeans and the family of Herod, who ordered to kill all children under two years old in order to kill the child Jesus. Therefore, this prophecy of Isaiah, says the Lord will come from Edom of Bozrah with reddish garments as symbolizing the payment for all the nations that acted with a bloodthirsty spirit against innocent people. This will be the WARRING phase of the

second coming of Christ. He will fight the nations at Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-16) and become “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” when He is seen with many crowns upon His head.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, **and on his head *were* many crowns**; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called THE WORD OF GOD. And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:11-16).

NOTE: In the rapture or harvest phase, the Lord is seen seated on a cloud; in the vintage phase he is seen seated on a white horse ready to fight and smite the nations.





They All Were Thankful

After Noah had been in the ark for many months he was thankful to the Lord for his and his family's deliverance. He showed his thankfulness by offering to the Lord burnt-offerings. "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done" (Genesis 8:20-21).

Abraham was also thankful to the Lord for watching over him, Sarah, and Lot when they came into the land of Canaan, went down into Egypt, and came back to Canaan with much wealth. "And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD" (Genesis 13:1-4).

Hagar, when she was sent away from Abraham and Sarah, was at first very sad. But she became thankful for the deliverance of her son, Ishmael. "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer" (Genesis 21:14-20).

David was very thankful to the Lord for delivering him



from all his enemies. He was likewise thankful for forgiveness of sin. He wrote in Psalm 51:1-3, after he had committed adultery with Bath-sheba: "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." He was forgiven by the Lord and the joy of his salvation was restored to him.

Queen Esther was thankful for her deliverances, one from King Ahasuerus, and one from Haman. "Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I

the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day" (Ruth 4:10).

How thankful Daniel was when he was delivered by the angel from the mouths of the hungry lions. He told the king: "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God" (Daniel 6:22-23).

The Apostle Peter was mightily sorrowful when he



go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:15-16). We know that the Lord spared her life from the king. Also, when Esther revealed to the king that Haman was out to destroy her and her people we read: "And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen...So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified" (Esther 7:6,10).

Ruth was thankful for the Lord's blessings in her life when she decided to follow Him. She told Naomi: "And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me" (Ruth 1:16-17). Also, she was greatly blessed when Boaz took her for his wife. He said: "Moreover Ruth the Moabitess,

denied the Lord three times and when he fled away from Him with the other disciples. "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75). But later, when he was restored to the Lord, he must have felt what he wrote in I Peter 1:7-8: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Mary Magdalene had great cause for being thankful to Jesus for casting out seven demons from her (see Mark 16:9). We read in Matthew 28:1,8, after Jesus was raised from the dead: "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre...And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and

great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word."

The Apostle Paul was a man of much thanks to the Lord for his conversion to Christianity, and for the many times he was delivered from dangers. We read of the testimony of his relationship with the Lord: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:10). He also wrote: "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief" (I Timothy 1:12-13).

The Apostle John, though he was exiled to the island of Patmos, was also a thankful man for the work that the Lord had given to him. We can feel the thankfulness and joy that he was feeling when he wrote to the seven churches in Asia: "John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:4-6).

All of God's true servants as listed in the Bible were very thankful to the Lord. They were praising God for healing, for deliverance from their enemies, and for leading them when their way was unclear. We have so much to be thankful for, as well. The Lord does the same things for us when we place our faith in Him.



Thanksgiving, God's Way

By David DeLong

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of the year when we can spend special time with our family, friends, and church members, feasting upon the sumptuous fare with which the Lord has blessed us. And this is perfectly fine and good. However, the Lord Jesus gives us some words to think about, and act upon, in Luke 14:12-14: "Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

As was mentioned at the beginning of this article, Thanksgiving is a wonderful time that we can spend with those who are close to us. And we need not feel guilt for doing so. But we can come even closer to God's heart by doing what Jesus suggested in the above text. There are probably some people in the aforesaid categories (poor, maimed, lame, and blind) that we know of whom we could invite to our homes with which to celebrate Thanksgiving. Or if we don't know of any, we could do a little searching to find them. Perhaps it might be a homeless person or family. Perhaps it could be a shut-in. Perhaps, even after we have celebrated Thanksgiving with our loved ones, we could set aside a special time to feast with the less fortunate. Doing so would mightily touch the heart of the Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father. If it is too late to do so this year, maybe we could use the coming year to plan for such an event.

I love the words given to us by the Lord in Psalm 41:1-3: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." Of course there are other ways to help the less fortunate than by inviting them to your home for Thanksgiving. You could serve them meals in places, including churches, that are set up to do so. Or, you could choose a charity to send money to such as those which feed hungry families. Helping those in need is what counts.



THE PRIDE OF LIFE

Psalm 74-79

*When I see the prosperity of the wicked,
Sometimes I'm envious like a fool,
I become blind to what's really important,
And available as the devil's hand tool.*

*Remember the pride of the Egyptians,
And how hard hearted they'd become,
They refused to accept who the Lord was,
And great plagues were sent, one by one.*

*There were flies and frogs and boils,
Fiery hail and lightening and frost,
Even blood followed through all the rivers,
And the first born of every family was lost.*

*His own people didn't even listen,
They wouldn't accept His guiding hand,
Even after He freed them from bondages,
And tried to give them the promised land.*

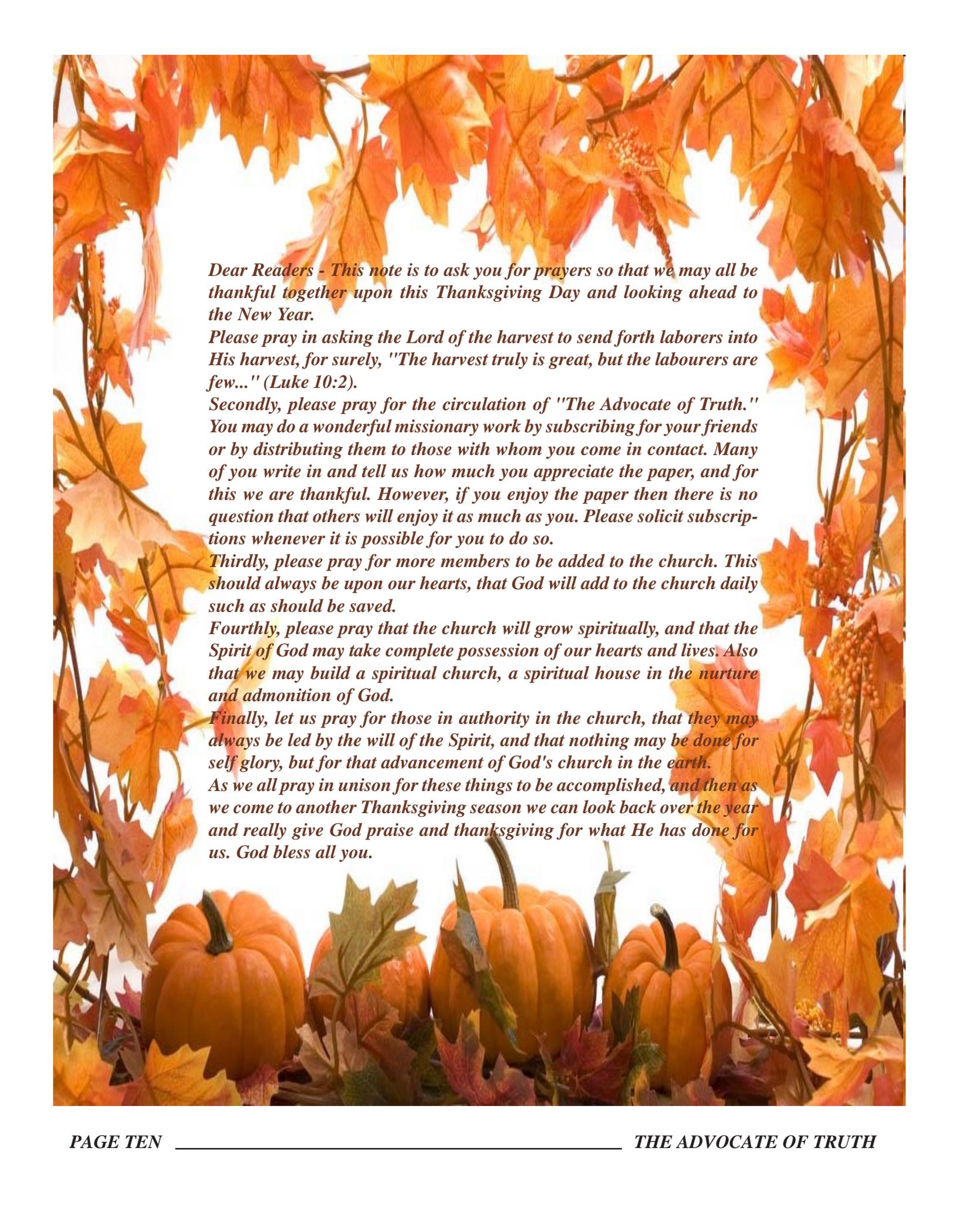
*In the desert more miracles followed,
They were led by fire and cloud,
But of the first chosen leaders of Israel,
Into Caanan only two were allowed.*

*Today are we likewise blinded,
By our own desires and selfish pride,
Do we recognize how important God is,
And how we must have Him on our side?*

*All the day is His, and the night is His,
He's given us the stars and the sun,
He has set all the borders of the earth,
Only He could create what's been done.*

*Lord, remind us where all strength comes from,
Who is our counsel and our guide,
Lord, lead us by Your right hand,
And free us from the chains of pride.*

By Pat Evans



Dear Readers - This note is to ask you for prayers so that we may all be thankful together upon this Thanksgiving Day and looking ahead to the New Year.

Please pray in asking the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest, for surely, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few..." (Luke 10:2).

Secondly, please pray for the circulation of "The Advocate of Truth." You may do a wonderful missionary work by subscribing for your friends or by distributing them to those with whom you come in contact. Many of you write in and tell us how much you appreciate the paper, and for this we are thankful. However, if you enjoy the paper then there is no question that others will enjoy it as much as you. Please solicit subscriptions whenever it is possible for you to do so.

Thirdly, please pray for more members to be added to the church. This should always be upon our hearts, that God will add to the church daily such as should be saved.

Fourthly, please pray that the church will grow spiritually, and that the Spirit of God may take complete possession of our hearts and lives. Also that we may build a spiritual church, a spiritual house in the nurture and admonition of God.

Finally, let us pray for those in authority in the church, that they may always be led by the will of the Spirit, and that nothing may be done for self glory, but for that advancement of God's church in the earth.

As we all pray in unison for these things to be accomplished, and then as we come to another Thanksgiving season we can look back over the year and really give God praise and thanksgiving for what He has done for us. God bless all you.



The Magic Bank Account was found in the billfold of Coach Paul Bear Bryant from Alabama after he died in 1982.

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 In your private account for your use. However, this prize has Rules.

The set of Rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend It.
4. Each morning upon awakening, The bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that Day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, "Game Over!"

It can close the account, and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally Do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL - Shocked ???
YES!

Each of us is already a winner Of this *PRIZE*.
We just can't seem to see it.



1. Each morning we awaken to Receive 86,400 seconds As a gift of Life.
2. And when we go to sleep at Night, any remaining time is Not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that Day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever Gone.
5. Each morning the account is Refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING.

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much More than the same amount in dollars.

Think about it and remember to Enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be Happy, love deeply and enjoy life lived for Christ!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day.

Start spending....



TABITHA

By David Royer

I recently read an announcement that The Roman Catholic Church and The Eastern Orthodox Church commemorate Saint Tabitha the Widow on October 25. This same day is recognized as Grenada Thanksgiving, International Artist Day, World Pasta Day, Sovereignty Day, National Greasy Food Day, National Pumpkin Day, October Bank Holiday, New Zealand Labor Day, and Zambia Independence Day.

It is just a coincidence that these events coincide, but this announcement reminded me of a song mentioning Dorcas, AKA Tabitha. We learned many Bible-inspired songs during our children's Sabbath School classes (1957-1960's) in Salem, WV. I remember the words to one little piece: "Shamgar had an oxgoad, David had a sling, Dorcas had a needle, Rahab had some string, Samson had a jawbone, Aaron had a rod, Mary had some ointment, and they all were used of God."

Dorcas's life, death, and resurrection are recorded in Acts Chapter 9. Her Hebrew name was Tabitha, meaning a gazelle, a female deer, a red deer doe, or a pleasant creature. The Greek equivalent name is Dorcas. Since our Bible often refers to Dorcas, I will continue this article with that name.

Dorcas lived at Joppa, a sea-port town in the tribe of Dan. Today, this ancient town is part of Tel Aviv-Yafo, a major city and economic center in Israel, situated on the Mediterranean coast, 40 miles northwest of the capital city, Jerusalem. Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tel-Aviv-Yafo>

We do not know much about her, but anecdotal evidence

gives us clues. According to Women In The Bible: "The original Greek text describes this widow-woman as 'mathetria', a female disciple – the only time the New Testament uses this word. So immediately we know she is a well-known woman of good repute." Source: <http://womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/dorcas-tabitha/>

Dorcas was always giving alms (money, clothing, or food, given freely to relieve the poor). "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did." (Acts 9:36). The last part of verse 39 tells us that she made coats and clothing: "...all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them." These widows were grieving the death of Dorcas, who had recently died of an unmentioned or most likely, unknown illness.

Two other disciples from Joppa traveled to the nearby town of Lydda (less than 15 miles away) to locate and bring Apostle Peter back with them to her death bed. Today, Lydda has grown into the industrial city of Lod, and on its outskirts is the Ben Gurion International Airport. Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Lod>

Upon the arrival of Peter, another of his many miracles took place. Dorcas was raised from the dead. "Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down,

and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.” (Acts 9:39-41).

The apparent result was that God used the death of Dorcas to empower Peter to perform this widely witnessed miracle of life to increase the followers of and believers in Christ. We read in verse 42: “And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.” At the same time, the Lord was proving to others that Peter was indeed one of His servants and to make Peter’s preaching more powerful and authoritative concerning the Gospel.

Some other lessons we can learn from the life of Dorcas:

*She was a disciple of Christ.

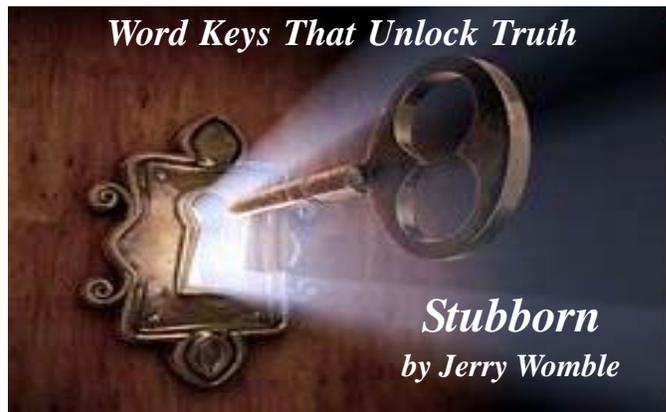
“In Christianity, disciple primarily refers to a dedicated follower of Jesus. In the ancient world, a disciple is a follower or adherent of a teacher. It is not the same as being a student in the modern sense. It was a deliberate apprenticeship which made the fully formed disciple a living copy of the master.” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciple_\(Christianity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciple_(Christianity)). Choose to be a disciple. Faith in God and His Son, Jesus isn’t just a belief, but a lifestyle.

*You will be remembered for what you have done with your life.

*The admiration of Dorcas is a result of her virtues, not in words but deeds. “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26). Let us not stop having faith through words, but faith through works as well.

*Stay faithful in doing good for others. We do not know what Dorcas did for the poor beyond clothing them, but she definitely made caring a habit. Be consistent in reaching out with a heart for helping others. God will increase the influence of anything we do.

Thank you Luke, the Physician, for writing about Dorcas, an otherwise unknown disciple.



By definition stubborn is the act of rebelling or refusing to do the right thing. Usually because we want our own way and will not change even when we know that we should.

In Deut. 9:25-27 Moses is so concerned about the stubbornness of the children of Israel that he was in a fallen down condition. This is, he prostrated himself for 40 days and 40 nights. By this he meant that he was giving all his strength and commitment and prayer into his pleading with God not to destroy Israel because of their stubbornness. He reminded God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and of their faithfulness and to overlook the present stubborn condition of Israel.

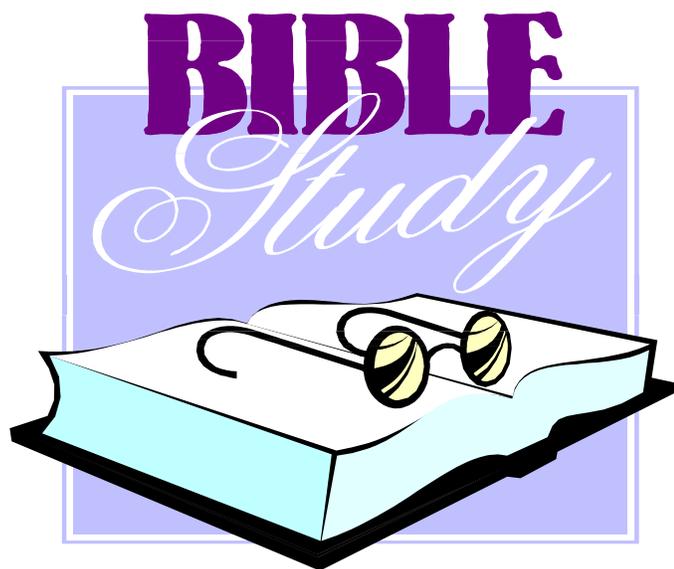
The seriousness of being stubborn is found in Deut. 21 where the rebellious and stubborn son refuses to change his life even after his father and mother had chastened him. They took him before the elders of the city who took him outside the city and stoned him to death for his stubborn and rebellious actions. This sentence of death in the OT day and time should be a strong impression for us today to be sure we are not stubborn in refusing to keep God’s laws and to be sure we are not following the commandments of men.

We are cautioned in Ps. 78 to see the stubbornness of the previous generation and not to follow their ways wherein they were not steadfast with God. This previous generation was also the leaders of the nation. Today we see this in the leaders of our country in thinking their way is the only way and not considering the needs and opinions of the citizens of the land.

The lesson for us today is found in 1 Sam. 15 where we learn that stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. It reminds us to be careful in our studies and not hold on to a thought

or teaching out of stubbornness when really, we see a better way.

There is a real stubbornness in our country and in all nations on the earth today. That stubborn attitude is causing the covid 19 to resurface very strong in many states and foreign countries. What is the stubborn situation? The refusal to get a vaccine to prevent the spread of the virus. The Scriptures tell us to take care of ourself, the temple of the Holy Spirit, our family and even our neighbor. Jesus tells us who the good neighbor is in Luke 10 with the parable of the good Samaritan and it is the person that does the good deed for his fellow man.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

Part 11 - THE SIXTH PLAQUE

QUESTION: Where is the sixth vial poured?

ANSWER: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates" (Revelation 16:12 first part).

QUESTION: What is prepared?

ANSWER: "and the water thereof was dried up, that the

way of the kings of the east might be prepared" (Revelation 16:12 last part).

QUESTION: What was seen?

ANSWER: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet" (verse 13).

QUESTION: What are these spirits and what do they do?

ANSWER: "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (verse 14).

QUESTION: What admonition is given?

ANSWER: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (verse 15).

NOTE: This does not mean that the Lord is coming under the sixth plague. If it meant this then His statement that He is coming as a thief is of very little importance. We would all wait until the sixth plague to get ready for His coming. The admonition given here is that all who read should watch and be ready so that when He comes we may not only miss this sixth plague but all of them.

QUESTION: Where will the nations be gathered?

ANSWER: "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (verse 16).

QUESTION: What command is given under the sixth trumpet?

ANSWER: "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates" (Revelation 9:13-14).

QUESTION: Does God have a set time to loose these angels?

ANSWER: "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men" (verse 15).

NOTE: God has the exact time, even to the hour, set to slay the third part of men.

QUESTION: How many horsemen are seen?

ANSWER: "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them" (verse 16).

QUESTION: How are the horses described?

ANSWER: "And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone" (verse 17).

QUESTION: How many men will be killed?

ANSWER: "By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths" (verse 18).

QUESTION: Where is the horses' power?

ANSWER: "For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt" (verse 19).

QUESTION: Will these plagues lead men to repent?

ANSWER: "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (verses 20-21).

Thank You, Dear Lord

By David DeLong

Thank You, dear Lord, for a rusty, old Ford,
For many do not have a car;
But, many must walk, so I shouldn't mock
When able to drive near or far.

Thank You, dear Lord, for clothes I afford,
For, at least I'm not ragged or bare;
I may not have fashion, the latest to "cash-in",
But at least I have something to wear.

Thank You, dear Lord, for room and board,
For I have a good place I can stay in;
I'm out of the rain, with no hunger pain,
With a bed for my body to lay in.

Thank You, dear Lord, for a Scriptural sword
That tells of Your love for my soul;
It shows me the way, to live and to pray,
And shows me my everyday role.





THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Pictures below by Brother Joseph with congregation in Rwanda, Africa.



Apostle M. Yehoshuva at Thoggudem Church building dedication in Diddepudi Village Khammam District India.



Apostolic Council Meeting
Dallas Texas June 2022

We are grateful and thank God for the successful Apostolic Council meeting held in June in [Dallas Texas](#). We were also very grateful for air conditioning as it was very hot in Dallas during the meeting.

We were able to allocate money to help many of our churches throughout the world. Some of the areas we were able to send help to were: Kenya (helped expand the medical clinic there), Nigeria, Congo, Burundi, India (helped with new church building), Philippines, Myanmar, Grenada (helped with renovating a church in St. Patricks), Honduras, and Nicaragua. We were also able to help local churches in the United States including local church building repairs, sponsoring a youth retreat in San Antonio, a Young Adult's retreat in Dallas, and a Women's meeting in Houston. We would like to again thank everyone who sends in tithes and donations which allows us to do this good work for the Lord and keep the publishing and ministry work for the church active and growing.

At the end of the meeting a lot was cast to replace members of the Twelve Apostles who have passed away in the last year and a half. After fasting and prayer the names of Tim Beuchner (San Antonio Texas) and Kent Cornwall (Canada) were drawn. We are thankful to the Lord for the service of these good men.

Psalms 103 21,22: Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Gary Mills
Managing Editor of the Advocate of Truth



Pictured above Members of the Twelve laying hands on newly appointed Board of Seven Member, Brother Ben DeLong (West Virginia).

Pictured below are Members of the Twelve Apostles present at the Apostolic Council meeting from left to right back row: Brother Errol Noel (Grenada West Indies), Brother Tim Buechner (San Antonio, Texas), Brother Warren H. Randall Jr. (Florida), Brother Ricky Herrera Sr. (Dallas, Texas) front row: Brother Paul Herrera Sr. (Dallas, Texas), Brother Jerry Womble (San Antonio, Texas) and Brother Pascacio Tavizon (Mexico).





Above left - Brother Kasi Oreke, chairman Nigeria West Africa (sitting red necktie) at Minister's Meeting Umuonei last year

Above right - Brother Kasi Oreke son, brother Udonna Kasi being baptized at Idu-Osobile water side at the campmeeting last year he is the one on white singlet. Pastor Ndubueze Charles and pastor Timothy Eluaka baptising.

Below - Baptism in TAHITI by Brother Fariki



LESSON I
JESUS CHOOSES TWELVE APOSTLES

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:1-22.
Golden Text: Matthew 10:22 (last part).
"...but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

1. Name the original twelve apostles. Matthew 10:2-4.
2. What did Jesus give the twelve apostles? Matthew 10:1.
3. To whom did Jesus send the apostles? Matthew 10:5-6.
4. What were the twelve apostles to do? Matthew 10:7-8.
5. What else did Jesus instruct the apostles to do? Matthew 10:9-14.
6. What do you think Matthew 10:16 means? Are God's children still sheep in the midst of wolves?
7. Did Jesus tell the apostles they would be well liked, and could they endure to the end? Matthew 10:22.

NOTE: The word "apostle" means one sent forth, a messenger or an ambassador. Jesus knew His mission on earth would be a short one, so He chose twelve disciples and taught them so they might go out and preach the gospel.

LESSON II
JESUS SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-35.
Golden Text: Mark 1:22.
"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes."

1. What did Jesus say in Mark 1:15?
2. Who did Jesus see as He walked by the sea of Galilee, and what were they doing? Mark 1:16.
3. What did Jesus mean in Mark 1:17?
4. Where and why did James and John leave their father? Mark 1:19-20.
5. Where did Jesus go at this time, and what did He do there? Mark 1:21-22.
6. What did the man with the unclean spirit cry out? Mark 1:23-24.
7. What miracle was performed in Mark 1:25-27?
8. Who was sick with a fever, and was she healed? Mark 1:30-31.
9. What do we find Jesus doing in Mark 1:35? Why do you think He did this?



LESSON III

JESUS FORGIVES THE SINFUL WOMAN

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50.

Golden Text: Luke 7:48.

"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."

1. Who invited Jesus to eat with Him? Luke 7:36.
2. Who wept at Jesus' feet? Luke 7:37.
3. How did she wipe Jesus' feet? Luke 7:38.
4. What did the Pharisee think of Jesus when He let the woman wipe His feet? Luke 7:39.
5. What story does Jesus begin to tell Simon in Luke 7:40-42.
5. Jesus asked Simon a question in verse 42. What was Simon's answer? Luke 7:42-43.
7. Did Simon give Jesus water, a kiss, or anoint Him? Luke 7:44-46.
8. What did Jesus say to Simon and then to the woman? Luke 7:47-50.

LESSON IV

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:4-18.

Golden Text: Luke 8:11.



"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

NOTE: A parable is a story using something real in life to give a different meaning than what was first thought. Jesus told many parables.

1. How did Jesus speak to the people that came to hear Him? Luke 8:4.
2. Tell in your own words what Jesus said in the parable found in Luke 8:5-8.
3. What did His disciples ask Him, and what was Jesus' reply? Luke 8:9-10.
4. What does the seed represent? Luke 8:11.
5. What did "those by the way side" represent? Luke 8:12.
6. What do "they on the rock" represent? Luke 8:13.
7. What does "that which fell among thorns" represent? Luke 8:14.
8. What does "that on the good ground" represent? Luke 8:15.
9. What were Jesus' final words in Luke 8:16-18?

NOTE: This parable can also be found in Matthew 13:3-17 or Mark 4:3-20. Read, and try to find some other parables that Jesus told.



Lila Jo buried her hands in the folds of the soft, white blanket and held it close to her face. Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! each step seemed to say. The faster she walked, the more the icy air bit her cheeks until they were chapped as red as apples.

Still she hurried down the muddy road stumbling over the bumps and ruts. "Hey! J.T...!" she called when she saw her brother sitting on the front steps. Then she waved the blanket for him to see. "Look what Mrs. Perkins sent for the baby-sitter!"

"What do I care?" J.T. grumbled.

Pa looked out the front door to see what was happening. "Come out of the cold and sit by the fire," he said to J.T.

"That new baby cried all the time," J.T. complained. "I came out here to think."

"I do not care if she cries," said Lila Jo. "I am so thankful for a baby sister."

"That is the right attitude," said Pa. "Give thanks for everything!"

Lila Jo gave Pa a hug. Then she dashed into the house to give the blanket to Ma.

"This is going to be some Thanksgiving," whined J.T. "Mother will not be able to cook Thanksgiving dinner.

That baby is crying all the time. At least the baby could have been a boy!"

Suddenly, J.T. stood up. "Look at that!" He sighed as he watched two figures tramping across the field. Richard Wright is going hunting with his father. He has a new hunting outfit and not telling how many guns of his very own. I do not have anything! Why should I give thanks?"

Pa put his arm around J.T.'s shoulders to show him that he understood. "We do not have some things we would like to have," Pa admitted. "But God does care for us. We can give Him thanks for that. He is with us because we have always tried to follow Him."

J.T. pulled away from Pa and pressed his forehead

against the post. "I just do not feel like it Pa!" he whispered. "I just do not feel like giving thanks."

"I tell you what!" said Pa. "Just this once, for your Ma's sake and for Lila Jo's sake, let us give thanks anyway. Let us make this a happy Thanksgiving for them. We will pop popcorn and play the guitar and sing."

"Well, all right," said J.T. bravely. "I will try to give thanks for it will make Ma and Lila Jo feel better."

J.T. felt better himself once he got started. Soon the corn was poppity-poppity-popping in the iron skillet in the fireplace. Pa tuned up his guitar while Lila Jo baked some apples until they were shiny red.

At first they did not even hear the knocking above the poppity-popping. Then the knocking got louder. J.T. ran to see who was at the door.

"Hey, Pa!" called J.T., "It is Mr. Wright."

"Please help me," Mr. Wright pleaded. "My son Richard has had a bad fall. His leg may be broken, and I was afraid to move him."

"Come on, J.T.," Pa said calmly. "We will take a quilt and bring him back on that."

Lila Jo watched at the window until Mr. Wright, Pa, and J.T. returned, carrying their helpless bundle in the quilt. She hurried to open the door for them. Then everyone helped to lower Richard carefully in the soft chair by the fireplace. Lila Jo scurried around to find a stool where Richard could prop his hurt foot.

"We will take good care of Richard while you go get the doctor," Pa told Mr. Wright.

As soon as Mr. Wright had gone, Lila Jo brought some popcorn for everyone to enjoy. Pa began to strum on his guitar, and they all began to sing songs of praises to God.

"I feel like giving thanks!" Pa said. "God is always with us, caring for us."

"I want to give thanks for a new baby sister!" said Lila Jo. "And for popcorn and apples and guitar music."

"I would like to give thanks, too," said Richard. "I am thankful that I got hurt tonight."

"You are?" asked J.T. in surprise.

"Sure!" said Richard. "If I had not gotten hurt, I never would have come here. This is the happiest place I have ever been."

When Mr. Wright returned with the doctor, they were

both surprised to find Richard laughing and singing with the others.

"I have had a wonderful time," Richard told his father. "May I stay here tonight?"

"There is no reason why he should not," the doctor said as he checked Richard's leg and foot. "He simply sprained his ankle; I will bandage it up."

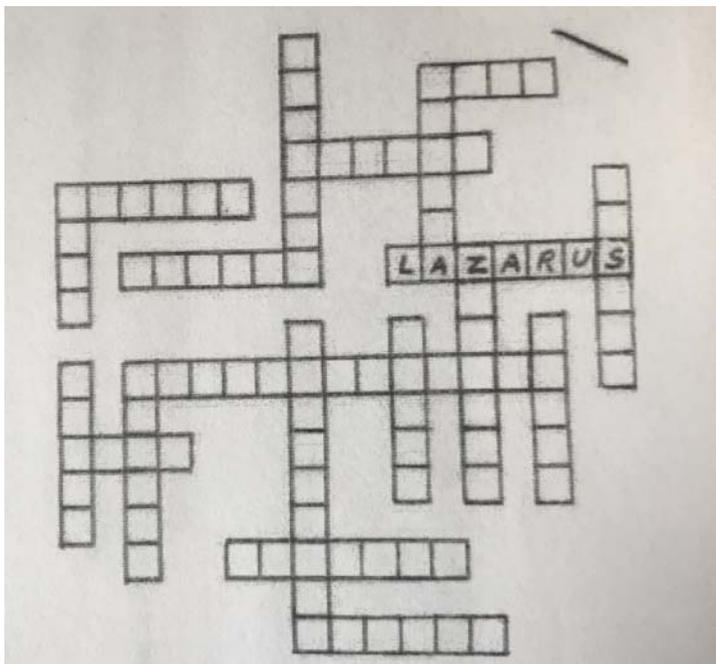
Mr. Wright thought for a minute. "I have an idea," he announced. "You may spend the night here. Our cook is going to prepare Thanksgiving dinner. Mother and I will drive here tomorrow and bring a turkey dinner for everyone."

"This will be the best Thanksgiving ever!" Lila Jo cheered.

J.T. looked across the room and smiled at Pa. A big grin covered Pa's face because he knew what J.T. was thinking. J.T. had learned to give thanks!

JESUS' FRIENDS - *The Bible tells us of many people who were friends of Jesus or who loved Him. Below are names of nineteen of His friends. Fill in the blanks with their names by counting the number of letters.*

- PAUL MARY JOHN JAMES PETER
 SIMON JOANNA JOSEPH ANDREW
 MARYMAGDALENE MARTHA PHILIP
 THOMAS SIMEON MATTHEW LAZARUS
 STEPHEN ZEBEDEE ZACCHAEUS



Books of Samuel - All of these people are described in the books of Samuel. How many can you identify, using the clues below.

1. She took her son to the temple and there "lent him to the Lord", but each year she went to see him and gave him a new coat.
2. He died when he learned that the ark of God had been taken in battle by the Philistines.
3. A sleeping child, he was awakened and told to give sad news to the old man who had been kind to him.
4. He went looking for some missing farm animals and returned as the anointed king of his people.
5. A king's son and the hero of his people, he ate a little honey without knowing he would be killed for doing so (I Samuel 14:27).
6. A brave and loyal soldier, he was killed because a king wanted his wife.
7. A very handsome man with much ability, he rebelled against his father and almost succeeded in dethroning him.
8. He is described as "the sweet psalmist of Israel."

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).



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"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:15-17).

