

The Advocate of Truth

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DECONSTRUCTING GENESIS

CHAPTER TWO *Life in the Garden of Eden*

Marie Rasnick Fetzer

In the Garden

1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. After God's creative work was finished, He rested on the seventh day, which is called the Sabbath. As we know what constitutes God's definition of a day, we know that this period of time began at sundown and ended twenty four hours later, at sundown. From the first, before there ever was a Nation of Israel, God blessed this day and made it holy and set it apart from all the other days.

4These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. 6But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. These verses reveal that before the plants and herbs of the fields were created, rain did not fall, but rather the earth was watered by a mist that came up from the earth.

7And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Man was created from the dust of the ground, but he was not alive until God breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. A common Christian belief is that Man possesses an immortal soul and that at death, his consciousness, in the form of that soul, departs from his body and heads to heaven or hell,

however, here we are told that Man *became* a living soul.

8And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God prepared a fantastic home for Man in a garden Paradise, towards the east, in a place called Eden, which contained beauty to look at and everything good to eat. There were two special trees within the garden that had marvelous qualities. One was the "Tree of Life" and the other was the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil".

10And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 11The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. 13And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. The river going out of the garden split into four other rivers. The identification of the first two, the Pison and the Gihon, is unknown, however some think they could have been located in the regions of Egypt and Sudan. The third river, the Hiddekel (or Chidekel), is commonly agreed upon as being the Tigris River, which flowed through ancient Babylonia, in present day Iraq. The fourth river, the Euphrates, runs almost parallel to the Tigris, and is mentioned in God's promise to Abraham regarding the Land of Israel, and is used as one of the defining borders of the Promised Land (Exodus 23:31).

In thinking about where Eden may have been located based on clues from the Bible, it's important to remember that the earth was drastically changed by the Flood during Noah's time, and that today's locations of the rivers could be different from their pre-Flood locations. The Flood destroyed or changed mountains and valleys (Psalm 104:6-9), so it surely changed the course of rivers, including potentially reversing their direction of flow. Because of this upheaval, it is now impossible to say for sure where the Garden of Eden was located. All landmarks of the Garden of Eden were obliterated.

15And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. When Man was placed in a perfect Paradise, he received a God given purpose, a job, to cultivate and tend the trees and flowers in the garden, so we see that even before sin entered the world, Man was intended to work. God warns the Man that, regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he MUST NOT eat of it, for in that day he "*shalt surely die*". Since Man did not die immediately after he disobeyed the Lord, we understand that it was the sentence of spiritual death which set in motion the process of physical death that began on the day he sinned.

18And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. All the animals were brought before Adam, who gave them their names, but none were found to be a suitable helper or companion for him.

What About the Dinosaurs?

Dinosaurs were beasts of the field, so Adam must have seen and named them, too, which dispels the evolutionary assumption creeping into some forms of Christianity that men never saw dinosaurs. In Genesis 6:19-20, we read, "*And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.*" While all animals not on the Ark were destroyed by the cataclysmic worldwide Flood, certain verses in the Bible seem to indicate that a remnant of dinosaurs may have survived for a time.

The flying serpent of Isaiah 30:6 may be a winged dinosaur; "*The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them.*"

Behemoth is a dinosaur-like land creature mentioned in the Book of Job; "*Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him.*" Job 40:15-19.

Leviathan is a fire-breathing sea dragon also found in Job; "*Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. One is so near to another, that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered. By his neesings [sneezings] a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath*

kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth. In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him. The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved. His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone. When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves.” Job 41:14-25.

While some study Bible commentaries often identify Behemoth as an elephant or hippopotamus, and Leviathan as a crocodile, this does not make sense in light of the actual biblical descriptions.

Additionally, there are many Bible verses that call Satan a “dragon” or “serpent”. In Revelation 20:2 we read, “*And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years*”, which makes one wonder if there might be a possible connection between Satan, the Serpent in the Garden of Eden, and dinosaurs, which are also called dragons and monsters.

Woman Created from Man

21And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. God designed and created a perfect companion for Adam, whom He fashioned out of the Man’s side, and Adam called her Woman. God presented the Woman to Adam as a wife and ordained the marriage covenant. Although laws of men may attempt to alter this definition, God’s law tells us that this relationship is between one man and one woman. There was no need for clothing in the perfect environment that existed in the Garden of Eden. The Man and Woman possessed a child-like innocence because they did not know sin at that time, and so, even though they were naked, they were not ashamed.

WITNESSING AND SERVING

Reprinted

Did you ever stop to think why you are here? Did you ever wonder why and how it is possible for you to have come to know the truth and become a member of the Family of God, while there are millions more who have never heard of Jesus Christ and His Body?

These are questions that sound seemingly simple, yet they are of paramount importance right now – in this very day – this day of super education of science and mechanics and still a lack of knowledge of morals and spiritual values. This is a day of prejudice and pretense. It is a day of violence and vulgarity. It is a day of hypocrisy and hate. But in all this maze of malevolence, there is an organization that holds up a torch of truth and lets the light of God and His Son shine upon this gross darkness of sin.

There is another thing with which we should concern ourselves with just now and that is, why is there a Church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth? Why did the Lord Jesus speak to simple seeking souls when He came for the first advent, and lead them to depths of spiritual attainment? Why is the Spirit of Christ still seeking honest simple souls and leading them to the Body of Christ and teaches them the depths of God’s love and how to be obedient to Him?

The Church of God can be glad that thru the operation of the Holy Spirit, it dispenses righteousness and shines rays of light and truth into the depths of the morass of wickedness and sin. God is great and wonderful. He is omniscient and knows what He is doing. He knows how to do it, and He knows why it has to be done. This will answer the questions posed above. God saved us at once from perdition and called us to a life of service. It was Jesus who said, “Come unto me,” also, “Go into all the world.”

Daily headlines, news broadcast show to us the awful trend toward acceptance of lower moral standards and disobedience to laws. This should alert us to the fact that it is imperative that we make the Church of God as much

a part of daily living as is eating our daily meals. Too often we are inclined to place the Church second and third in our life. Too often we fail to call sin SIN and point out the wages of sin and sinning. As we leave our homes to go to our endeavors, we feel that our friends may reject us because we are “too churchy,” or “too religious,” or “too square.” Are they really your friends? If they are, should they not be told of sin and its consequences? Or do we just conclude that her/his education in this area is the problem for someone else? Should we use the occasion to speak about the dangers of disobedience to God? The answer to this question is “YES!” We must never let a proper opportunity pass to witness for truth. How do they know you are a true Child of God? If you are happy in Jesus, why not pass on that happiness? There is such little happiness in the world. Man believes he is happy, but it is only for a fleeting moment and not permanent. Therefore, we must pass on the truth and witness for Jesus and hold His testimony up before men. We must not pass up any opportunity to witness for truth and righteousness. Does your friend know your stand on keeping yourself from sinning? Remember, “sin is the transgression of God’s law.” We should therefore not pass the buck in this matter to anyone else. Now is the time to speak out about the truth and ask others to do it with you.

The fact is that there is a tremendous amount of ignorance concerning the Word of God, and your neighbors and friends are no exception. The majority of people do not know of the dangers of sin and disobedience and of the dreadful wrath of God they will feel for the sin they have done. Let us go out to meet the challenges that await us as we speak of salvation to our friends. Too many of us have become steeped with Scriptural knowledge and pertaining to the future that we are of no value to the Church. God wants us to be full of knowledge of the Scripture, but to the extent that we will share with others. God wants us to be good, but He wants us to be good FOR something instead of “good for nothing.”

The Apostle Paul, as is known by all, was exulted by his apostleship; yet in one of his most outstanding epistles he began it by saying, “Paul, a SERVANT of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Apostle James in his epistle referred to himself as

“a SERVANT of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

In the Apostle Peter’s second epistle, he began his salutation by saying, “Simon Peter, a SERVANT and an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Peter, Paul, and James were all proud of their apostleship and well they might be. But they were prouder still to be able to say as our Brother Paul does in Romans 1:1, “This letter is from Paul, Jesus Christ’s slave, called to be a missionary and sent out to preach the Gospel News.” (Living Letters).

Was the Apostle Paul different from you or me? Does God require of one individual utmost obedience and service and less from others? Does the Lord expect service from one member and permit others to do as they please? No! This is far from the truth, and all who read these words know it.

We are saved to SERVE and WITNESS, and we must be able to perform this by the endued power of the Holy Spirit. What kind of power do you need to serve and witness? Is it power to shout or pray exstatically? Is it power to speak unseemly words? Is it power to jump in the pulpit or to run up and down in the church aisles? NO! emphatically NO! It is power to overcome sin. It is power to be able to witness for the Lord. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. Luke writes the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye SHALL BE WITNESSES unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Do you not think that it is time for us to stop and re-evaluate ourselves and our business as children of God as to our serving and our witnessing?

There are those who would point a finger of scorn at us and say that all we think of is “the city in the sky!” We do look for a mansion in the City of God, and we do look forward to being on the Sea of Glass and to eat from the Tree of Life, but what about today? Yesterday has already become history and tomorrow has not yet made its appearance. The only thing that matters is NOW! Today is the time for us to be endued with power and to serve and witness for the Lord and His wonderful Body the Church of God.

This "Advocate" could be used up to give you incontrovertible evidences that Jesus is even at the door, and that His Coming is imminent. We sing hymns that tell of His coming. We hear sermons of the second advent. We study in Sabbath Schools about the nearness of His coming. We testify that we believe in His return and tell of the signs of the times. But stop now! None of these aspects are as important as what are we doing for Him and His coming? That is the crux of the whole duty of a man.

Yes, I am pointing my finger right at you brother, sister, deacon, elder, pastor, teacher and yes even apostle. I am pointing my finger at you dear friends and am asking: "What are you doing. Are you serving and witnessing?" And now notice as I point my index finger at you, I have three other fingers pointing back at myself. And I must ask myself also, "What am I doing for the Church of God. Am I building it up or am I doing nothing and letting it fall down? I had better make myself right and help broadcast and publish the wonderful salvation message and let people know of the awfulness of sin."

Some members who claim to be holy have never told a single friend or neighbor about sin and the necessity for salvation. What are we going to do about it? Get rid of the facade of excuses which are today uncalled for. Let us put our best foot forward. Let us all put our shoulders together and push the gospel wheel into new territory. We must work together. Let us put aside the trivial and work with the weightier matters of the law and win souls for the Body of Christ. Very soon it will be too late to do anything. Very soon we will stand before the throne of justice and what will we say then?

Something is about to happen. The world sits on a powder keg with the fuse already burning. It is the last chance for us to work for eternity and bring others into the fold. Why are we rocking the Church instead of buoying it up? Why are we thinking so materially and causing groundless confusion at such a time when the "cry of the bridegroom" will be shouted at any moment? Let us put away materialism and trim our lamps with the spiritual and go forth to meet the bridegroom.

May God help us to watch and pray and above all to render to Him faithful service and true witnessing.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Reprinted

John the Baptist was a Kinsman of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, the mother of John, were cousins. John had a place. No man ever had a more significant place. Jesus said John was an earnest preacher and won the attention of all Israel. While yet a young man one morning, he met Jesus face to face. It was a momentous occasion for John, the high point of his career, in fact. Then, abruptly, his fortune changed, and the multitudes began to follow Jesus. Finally, John was out of business. Taking advantage of John's failing popularity, King Herod arrested and imprisoned him. His place was no longer that of a popular teacher. Once the idol of the people, he was now a prisoner whose fate rested on the caprice of an unstable, unprincipled, petty puppet king of Rome.

John thought Jesus might secure his release if He tried, but Jesus knew that John was in his place. His place was now one of suffering, one in which he demonstrated how a righteous man is to bear adversity. The long line of martyrs and others who have suffered for Christ have remembered John and found strength to endure.

Yet those who change may be tempted to leave their appointed place because it is difficult and painful not forget that Jesus did not go to John's relief. John was permitted to stand in his place, and he stood there faithfully. Later, Jesus Himself prayed for relief from His burdens, but the Father permitted Him to stand in His place also.

God may relieve you from the burden, but if He does not, it is your privilege to know that you have His confidence, and that He expects you to stand at your post no matter how remote and lonely it may seem. Yes, God expects you to stand in your place.

THREE VIEWS OF LIFE

By John Clayton

One of the most familiar parables in the Bible is the story of the “Good Samaritan” in Luke 10:30-37. It is amazing how relevant that parable is to what is going on in the world today. In the parable, there are three views of life demonstrated by Jesus. The first view is, “What’s yours is mine, so I’ll take it.” represented by the robbers. The second view is, “What’s mine is mine and I’ll keep it,” represented by a priest and a Levite. The third view is, “What’s mine is yours, so I’ll share it,” represented by a Samaritan.

WHAT’S YOURS IS MINE, SO I’LL TAKE IT.

The robbers in the parable are different from some of today’s robbers in that what they did was condemned by their society. In today’s world, the underlying philosophy of “what’s yours is mine, so I’ll take it” is embodied in the way people apply the concept of “survival of the fittest.” Stealing with computers is commonplace in our world today. People in the music business will tell you that society as a whole accepts the notion that it is okay to steal from their creative ability in music. Those who are more fit in their computer skills use computers for personal gain at the expense of others. Computer scams are a threat to all of us, especially those who are older and lack the skills needed to avoid having things stolen from them.

This applies to so many areas of our lives. Robbers use computers to damage someone’s reputation (Proverbs 22:1), take advantage of someone’s age or inability to understand financial schemes, or to cheat on their taxes (Romans 13:6-7). The modern-day view is that it’s okay if you can get away with it. Many of us have been scammed in everything from time-shares to insurance

promises by those who live by this view of life.

WHAT’S MINE IS MINE, AND I’LL KEEP IT.

The real villains in this parable are religious leaders. The priest and the Levite both knew what the Law of Moses taught, but they used their religion to hang on to what they had. They did their giving only when there were spectators. Jesus talked about that in Matthew 6:1-4. The priest and the Levite did not want to get their hands dirty, lose time, and get involved financially by helping a fellow Jew. Like some religious people today, they covered their selfishness with a holy pretense. Some have said that Satan is okay with God’s people just doing nothing bad as long as they do not do much that is good. James 4:17 goes further by telling us that what the priest and the Levite did was sinful. In the judgment scene of Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus portrays salvation and condemnation as at least partially involved with what we do in situations where we can help someone.

WHAT’S MINE IS YOURS, SO I’LL SHARE IT.

It is easy to miss much of what is embedded in this parable. One thing we miss is the significance of the fact that the man who helped the injured Jew was a Samaritan. In John 4:7-9, we see Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman. She expresses amazement that Jesus would speak to her because she was a woman, and in that culture, men did not talk to women in public. More than that, she was a Samaritan, and the Bible comments, “For the Jews do not associate with Samaritans.” In our day of racial prejudice and ethnic conflict, it should be easy to see that Jesus making a Samaritan the hero of his parable would have been shocking to his Jewish listeners. Jesus presented

the parable so well that the “expert on the law” drew the obvious conclusion without even reacting to the fact it was a Samaritan who rescued the injured Jewish man.

“What’s mine is yours” is the Christian view of life. Christians believe that everything they have is God’s, and sharing it has always been part of the Christian faith. Nowhere does the New Testament tell Christians a fixed percent or amount they must give. Instead, it tells us that “each of you should give Not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). As an atheist, it was always hard for me to understand how Christians could do so much without being forced to do so. My family’s view of life was survival of the fittest. Reducing your fitness by giving to someone else was unheard of.

Unfortunately, in recent years some religious leaders have used pressure techniques to force people to give. The biblical view is “God gave this to me, and I WANT to share it with you.” We see the model of this view in Acts 2:44-45 where “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” This is what they wanted to do. In Acts 4:32-37 Joseph (Barnabas) sold property and turned the entire proceeds over to the apostles to meet the needs. He was known as “the son of encouragement” because he practiced the joy of sharing and giving which was part of his view of life.

WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF LIFE?

Our culture tells us we must gain all we can and keep it. We have security systems, all kinds of insurance, and a constant push to buy “toys” ranging from boats to airplanes to time-shares to artwork to Jewelry to luxurious homes. “Whoever has the most toys wins” is simply a statement of “what’s mine is mine and I’ll keep it.” Survival of the fittest becomes our moral standard, or perhaps we should say, the lack of a moral standard. Tragically it affects how you treat your spouse, your children, your friends, and your neighbors. Jesus would urge us to be the good Samaritan of his parable, and find the joy and fulfillment it brings to life. The other views bring misery and alienation in this life, and nothing to hope for when this life is over.

--From **Does God Exist?**

Hammering Nails

Author Unknown

There was a little boy with a bad temper. One day his father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He had discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally, the day came when the boy did not lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, “You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a person and draw it out. It will not matter how many times you say, ‘I am sorry’, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.”





Is this in the Bible?

By David Royer

There are many statements and “one-liners” attributed to the Bible. Let’s look at some of them and test our knowledge:

1. *“God helps those who help themselves.”*
2. *“...and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.”*
3. *“God moves in a mysterious way.”*
4. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”*
5. *“To thine own self be true”*
6. *“He kept him as the apple of his eye.”*
7. *“The lion will lay down with the lamb”*
8. *“...The truth shall make you free.”*
9. *“Out of the mouth of babes...”*
10. *“God will not give you more than you can handle.”*
11. *“How poor are they that have no patience.”*
12. *“Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.”*
13. *“Judge not, that ye be not judged.”*
14. *“Neither a borrower or lender be.”*
15. *“All that glitters is not gold”*
16. *“Let not thine heart envy sinners”*
17. *“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.”*
18. *“Hate the sin, love the sinner.”*
19. *“The better part of valor is discretion.”*
20. *“...Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.”*
21. *“Speak not in the ears of a fool.”*
22. *“But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”*
23. *“...Moderation is best in all things.”*
24. *“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing”*
25. *“Money is the root of all evil”*

(see answers on Page 13)

Let No Man Put Asunder!

By David DeLong

What God has joined as man and wife
Is quite an awesome wonder;
And even though there may be strife,
Let no man put asunder!

Divorce, by man, for every cause
Is really quite a blunder;
Except for fornication's flaws,
Let no man put asunder!

The Word of God is clear on this,
And echoes with a thunder!
All else is from the great abyss,
Let no man put asunder!

Vows that marriage partners take
Till death, they both are under;
And promises they both do make,
Let no man put asunder!

The world, today, has lost its way,
And marriage it does plunder;
Though man has caused it to decay,
Let no man put asunder!



Fellowheirs

By David DeLong

"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:1-10).

It has always been God's will to save all the peoples of the earth, Jews and Gentiles. One of the reasons that the Lord chose the nation of Israel to be His people is so that they, in turn, would be a witness to the other nations in the world so that they, too, could become God's people. Concerning Israel's role in witnessing to the Gentiles we read in Isaiah 66:18-19: "For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles."

We can see that the Gentile peoples who became servants of God had to serve the Lord the same way as did the Jews. For instance, we read in Isaiah 56:1-7: "Thus

saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."

But, Israel, by and large, failed in her mission to be God's witness to the other nations of the world. The Lord sent them into captivity for their breaking of His covenant. And finally, when they as a nation rejected Christ, God turned His gospel message to the Gentiles. However, not all is lost with the children of Israel. When the fulness of the Gentiles is come in, the Israelites will be given another chance to receive Christ, when He comes again. We read in Romans 11:7-23: "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto

them: Let their eyes be darkened that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again."

But sadly, even when Christ returns again and the children of Israel are given another chance to receive their Messiah, only one-third of them will do so. In Zechariah 13:8-9, concerning the Israelites when the Lord returns, we find: "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."

Jews and Gentiles together, who have received the Lord Jesus as their Savior and Lord, are fellowheirs of the kingdom of God. We read in Revelation 14:1-5 about 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel who follow the Lamb

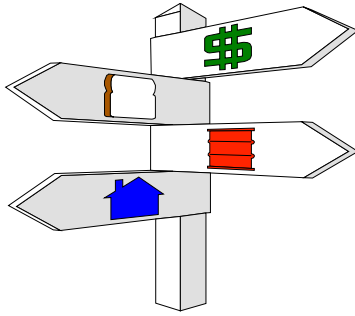
of God wherever He goes. These were the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb, meaning that they were the first converts to Christianity. These verses tell us: "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

The Apostle James, in referring to the Christian Jews of his times, makes mention of them being the firstfruits. In James 1:1,18, he writes: "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting...Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." These Christian Jews were a part of the 144,000 that were redeemed from among men. The early apostles and other Jewish disciples were also among this group.

In Jeremiah 31:31-33 we read: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

God's covenant of placing His law in the children of Israel's hearts also goes for His covenant with the Gentile peoples who become His servants. They will also have God's law, the Ten Commandments, written in their hearts, as well.

1. "God helps those who help themselves." NO, Algernon Sidney popularized by Ben Franklin
2. "...and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth." YES, Job 19:20
3. "God moves in a mysterious way." NO, William Cowper
4. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." YES, Proverbs 23: 7
5. "To thine own self be true" NO, Shakespeare
6. "He kept him as the apple of his eye." YES, Deuteronomy 32:10
7. "The lion will lay down with the lamb" NO, see Isaiah 11:6
8. "...The truth shall make you free." YES, John 8:32
9. "Out of the mouth of babes..." YES, Matthew 21:16
10. "God will not give you more than you can handle." NO, unknown
11. "How poor are they that have no patience." NO, Shakespeare
12. "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." YES, Matthew 6:3
13. "Judge not, that ye be not judged." YES, Matthew 7:1
14. "Neither a borrower or lender be." NO, Shakespeare
15. "All that glitters is not gold" NO, Shakespeare
16. "Let not thine heart envy sinners" YES, Proverbs 23: 17
17. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." YES, Proverbs 17:22
18. "Hate the sin, love the sinner." NO, a loose quote of Mahatma Gandhi
19. "The better part of valor is discretion." NO, Shakespeare
20. "...Vanity of vanities; all is vanity." YES, Ecclesiastes 1:2
21. "Speak not in the ears of a fool." YES, Proverbs 23:9
22. "But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." YES, Luke 12:7
23. "...Moderation is best in all things." NO, Greek poet Hesiod
24. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing" YES, Proverbs 18:22
25. "Money is the root of all evil" NO, see I Timothy 6:10



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

ARE YOU STRESSED?

I am starting this column, as usual, with an article copied from a newspaper. The following article is from **USA TODAY**. Its title is *A third of the world is stressed, report finds*:

About a third of people worldwide were stressed, worried and in pain last year, and more than half of Americans feel pressure and strain. That's according to the 2019 Global Emotions Report, Gallup's annual snapshot of the world's emotional state.

Chad, a North African country beset by violence, was the most negative country in the world last year, the report found, and Paraguay and Panama led the host of Latin American countries atop the list of most positive countries.

The USA? Well, we're more stressed than almost anybody.

Most Americans (55 percent) recall feeling stressed much of the day in 2018. That's more than all but three countries, including top ranking Greece (59 percent) which has led the world in stress since 2012. Nearly half of Americans felt worried (45 percent) and more than a fifth (22 percent) felt angry, they told Gallup – both up from 2017. American's stress increased, too.

“Even as their economy roared, more Americans were stressed, angry and worried last year than they had been at most points during the past decade,” Julie Ray, a Gallup editor, wrote in a summary report.

Americans were more stressed than residents of Chad, the world's saddest and most pain-stricken population. Fifty-one percent of Chadians report stress, along with 54 percent reporting sadness. Two-thirds there felt worried, and 66 percent felt physical pain.

“The country's overall score at least partly reflects the

violence, displacement and the collapse of basic services in parts of Chad that have affected thousands of families,” Gallup says in an analysis, noting seven out of 10 residents struggled to afford food that year.

West African nations of Niger and Sierra Leone follow Chad in Gallup's report, which ranks each nation based on resident responses to phone and face-to-face interviews with about 1,000 adults worldwide. Iraq and Iran follow, respectively, in the top five.

A train of Latin American countries leads the most-positive list. Guatemala, Mexico and El Salvador follow top-ranked Paraguay and Panama in a tie. All of the top ten most – positive nations are Latin American save one: Indonesia.

“I think it's not a coincidence,” says Ricardo Ainslie, a Mexican-born psychologist and a director at the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas – Austin. “Latin Americans tend to be so family-focused that I think that provides a sense of 'Whatever happens, I've always got this.' (Family) is always my bedrock.”

Indeed, Gallup notes its scores strongly reflect, in part, the presence of social networks, and Latin American nations prevail on its list “year after year.”

Gallup posed questions to residents of more than 140 countries for the lists, asking about the positive (“Did you smile or laugh a lot yesterday?”) and the negative (“How about sadness?”).

A family focus in top-ranked Paraguay bleeds into day-to-day culture, says Barbara Ganson, a Florida Atlantic University professor and editor of “Contemporary Paraguay: Politics, Society, and the Environment.”

Paraguayans typically work from 7 to 11 a.m., she says, before returning home for lunch and relaxation with family. They finish work from 3 to 7 p.m.

“Family-work balance is very different from what we experience here in the United States and in many other countries,” Ganson says.

Comment -One reason that Americans are more stressed is possibly that more is expected of them and they are unsure of the events that may take place in the future in

regard to their work and prosperity. A roaring economy can experience a downturn very quickly, then they may lose their job. Also, in the American culture there is no set time daily for lunch and relaxation with the family such as there is in Paraguay. In other words, there is no family work balance.

Children of God in America know that God's Word tells them not to worry or be anxious (stressed) about the things they need, but they must not take this promise as an excuse for wanting much more.

ALCOHOL USE - A news source has stated that global alcohol use continues to rise, and it is expected to rise. The news source stated that just in the past 27 years, the total volume of alcohol people consumed globally each year increased by 70 percent – from 5.5 billion gallons in 1990 to 9.4 billion gallons in 2017. That's a result of increased population along with increased alcohol consumption. 2017 is the most recent year for which statistics are available. The source also stated that alcohol is a major risk factor and is linked to more than 2000 diseases.

Comment - I Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are Gods."

Do you think that God would allow the Holy Ghost to dwell in a dilapidated building? Since alcohol is the source of many diseases which affect the body, the Holy Ghost cannot dwell in such a body, unless repentance is shown.

KIDS' EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS FOR SUICIDE - It was reported that emergency room visits for children who attempted suicide or had thoughts of suicide nearly doubled over a nine-year period in the USA.

There were about 112 million visits to emergency departments for children ages 5 to 18 for either suicide attempts or suicidal thoughts in 2015.

Comment - What can be done about kids committing suicide and having suicidal thoughts? Some have suggested that schools should teach coping strategies. Of what would these strategies consist? Perhaps a better solution is to have an adult to talk to and ask the kid what is troubling

him or her and let him or her know that their life is precious to God and help the kid find a solution to his problem.

MORE ABOUT SUICIDE - The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline saw calls double from 2014 to 2017, an increase that coincides with rising suicide rates in the USA.

The lifeline answered more than 2 million calls in 2017, up from 1 million calls in 2014, according to its latest figures. More than 1.5 million calls reached the prevention network in 2015 and again in 2016.

ANTI-ABORTION LAWS - Several state legislations have passed varying anti-abortion laws. Two of the most outstanding laws are in Alabama and Georgia. The Georgia law outlaws abortion as soon as the heartbeat of the fetus can be detected which is in about six weeks. It also includes exceptions for rape or incest when the woman files a police report.

The Alabama law outlaws all abortions except when the mother's life is in danger.

It is thought that these two laws will be decided by the Supreme Court. It is hoped by some that abortions will be outlawed all over the United States, and severe penalties be handed down upon doctors who perform them.

HEALTH CARE CRISIS - Health care insurance is a real problem! A newspaper article read that the number of Americans without health insurance increased again in 2018, the second consecutive year that figure has risen after several years of declines under Obamacare, a Centers for Disease Control and prevention survey shows.

Comment - The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is no solution for low-cost health insurance. It does not work in some respects. A solution would be to regulate the medical industry. In all probability health care insurance will be on the high side because it is an item which is needed by everyone.

HELIUM SHORTAGE - There is a helium shortage now. Helium is used in deep sea diving, airbags, cryogenics, rocket fuel, MRI machines and in areas of tech that include fiber optics and semiconductors.



Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please list some facts that prove that the Apostle Peter could not have been appointed Pope?

Answer: Following are some Scripture proofs that the Apostle Peter, although he often assumed personal leadership among the other apostles, could not have been appointed to a position of supremacy over them, nor made the universal, infallible head over the Church of God.

In his own writings, Peter calls himself an “Elder” and makes no suggestion that he ever held a position of universal supremacy (I Peter 5:1).

Peter also calls himself “an apostle of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 1:1), that is, one who is “sent” to preach “to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.”

There is no mention anywhere in the Scriptures by the other apostles that Peter was given universal supremacy over them.

Paul’s appointment as an apostle was not made by Peter, but by God direct: “...(not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father” (Galatians 1:1).

Paul severely rebuked Peter: “But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed” (Galatians 2:11).

Paul lists: James, Cephas [Peter] and John, putting

James first, “who seemed to be pillars” (Galatians 2:9).

At the first Council of the Church in Jerusalem, James, not Peter, presided and pronounced the final decision (Acts 15:13).

Paul, in Ephesians 2:19-20, speaks of the Church as “the household of God ... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”

Question: What is the minister’s first duty? Will you expound on it?

Answer: The minister’s first duty is to bring men, women and children into an eternal living union with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. If a minister dares to put any objective ahead of that duty, he has no right to maintain that he is a minister of the Gospel of Christ.

The minister is God’s representative, God’s ambassador, before men. To fulfill his honored office and duty, he must maintain a living relation between himself and his God. Ministers are called to be God’s messengers, not merely preachers. G. Campbell Morgan says that in the early days of his ministry, as he sat alone, on a Sabbath afternoon in his study, he heard a clear voice speak to him and ask, “What are you going to be, a preacher or My messenger?” At once he reviewed his sermon notes for the evening service, destroyed them and resolved then and there to be God’s messenger.

Once, as a story goes, after a “beautiful” sermon, one

farmer asked another how he enjoyed the message. He replied that he had not enjoyed it at all. The first reminded him that the preacher was a “big man in his denomination.” The farmer agreed, but also added that whereas they had heard an excellent geographical essay that told all about the way from Jerusalem to Jericho, there was nothing about the One who said, “I am the way.” The minister’s duty is to point the way to God. He must call sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ who alone is that way.

To accomplish this, the minister must be a man of prayer. Only men who pray preach powerfully. Remember it is wisely stated that “the men of mighty prayer are men of spiritual might: a prepared heart is better than a prepared sermon.”

If a minister is to fulfill his duty, he must be a man of the Book, that is, God’s inspired, eternal Word, the Bible. The minister must remember that he is living in an age of specialists and that he too, must be a specialist. The minister is not in competition with the world; he is above it. He need not know literature, art, history, current events, philosophy, nor a myriad of other man-developed subjects, but he must be a specialist in God’s Word.

A minister must be a winner of souls.

Question: What does universalism teach?

Answer: Universalism teaches universal salvation. It teaches that all men will ultimately be saved. This makes the death of Christ a farce and denies many of His own teachings such as Mark 9:43-48. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

Question: Will you please give me a brief summary of Mary’s role in Scripture?

Answer: I assume that you are speaking of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

When Mary was betrothed to an older man named Joseph, the angel Gabriel announced to her that she had been chosen by God to give birth to the promised Messiah. Mary responded with simple faith, accepting the privileged role despite the fact that her pregnancy would seem to Joseph to mark unfaithfulness and might mark her as a harlot in her community. God guarded Mary’s reputation

and sent the angel to speak to Joseph.

Mary and Joseph were wed. However, they had no sexual relations until after Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Many unusual events were associated with that birth. Mary remembered these events. During the time that Jesus lived with the family and carried on Joseph’s trade, Mary and Joseph provided a home and a number of brothers and sisters for Jesus. While Mary had confidence in her oldest son, when Jesus began His public ministry, Mary and the rest of her family were puzzled and uncertain. Certainly, Mary was devastated when Christ was crucified. Her heart must have been broken as she stood nearby and watched Him suffer at Calvary. We can assume that Mary, perhaps more than any other, was thrilled when Jesus was resurrected. The last mention of Mary in the Bible pictures her with other believers. They were praying in Jerusalem after Christ’s ascension. They were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Question: I Samuel 1:24 says, “And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young.” Did Hannah bring a small baby to the temple for the aged prophet to take care of?

Answer: It appears strange to us to read of Samuel’s mother taking her child to Eli for service in the temple as soon as she weaned him. However, in that country children, and especially boys, are not weaned until they are three, four and often even seven years of age.

Question: What does the last part of John 8:6 mean where it records, “But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground...”?

Answer: We may think of Jesus stooping down and with His finger writing on the ground. Instead it was the common universal habit or practice. You visit a native camp or village today and you will see Bedouins sitting idle, scribbling words or sentences with their finger or a camel-wand. Often when they desire to describe something to you, they will draw the whole plan in the sand with their finger. Sometimes in bargaining for sheep or goats all the computations will be made by writing in the sand. It is today a common practice.



Myanmar, Part 2

Some of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar, praising the Lord.





LESSON I

THE VICTORY AT GIBEON

Scripture Reading: Joshua 10:1-27.

Golden Text: Joshua 10:8.

“And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.”

1. When Adoni-zedek, King of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had taken Ai and Jericho, what did he do? Joshua 10:3-4.
2. What did the five kings do? Joshua 10:5.
3. Did the Gibeonites receive any help from Joshua? Joshua 10:6-7.
4. How did the Lord help Joshua in the battle at Gibeon? Joshua 10:8-11.
5. What request did Joshua make of the Lord and why? Joshua 10:12-14.
6. After Joshua found that the five kings had fled and had hid themselves in caves, what did he do? Joshua 10:17-21.
7. When Joshua opened the caves and brought out the five kings, how did he utterly destroy them? Joshua 10:22-27.

LESSON II

VICTORIES AT MAKKEDAH

Scripture Reading: Joshua 10:28-43.

Golden Text: Joshua 10:42.

“And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.”

1. After Joshua destroyed the five kings, what success

did he have in the battle at Makkedah? Joshua 10:28.

2. When Joshua left Makkedah, where did he go, and what did he do? Joshua 10:29-30.

3. After he conquered Libnah, what city did he attack? Joshua 10:31-32.

4. Who came to help Lachish fight against Joshua? Joshua 10:33.

5. Joshua passed from Lachish unto Eglon and took the city, then he fought against Hebron and left nothing there. Where did Joshua go after conquering Eglon? Joshua 10:38-40.

6. Why was Joshua successful in taking all the cities we have just read about? Joshua 10:41-43.

NOTE: Joshua was successful because the Lord God fought with Him. He would never have been victorious if the Lord had not been on his side. We too must have the Lord on our side to help us fight our battles against Satan if we are to be victorious when the Lord comes.

LESSON III

ISRAEL’S TROUBLE AFTER JOSHUA’S DEATH

Scripture Reading: Judges 2.

Golden Text: Judges 2:11.

“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim.”

NOTE: From Joshua 11 to Joshua 24 we are told how the land which Joshua conquered was divided among the tribes of Israel. He had utterly destroyed the Canaanites in some sections, but some remained in parts of the Land. God commanded Israel to destroy or drive them all out. If Israel had obeyed his command, it would have saved them a lot of trouble.

1. Did the children of Israel serve the Lord during the leadership of Joshua? Judges 2:7.

2. How old was Joshua when he died, and where was he buried? Judges 2:8-9.
3. After the death of Joshua, did they continue to follow the Lord? Judges 2:11-13.
4. What punishment did they receive for not obeying the Lord? Judges 2:14-15.
5. Did the Lord again aid Israel after they had been distressed by their enemies? Judges 2:16-19.
6. Because of Israel's transgression, what did the Lord say He should do to the nations? Judges 2:20-23.

- 16.
7. What happened to Sisera himself? Judges 4:17.
8. How was Sisera conquered and by whom? Judges 4:18-22.



LESSON IV

TWO VERY BRAVE WOMEN

Scripture Reading: Judges 4:4-24.
 Golden Text: Judges 4:4.
 "And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned again how many times Israel was disobedient to the Lord and how they were punished for it. Please read Judges, the third chapter, to learn more of their punishment for disobedience. We shall learn now how Deborah and Jael helped Barak defeat the enemy.

1. Who was Deborah? Judges 4:4-5.
2. What did she tell Barak to do? Judges 4:6-7.
3. What was Barak's reply? Judges 4:8.
4. What did Deborah tell Barak would happen since he was afraid to trust in God for victory? Judges 4:9.
5. How many men did Barak take with him? Judges 4:10.
6. Was Barak successful in defeating Sisera? Judges 4:14-

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray!
 Keep me from any strain of sin, Just for today;
 Let me both diligently work and duly pray;
 Let me be kind in deed and word, Just for today;
 Let me be slow to do my will - Prompt to obey;
 Help me sacrifice myself, Just for today.
 Let me no wrong or idle word, Unthinking say-
 Set Thou Thy seal upon my lips, Just for today.
 So, for the morrow and its needs I do not pray;
 But keep me, guide me, hold me, Lord, Just for today.

Answers to Apple Crossword Puzzle

- Down
- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. | 7. |
| 10. | 11. | 12. |
| | 15. | |
- Across
- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 3. | 7. | 8. |
| 9. | 11. | 12. |
| 14. | 16. | 18. |
| 20. | 23. | 24. |
| | 25. | 27. |



THE LITTLE BIRD SONG

Just outside of Enna's bedroom window was a lovely big tree, and in that tree was a nest of birds. Sometimes those birds would warble and chirrup happily, and Enna liked to waken in the morning and listen to them.

It made her very happy to lie in her cozy white bed and listen to the little creatures singing as if they wanted to tell the whole world what a wonderful place they had found to live in, and how warm the sunshine was, and how many crumbs a little girl friend of theirs scattered out for them when she thought they might be hungry.

Enna and her Daddy sometimes called them "God's choir," and Enna would say, "Just think, Daddy, no one else even asks them to sing. They just do it because they want to. And no one pays them except by loving and feeding them."

"That's true," Enna's father would say. "The birds are our friends and we must do nice things for our friends, just as the birds do for us."

Enna, herself, could sing very sweetly, and her Mother had taught her some very cheerful songs which the little girl loved to sing.

One day Mrs. Best, who lived across the street from Enna, was having some of her friends come to visit her, and she came over to talk with Enna's Mother about it. The little girl was playing with her new doll and having a nice time.

"Oh, Enna, dear," said Mrs. Best, "I wonder if you would help me to make my friends happy! I'd like to have you sing for the ladies. You could sing that little song about 'The butterflies,' and the one about 'the Apple Blossoms,' and the one about 'the Little Girl Who Never Kept Still.' If you'll do it, I'll buy you a little bed for that new

doll of yours."

Enna looked a moment at the shoe box which she had been using for a bed for Flossie, and the thought flashed through her mind how fine it would be to have a real little bed. Then she hears a chirrup outside the window and she thought for a moment.

"Of course, I'll sing for you, Mrs. Best," Enna exclaimed, "but I don't want you to buy Flossie a bed or give me anything. I want to do it just because I love you like the birds love us--and not for pay."

"Why, bless the child, just hear her!" said Mrs. Best as she put her arm around Enna and praised her and gave her a big hug!

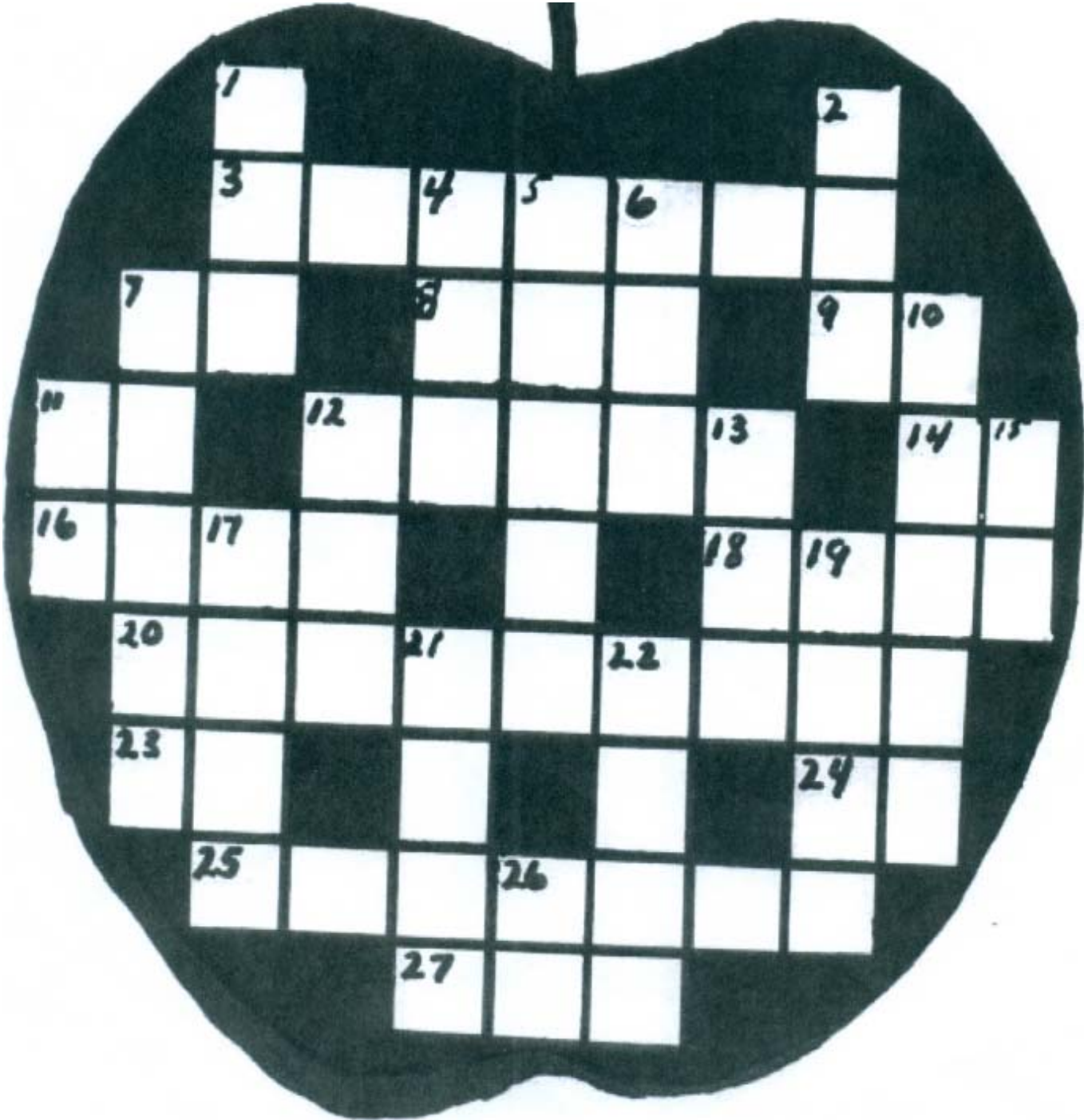
APPLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN

1. A purpose
2. An English measure of 45 inches
4. A garden tool
5. Israel subsisted upon it for 40 years
6. One of Jether's sons, I Chronicles 7:38
7. A place on the border of Naphtali, Joshua 19:33
10. Coming along behind, Matthew 4:19
11. God is the great I - - , Exodus 3:14
12. To sink down
15. An exclamation

ACROSS

3. Hagar's son, Genesis 16:15
7. The same as no. 11, down
8. A paddle for rowing
9. The 6th note of the diatonic scale
11. Abbreviation for "Anno Domini"
12. A town mentioned in Nehemiah 7:38
14. The subdominant of any major music scale
16. The name which Naomi accepted, Ruth 1:20
18. A Philistine city, I Samuel 17:4
20. An identifying name given Mary, Matthew 28:1
23. A prefix meaning the "before" or "in"
24. The first two letters of present indict. Pl. of BE
25. The title for the king of Egypt, Exodus 2:5
27. The first three letters of the son of Shema, I Chronicles 2:44



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Life's Record Book

*As day light creeps over the mountain,
Bringing Dawn to another new day;
And the blank pages of life is unwritten
Before its time had drifted away.
There are so many kind words that need saying,
And good deeds that need to be done;
And this blank page is there to record them,
Before the setting sun.
A tired faced old lady is watching
For children, who are no longer there;
And a crippled old man is hoping
That you will pause, and offer a prayer.
A young child that has just lost a mother,
Its sweet face all crumpled with tears;
The words that you offer for comfort
He will remember, the rest of his years.
And then there was this small puppy
Gazing up at you, as he whimpered with pain;
Lifting up a paw that was bleeding and swollen,
To help him you had so much to gain.
You removed the thorn that was sticking
And causing his spirits to fail;
He licked the hand that helped him
With a "woof", and wag of his tail.
There's so much to put on each blank page,
As you fill, one page, at a time;
And when you give this book to your Maker,
You're not ashamed to say,
"This is mine!"*

--Betty Whetstone, (deceased)

