

The Advocate of Truth



Fulfillment

*Messianic
Prophecies*

*Body of
Christ*

*Signs and
Wonders*



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About the cover: This photograph was taken by Brooke DeLong

The Lord's Supper is on Sunday evening, April 17th after sundown

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 Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

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: cogsevday@aol.com

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Volume LX Number 10
 April, 2011
 The Advocate of Truth
 USPS 542-940

Cebu, Philippines



FULFILLING THE PROCEDURES...

By Moises Torres M.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

Furthermore, the same Lord Jesus Christ also said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

The above verses are statements made by the Lord Jesus Christ which show the procedures that one must follow to come to the glory of the Father. These verses also show the close relationship between the Father and the Son.

It is true that only through the Son can we come to the knowledge of the Father. This condition or procedure is so essential. The Father must draw the one who would come to His Son. Again, Jesus said in John 6:44, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

This tells us that we have to follow **certain procedures** if we wish to see the Father. We first have to come to the Son. To come to the Son, the Father must authorize it first. This is an agreement between the Father and the Son which is based on the principle of mutual protection of their respective glory.

In our daily lives, we need to follow certain procedures and fulfill certain requirements to obtain what we wish. Therefore it is important to follow the procedures which are stated in the Word of God to be able to come to the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Of course, the Father wants everyone to come to the

knowledge of His Son so He can raise them up at the last day. Therefore, how can we explain that **no man can come to the Son, except the Father which hath sent Him draw him?**

The same Jesus gives us the answer in John 6:64-66, “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”

It is not that God did not allow some to listen to the words of His Son, but after they listened, many of them did not believe but only in themselves. Therefore, they could not receive the Spirit of Christ in their hearts. They could not be raised up at the last day.

We conclude that no man can come to the Father but through His Son, as is established in John 14:6. Also no man can come to the Son if it is not sanctioned by the Father. These are requirements which we must follow. They are mutual agreements between the Father and the Son as when a president or governor cannot be visited without one first going through his secretary and being wished to be seen by the governor.

Let us quote some other verses. “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should

raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:37-40).

These verses confirm that it is the Father who gives to the Son the ones who are going to be His so they can be raised up at the last day. The Father’s condition to come to His Son is to believe in Him to have everlasting life and be resurrected by Him at the last day.

When the unbelievers no longer followed Jesus, what

did He say to the twelve?

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:67-69).

To whom shall we go today? Let us remember that the Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come unto the Father, but by Him. If you want to be saved, fulfill the procedures!



Cebu, Philippines

Messianic Prophecies

By David DeLong

When someone asks a question about how you know that the Bible is accurate, one of the best responses you can give is the subject of Messianic prophecies. Hundreds, even thousands, of years before the coming of Jesus to earth, Bible prophecies relating to His coming are spelled out in detail. Only an all-knowing God could perceive in advance what would take place concerning the advent(s) of His Son. Let us now examine some of these prophecies and, thus, get a glimpse into the omniscient mind of God.

The first Messianic prophecy that we will look at is recorded in Genesis 3:14,15 which was likely given about 4000 years before its fulfillment. "And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat

all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The serpent in this passage refers to Satan (see Revelation 12:9) who either appeared to Eve in the form of a snake, or else he inhabited the body of a snake when tempting her to disobey God. This temptation, of course, was the reason that God cursed the serpent in Genesis 3.

The woman and her seed presumably refers to Eve and the godly line of descendants which would be produced through her, culminating in Christ, Himself. Eve, and this godly line, may represent the Church of God from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. (A woman can represent a church. See Revelation 12:1-

5; Hosea 1:2; 2:19). The serpent's seed likely represents the children of Satan who follow their master. At His crucifixion, Jesus did bruise Satan's head, while the latter succeeded in bruising Jesus' heel in physical death. (Nails pierced His hands and feet.)

The next Messianic text that we shall consider is located in Isaiah 9:6-7. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." This prophecy was made almost seven and one half centuries before the birth of Christ. Some of the details of the prophecy are yet to be fulfilled.

A short time before Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel made this wonderful announcement to her: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

In Micah 5:2, about 700 years before the coming of the Messiah, we learn the exact place where He would be born. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

This prophecy is confirmed in Luke 2:4-7. "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

That Mary was still a virgin when Jesus was born was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in Luke 1:26-28,31. "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women...And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

The Scriptures even foretold that John the Baptist would prepare the way for Jesus to come. We read of this event in Isaiah 40:3-5. "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." (See Luke 3:2-6 for the fulfillment of this passage.)

In the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-2 that the people around the area of Galilee would see "a great light". "Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" (Matthew 4:12-16).

The very purpose and nature of Jesus' ministry was foretold in Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus read part of this passage in the synagogue at Nazareth concerning Himself. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the

captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19). The four Gospels testify to this ministry that Jesus performed.

With all the wonderful works that Jesus did among the multitudes, one would think that He was well received with them. But as the Scriptures inform us, this was not the case. The prophet Isaiah had written of Jesus: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3). The Gospels record that the people wanted the criminal Barabbas released and Jesus crucified (see, for example, Luke 23:18). John 1:11 reads, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

Psalm 41:9 tells us about the awful betrayal which one of Jesus' friends, Judas Iscariot, enacted against Him. "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." This betrayal is poignantly recorded for us in Luke 22:47-48: "And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"

The precise amount of money that Judas would betray Jesus with is given in Zechariah 11:12-13. "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD." (See also Matthew 26:14-15.) Judas even returned the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders who would not receive it. Instead, they bought "the potter's field" as a burial ground, thus the reference in Zechariah to "the potter".

Notice these events in Matthew 27:3-8. "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and

departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day." (See also Acts 1:15-20.)

During Jesus' trial, false witnesses testified against Him. Psalm 35:11 had prophesied: "False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not." This event is more fully related in Mark 14:57-58. "And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands."

During that same trial, our Lord was dishonored with awful treatment. "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting" (Psalm 50:6). "Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands" (Matthew 26:67). The beatings, the spitting, and even the hair being pulled out of His beard were all prophesied about Jesus some 700 years before these things took place.

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, He spoke the words which a passage of holy Writ had already provided for Him to speak: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?..." (Psalm 22:1; see Matthew 27:46). Matthew 27:35 further informs us: "And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots" (see also Psalm 22:18).

As He hung upon the cross, Jesus was mocked by the people. Again, Psalm 22 had foretold that this would happen. "All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (verses 7-8). Luke 23:35 portrays the scene for us: "And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God."

The Scriptures show us that after our Lord's death on the cross, He would not remain in the grave but would be resurrected. "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah" (Psalm 49:15). "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you" (Mark 16:6-7).

Not only was Jesus resurrected, but Psalm 68:18 instructs us that He "ascended on high" (back to heaven). "Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them." "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19). "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men" (Ephesians 4:8). Two more prophecies took place, being fulfilled after Jesus was resurrected. Psalm 2:7 declares, "I will declare the decree: the LORD

hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." The Apostle Paul testified to this in Acts 13:33. Here he wrote, "God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee." The second prophecy fulfilled after Jesus' resurrection is recorded in Psalm 110:4. "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." The book of Hebrews, chapter 5, verses 5 and 6 testifies to this. "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

These are just some of the many Messianic prophecies, along with their fulfillment, given in the Bible. These passages mainly refer to Christ's first advent. Other prophecies, pertaining to His second advent, are yet to be fulfilled. But we know for certain, based upon the sure Word of God, that they will be fulfilled. All this proves, without any doubt, that the pages of the Scriptures were inspired by God, Himself. Let us, therefore, be diligent students of the Bible, living our lives according to His precious Word.

Sowing And Reaping

By O. D. Grimm (deceased)

A former editor of *The Advocate of Truth*

Cebu, Philippines



"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

Man in his natural state is easily fooled and, to some extent, enjoys being deceived. Almost everything in his

life is in some way or another deceptive. He is blinded by the deceitfulness of riches. The movie, the play, and the theatres he enjoys are all make believe. He never stops building castles. He revels in optical and moral delusions until he hardly knows which is real and which is imaginary.

Satan well knows the universal tendency toward deception, and he takes advantage of it to the fullest possible extent. He assures people that there is plenty of time to think about death and judgment, and so they continue to neglect their salvation until there is no escape. He induces the man of ambition to so fully concentrate upon the jingle of coins and the rustle of bonds that he never hears the still small voice of God whisper, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." He crowds the minds of young girls with thoughts of clothes, shows, dances, and romance at any cost, until the soiled trampled flower of their virtue is cast aside in waste and disgrace. He holds aloft before the eyes of the great men of the world, the glittering crown of conquest and power. Then, when the bitter hour of disillusionment comes, he laughs in glee as they are ground beneath the iron heel of defeat. Men know all this and yet they blindly follow the deceptive and damning leadership of the god of this world.

Like a clarion call, there comes the Divine warning of the eternal Word, "God is not mocked!" Pharaoh thought he could mock God, but he and his chariots with horses and the Egyptians were drowned beneath the waters of the Red Sea. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah thought that God could be mocked, but they were incinerated in the cloudburst of fire and brimstone. For years, the antediluvians thought they could get away with mocking God. They changed their minds when geysers erupted from the earth, and Heaven emptied upon them in torrents of rain. In all ages, poor deluded fools thought they could mock God. His patience may seem limitless. His grace may have no measure. Judgment may be long deferred, but come it will for "God is not mocked." No one gets away with sin. God keeps careful and accurate records, and some day His books will be opened. A fresh start in life in a new environment will not always cover a past of crime from the eyes of men, and never will from God.

All men are always sowing. Every thought, word, or deed is an inevitable act of sowing for eternity. Life is not

an end, but a means. It is not the goal, but the race. During every waking moment, we are building an eternal structure. We are sowing for an eternal harvest. Our deeds are not as important as the consequences. We are daily determining eternal destinies--our own. We usually forget this vital fact. We live for today as though there were no tomorrows. The modern philosophy of life is the fatalistic, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Time occupies the whole horizon of our attention, and we ignore the greater fact of eternity. We are so completely deceived by Satan that we recklessly and foolishly sow and forget that there ever will be a harvest. Men are behind prison doors today because they sowed and defiled the harvest.

Not only is the sowing inevitable but it results in an unalterable harvest: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." The harvest is in kind. Farmers plant corn and reap corn. Men plant lust and reap death. The harvest never differs from the sowing except in quantity. Israel was warned, "...they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind..." (Hosea 8:7).

Judas sowed treachery toward Christ and reaped in kind from the chief priests. Haman sowed the seeds of death toward the Jews and reaped the bitter harvest upon his own gallows. No, the harvest cannot be altered. What you sow that will you reap. Sin will pay in full all the wages it owes.

While the harvest cannot be altered, it can be canceled now and a new sowing begun. Repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will cause the past to be blotted out and a new start to be given. The Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can cancel sin's curse, blot out its stain, break its power and destroy its harvest. Wonderful, wonderful grace of our wonderful Lord!



The Body Of Christ

Cebu, Philippines

How many bodies does Christ have? He has just one, but it means something to belong to that one body. Just having our names on some church book does not make us members of His body. God puts us in the body just where He sees we will fit best. We cannot all be preachers or singers. But there is a place in the body for everyone. We cannot always have the place we want. God knows best, and we must come to Him saying, "Here I am Lord, mold me, take off the rough corners, and fit me in wherever you see best." Then God, by His Spirit, can endow us with power. He may give us the gift to prophesy so we can go out preaching; or it may be the gift of healing; or the gift of discernment of spirits; or it may be He wants us to plow corn or raise cattle, or work at some trade. But whatever it may be, if we do it well, we are a part of the body and just as important as any other part. If it is God who has us in the body, we will be satisfied with whatever place we have, and we will endeavor, by the help of the Spirit, to work in unity with all the other members.

Sometimes people are desirous of vain glory, and then they are not satisfied with their station or position. The result is that they pull off from the body of Christ and start a body of their own where they can be the whole body.

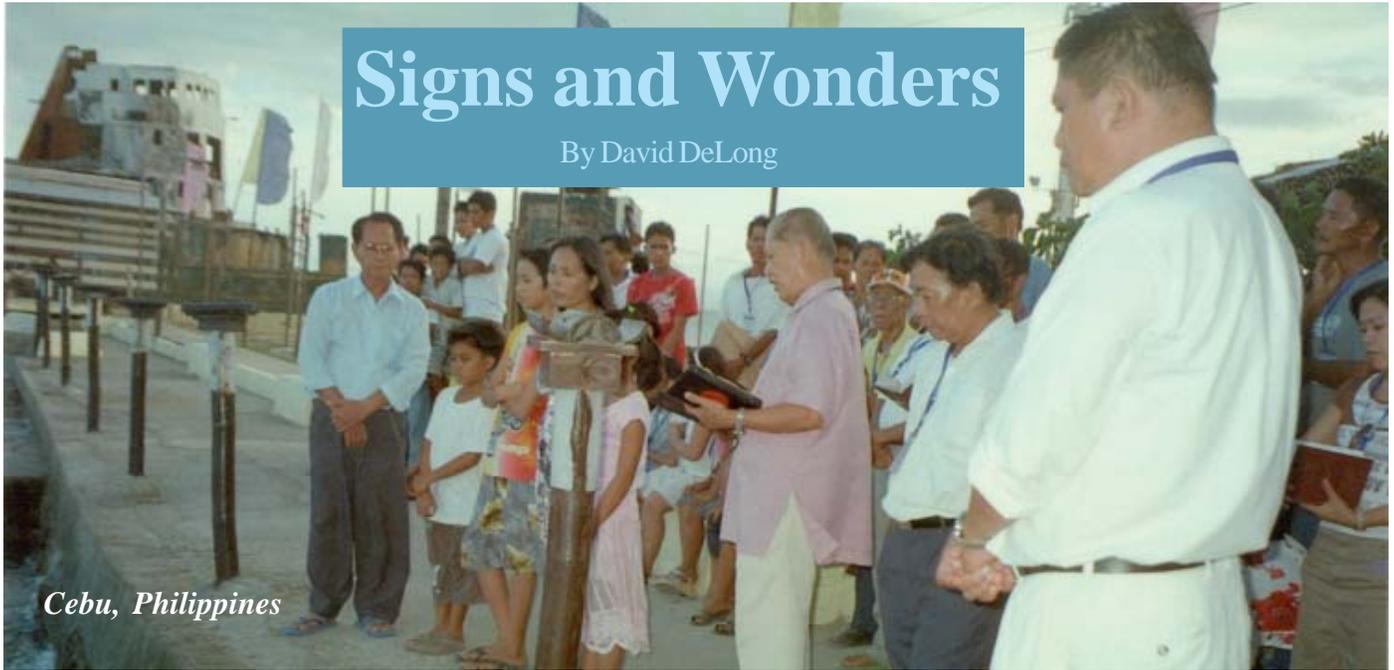
But the body of Christ is made up of all the members fitly joined together.

It needs them all for the work to go forward as God desires. If we are preachers, we are dependent upon the lay members to send us out. The lay members, working at different trades, are dependent upon the preachers to go and carry the gospel as the money is supplied to them. Then all working together for the salvation of souls will have glory with God because they have done what they could do to warn the world and teach them the love of God and obedience to His commands.

If someone shirks his responsibility, then it throws more work on others, and because the burden is greater, less work is done. Also that person, by shirking, loses the blessings of God. If everyone would be faithful in his work, whether tithing, preaching or whatever it may be, and all put their shoulders to the wheel, the work of the Lord could go forward to a speedy fulfillment. Some are able to do more than others, either in work or in finances. But all God requires us to do is what we can. Do not hide your talent, but let it produce for God.

Signs and Wonders

By David DeLong



Cebu, Philippines

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:38-40).

The scribes and Pharisees mentioned in the above passage of Scripture were not seeking a sign so that they might believe in Jesus, but rather, it is likely they wanted to see a sign from Him so that they could be enthralled with the miraculous. In other words, they probably just wanted to be entertained. Jesus referred to them as an evil and adulterous generation. Tragically, it seems, many people today want a similar outcome. They only want to experience what they consider to be the presence of God for the thrill that they can receive. No one should seek the Lord just for the signs and wonders that He could provide. "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" (II Corinthians 5:7). However, there are times when the Lord provides signs and wonders for various reasons, including to help build up a person's faith (see John 20:30-31).

In fact, building up faith is possibly the main reason that the Lord uses such signs and wonders. When Moses was told by God to go unto the Israelites and to give them

His message, God showed two signs unto him. "And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land" (Exodus

4:1-9).

When the message of God was given to Gideon informing him that he would save Israel from the Midianites, Gideon asked for a sign. "And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me...And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground" (Judges 6:17,36-40).

In another case, when king Hezekiah was told he would recover from his illness, he asked for a sign. "And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day? And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz" (II Kings 20:8-11).

In a situation involving king Ahaz, the Lord even told this king to ask a sign of Him. Ahaz, however, refused. "Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall con-

ceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:10-14; see also verses 15,16).

Sometimes the Lord sends signs and wonders to show His greatness and mercy to an entire nation. "And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them" (Exodus 7:1-5; see also Joshua 24:16,17).

The Sabbath is a sign between the Lord and His people.

The Sabbath is a sign between the Lord and His people. Notice Exodus 31:13,17: "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you...It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." Some have contended that the Sabbath is a sign only between the Lord and the children of Israel. However, we must remember that the ancient Israelites were God's people at that time. He still sanctifies His people today. The reference to the Lord creating "heaven and earth" and resting on the seventh day are events that affect everyone in the world, not just the Israelites. Therefore, the Sabbath is an apt sign for God's people today.

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 19, we catch a glimpse

of some events which, seemingly, are yet to come (see verses 23-25). Verses 19 and 20 are very interesting. "In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them." What is this "altar" and "pillar" to the Lord in Egypt? We are not told specifically in the Scriptures, but with the headline events unfolding in Egypt these days, it would be well to watch and see what prophecies are being fulfilled there.

The birth of Jesus was accompanied with a sign which was given to some shepherds.

The birth of Jesus was accompanied with a sign which was given to some shepherds. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:8-12).

The Lord even said that various signs would accompany those who believe in Him. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17,18). Of course, Satan uses false

signs to mask these true signs. Multitudes are caught up in the counterfeit "tongues movement" which is not from God. Others take up poisonous snakes as a "proof" that they are obeying the command of Jesus. This is just another way of tempting the Lord.

The early apostles were living proof that true signs followed them.

The early apostles were living proof that true signs followed them. "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (Acts 5:12-16).

One of the signs which Jesus said would "follow them that believe" is that "they shall speak with new tongues". This refers to the gift, given by the Lord, for a disciple to be able to communicate with a foreign person, or persons, through their own language. The Apostle Paul, in I Corinthians 14:21-22 informs us that the gift of tongues is to be used for the benefit of unbelievers, not for believers. "In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe."

Not everyone will have the gift of tongues, just as not everyone will have other gifts such as the gift of healing. I Corinthians 12:28-30 reads: "And God hath set some in

the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" The obvious answer to all of the Apostle Paul's questions in the above passage is, "No".

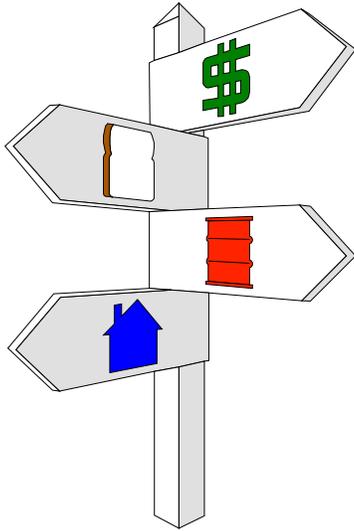
The disciples of Jesus were anxious to have the Lord give them the sign of His coming. "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). After Jesus related to them a number of things which would come to pass (see verses 4-26), He said in verses 27-31: "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

In Luke 21:25-28, Jesus spoke of signs in the heavens which will be present near the time of His return. Genesis, chapter one, informs us that the sun, moon, and stars were created partly to be used as signs (see verses 14-16). In the Luke account we are told: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Satan will attempt to deceive people before the Lord returns with false signs and wonders.

Satan will attempt to deceive people before the Lord returns with false signs and wonders. We read of this in II Thessalonians 2:8-10. "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (See also Revelation 13:11-15).

We have seen in this study that though we are not to seek the Lord just for the signs and wonders He can produce, yet the Lord does give such signs and wonders, on numbers of occasions, to assure His people that He is in control and to build up the faith of many. Let us conclude this article with the words from I Kings 13:1-5, which shows us that the Lord's signs are always reliable. "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD."



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.

Movement boosted by recession, 'sovereign citizens' deny rule of law

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins

Associated Press

Columbus, Ohio – They call themselves sovereign citizens, U.S. residents who declare themselves above state and federal laws. Many don't register their children's births, carry driver's licenses or recognize the court system.

Some peddle schemes that use fictional loopholes to eliminate debt and avoid foreclosures.

A few of such believers are violent: Two police officers in Arkansas died in a shootout in May after stopping an Ohio sovereign citizen and his son.

As many as 300,000 people identify themselves as sovereign citizens, the Southern Poverty Law Center found in a study published Thursday. Hate group monitors say their numbers have grown thanks to the recession, the foreclosure crisis, the growth of the internet and the election of Barack Obama in 2008.

Adherents expect the current American system of government to end one way or another.

"I'm the Patrick Henry of the 21st century. I'm here to regain our freedom," James McBride said in a jailhouse interview. "I'm going to, or die trying."

'Legal fundamentalism'

At the heart of their belief system: The government creates a secret identity for each citizen at birth, a "straw man," that controls an account at the U.S. Treasury used as collateral for foreign debt. File enough documents at the right offices and the money in those accounts can be

used to pay off debt or make purchases worth thousands of dollars.

"The movement is based on a form of 'legal fundamentalism,'" said Michael Barkun, a retired Syracuse University political science professor.

"These people really seem to feel that filing certain kinds of legal papers that are connected to their theories will somehow also magically have the power to alter relationships and grant things that otherwise would be unobtainable," Barkun said.

Experts say sovereign citizens are the latest manifestation of anti-government activists going back to the Posse Comitatus movement of the 1970's, which recognized only local governments and no law enforcement with more jurisdiction than a sheriff. In the 1980's, protesters exploited the farm crisis by selling fraudulent debt relief programs.

"In good times they focus on tax cheating, in bad times they focus on getting out of debt," said J J MacNab, an expert on tax and financial schemes and author of the SPLC report.

Martin Smith of Carthage Mo., lost \$8,000 to a father-and-son company in Columbus called Liberty Resources that pitched a method to eliminate credit card debt based on a theory that national banks aren't authorized to issue credit.

"We just became convinced that each of the parts of the puzzle that Liberty Resources . . . was telling us existed would work," said Smith 48, a civil engineer.

Dan Wickline and his son, Chad, pleaded guilty in 2008 to conspiracy to commit money laundering and are serving federal prison sentences.

In April, a group called the Guardians of the Free Republic sent letters to governors demanding they leave

office or be removed. The group's website calls for the restoration of lawful government and an end to tax forms, vehicle registrations and marriage licenses. An e-mail to the group was not returned.

Denies committing fraud

McBride, the jailed sovereign citizen, came across anti-government beliefs while in federal prison on a 1992 cocaine importing conviction.

Over the years he developed his own tenets, including a revised history of the United States that says that the country was secretly organized as a general post office in 1789.

He dismisses any accusation that the programs he pitched were fraud, arguing that he isn't subject to the laws of the U.S., which he calls a corporation along the lines of a car company.

"General Motor's laws don't affect me because I'm not an employee of them," McBride insisted. "Same with the state of Ohio and the United States."

Excerpted from the Houston Chronicle

Comment

According to the Word of God, these 'sovereign citizens' are wrong! The Apostle Paul wrote, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Timothy 2:1-2). We have a duty to pray for our leaders.

We have a duty to honor and respect our leaders who are in authority. Even though many do not espouse the principles of God, the office of government is honorable. We are told to be subject to the governing authorities. "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (I Peter 2:17). God gave us human governments that are under human direction to give us laws so that we can live in a peaceable and secure manner.

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Romans 13:3-4). Paul told us that we should obey the laws of our

government, as long as they do not conflict with God's law. When there is a conflict, Daniel is our example. He was told by his government not to pray to his God. He was not going to forsake his loyalty to his God just because the people passed a law that conflicted with God's law. His duty was to obey God! We have the example of the apostles, who were told not to preach in the name of Jesus. Their reply was, "...We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

The child of God has a duty to pay his taxes, even though the money may be spent for causes that we cannot approve. The example was set by Jesus when He said, "...Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). After the child of God has paid his taxes and everything he owes, he should leave the rest with God. Paul said it well in Romans 13:7, "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour"

Record hailstone Making rounds

Boulder – North America's heaviest hailstone ever also might be its most traveled. A 1-pound, 15-ounce hailstone that fell in Vivian S.D., on July 23 has been taken to National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., about 370 miles away.

Charles Knight, a scientist at the center, plans to cast plaster replicas for researchers, a South Dakota museum and Leslie Scott, the ranch hand who found it.

Comment

The above article could be called a human interest story. We take note that the hailstone weighed one pound and fifteen ounces. That is not the largest hailstone that will fall upon the earth.

We note that in Revelation one of the things that happens after the seventh angel pours out his vial into the air is that a great hail out of heaven falls upon men, and each and every stone was about the weight of a talent. According to a footnote in my Bible, a talent equals 100 pounds.

"And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (Revelation 16:21).

BIBLE

Study



Question: How must we pray, and how long should our prayers be?

Answer: The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to “Teach us to pray!” They felt a definite need to know how to pray. Today, we do not need to be ashamed to ask the same question.

The disciples of Jesus did not ask the Lord, “Teach us to preach” or “Teach us to sing,” but they asked Him for this one great thing; “Lord, teach us to pray.” Men can train other men to become great preachers and orators, but only Jesus can teach men and women to become masters of the art and the science of prayer. More is accomplished by prayer than has ever been or will be accomplished by all the preaching in the world. Without prayer even our preaching becomes powerless and empty.

Prayer is everybody’s gift and privilege. Whereas we often need preparation and training to be efficient preachers and personal workers, the gift of prayer is offered to all, and all may become the wielders of the vary powers of Omnipotence. Not all men are called to be pastors or preachers or evangelists or exhorters. God gives to every man his gift and his task, according to his ability. However, no such restrictions are placed upon prayer. This gift is for all. Jesus says, “Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” One needs no special call to the ministry of prayer as one needs a call to the work of evangelism or the pastorate. It is a privilege of all.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that the power of prayer

Questions and Answers

is the power which is least exercised by the average believer. Many are sighing because they cannot do things for the Lord, and they forget that there is no power committed to the believer greater than the power of prayer and intercession. God needs more ‘prayers’ far more than evangelists and preachers.

How are we to pray? Jesus gives us the definite answer and lays down some general rules when He gave the Model Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 which is usually called the Lord’s Prayer, but which was in reality the Disciple’s Prayer.

As we hear men pray, and when we study our own prayer life, what a sorry spectacle presents itself. How little we follow the rules of our Lord Jesus as laid down in Matthew 6:5-18. How long our public prayers are, and how few and short our private closed prayers! How much of vain repetition! How much of the marks of the hypocrites in our prayers and how often we pray for things which God’s wisdom forbids Him to answer.

Jesus said not to pray like a hypocrite! First, a hypocrite’s prayer is public. Notice that they love to pray where they are seen and heard of men. To make ourselves more prominent and sure of notice by other men in prayer, we condemn ourselves.

Second, Jesus warns, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation” (Matthew 23:14).

It is a pretty safe rule that the longer a man prays in public, the less he prays in private. Any child of God who has prayed earnestly in private will be able to complete his public prayer quickly. Study the prayers of Scripture

and see how many long public prayers you can find.

Study the prayers of the Lord Jesus, and you will discover two things. First, He was a great man of prayer. He spent whole nights on the mountain without sleep, praying to His Father. But can you find a long prayer in His public ministry? The Model Prayer of our Lord was so brief that you can pray it reverently in about thirty seconds. This is the longest public prayer our Lord ever offered. Another prayer of Jesus is recorded in John 17. It is generally called “The Prayer of Intercession.” This prayer would consume about two and a half minutes.

Let us heed the words of our Lord in Matthew 6:5-18. We will quote them now: “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”

Question: What was the purpose of Christ’s forty days and forty nights fast as recorded in Matthew 4:2?

Answer: It was immediately after His baptism by John the Baptist that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the

wilderness. He had just received the outward acknowledgment of His mission and authority, and now He was to prepare for the more public work before Him by a period of prayer, fasting and deeper spiritual experience and communion with the Father. During those forty days, the plan and future of His work must have been always before Him.

Question: Are any by nature “children of God?”

Answer: There is a large and true sense in which all mankind are children of God. The Apostle Paul could say to the idolaters of Athens, “...For we are also his offspring” (Acts 17:28). But there is a higher, closer, nearer sense in which regenerated men only are God’s children. John says, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12). Speaking to believers, he says, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God...” (I John 3:2). There is no discrepancy between Paul and John. The one is speaking of God’s children in the large human sense, while the other speaks of them in the restricted, adopted sense.

Question: What does it mean when we read that “God created man in his own image” in Genesis 1:27?

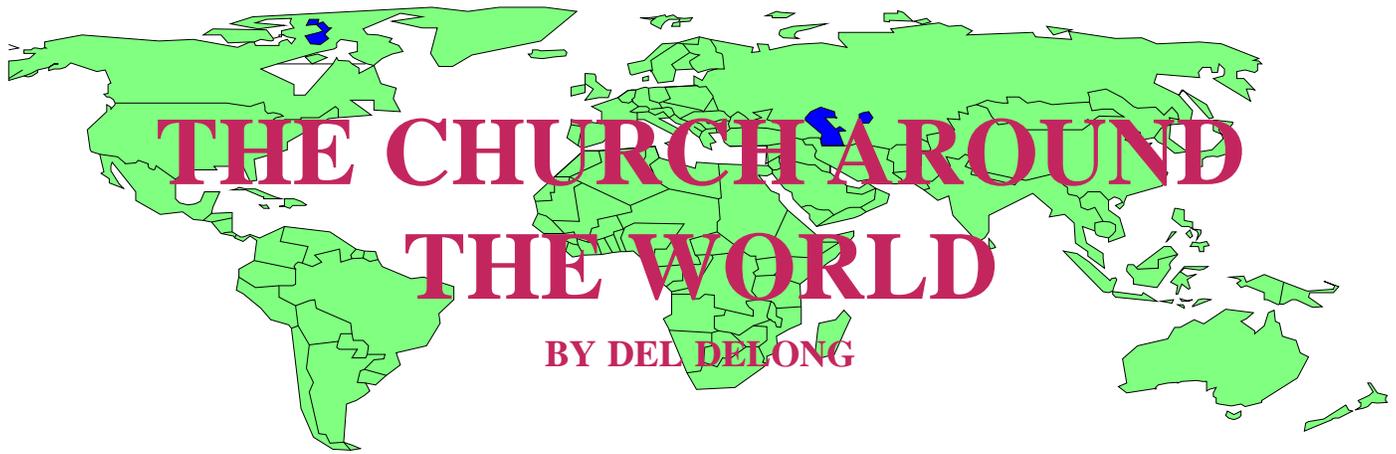
Answer: To be created in God’s own image meant that human beings share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God’s communicable attributes such as life, personality, truth, wisdom, holiness, and justice. Because he is created in God’s image, man has the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him.

Question: What does the word “theophany” mean?

Answer: The word “theophany comes from two Greek words: *theos* (“God”) and *phaino* (“to appear”). We may define a theophany as an appearance or manifestation of God, usually in a visible, bodily form.

Question: What is the meaning of the words, “Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind”, found in Romans 14:5?

Answer: The exhortation of every man to “be fully persuaded in his own mind” means that each one of us for himself must study the Word of God until convinced as to what the Word teaches, and then having come to know what it teaches we must obey it. We all must pray for the strength to obey the Word of God.



Philippines



Baptism at Naga, Cebu Philippines



Cebu, Philippines



Cebu, Philippines



*Lord's Supper service at Cebu City,
Cebu, Philippines*

LESSON I

THE MURRAIN OF BEASTS AND PLAGUE OF BOILS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9:1-12.

Golden Text: Exodus 9:6 (last part).

“...and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.”

1. The Lord has again told Moses to go unto Pharaoh and tell him to let his people go. What will the Lord do to the cattle of the land if Pharaoh refuses to obey? Exodus 9:1-3.

NOTE: Murrain means plague.

2. Would the cattle of the children of Israel die also? Exodus 9:4.

3. What time did the Lord set for this thing to happen, and did the children of Israel lose any cattle? Exodus 9:5-6.

4. Pharaoh’s heart still was hardened. What did the Lord instruct Moses and Aaron to do? Exodus 9:8-9.

5. Did Moses sprinkle the ashes as the Lord told him to? What happened to man and beast? Exodus 9:10.

6. Was the boil upon the magicians? Exodus 9:11.

7. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go after this plague? Exodus 9:12.

LESSON II

THE PLAGUE OF HAIL

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9:13-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 9:24.

“So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of

Egypt since it became a nation.”

1. Some of the Egyptians feared God. What did they do, and what did the Egyptians that did not listen to God do? Exodus 9:20-21.

2. What did the Lord tell Moses to do, and what was to happen when he did this? Exodus 9:22.

3. What did God send with the hail? Exodus 9:23-24.

4. Where did the hail fall, and did it affect the children of Israel? Exodus 9:25-26.

5. Pharaoh sends for Moses and Aaron. What did he tell them? Exodus 9:27-28.

6. What then did Moses tell Pharaoh he would do about the hail? Did it stop? Exodus 9:29-30,33.

7. What crops did the hail destroy, and which ones were not hurt? Exodus 9:31-32.

8. When the rain, hail and thunder stopped, what did Pharaoh do? Exodus 9:34-35.

LESSON III

THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 10:1-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 10:4.

“Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:”

1. Why did God harden Pharaoh’s heart, and what was Moses to tell his sons? Exodus 10:1-2.

2. What did Moses and Aaron say unto Pharaoh? Exodus 10:3-4.

3. Describe what the next plague would be like. Exodus 10:5-6.

4. What did Pharaoh's servants say unto him? Exodus 10:7.

NOTE: Pharaoh talks to Moses and Aaron about letting the men go. But when they discuss that young and old, sons and daughters are to also go, Pharaoh refuses to let them go. Exodus 10:8-11.

5. Did the Lord cause the locusts to come upon the land of Egypt? Exodus 10:12-14. From what direction did they come?

6. What did the locusts do to the land? Exodus 10:15.

7. What did Pharaoh say to Moses and Aaron when the locusts were in Egypt? Exodus 10:16-17.

8. Did the Lord take the locusts away? What did He do to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:19-20.

LESSON IV

THE PLAGUE OF DARKNESS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 10:21-29.

Golden Text: Exodus 10:22 (last part).

"...and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days."

1. Why did the Lord tell Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven? Exodus 10:21.

2. How long did the darkness last, and could the Egyptians do anything during this time? Exodus 10:22-23.

NOTE: The children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

3. What did Pharaoh tell Moses he could do and not do? Exodus 10:24.

4. What did Moses tell Pharaoh that they had to take with them, and what were these things to be used for? Exodus 10:25-26.

5. Did Pharaoh agree to let the children of Israel go? Exodus 10:27.

6. What did Pharaoh finally tell Moses to do? Exodus 10:28.

7. What was Moses' response to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:29.

GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. What high priest stopped a plague by swinging a censer between the living and the dead? Numbers 16:46-50.

2. What nation was saved by using moldy bread and worn-out shoes? Joshua 9:11-27.

3. Upon what mountain did Noah's ark finally come to rest? Genesis 8:4.

4. How was the bunch of grapes carried from Canaan to the children of Israel in the desert? Numbers 13:23.

5. What men were slain because they could not pronounce the letter "H"? Judges 12:6.

6. What great general was cured because he obeyed the advice of a little slave girl? II Kings 5:1-4.

7. What king asked a witch to help him out of his troubles? I Samuel 28:7-8.

8. Who put his hand on the ark of the covenant to steady it? I Chronicles 13:9-10.

9. Who wrestled all night without knowing whom he was wrestling with? Genesis 32:24-29.

10. Who played he was a madman to escape from his enemies? I Samuel 21:12-15.

11. What two cities were used to mark the north and south borders of Israel? I Samuel 3:20.

12. Who heard a voice coming out of a whirlwind? Job 38:1.

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 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 heard 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!

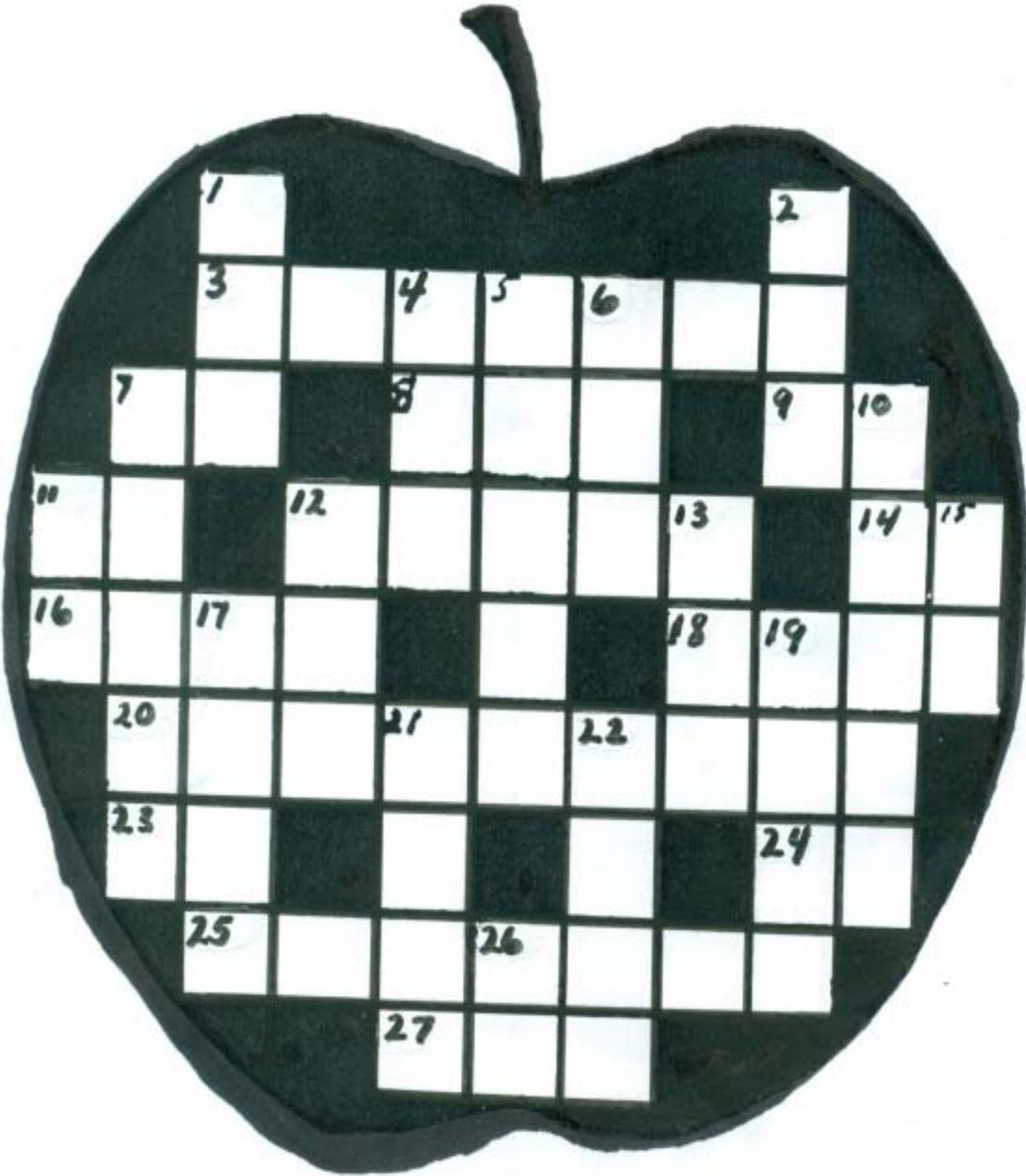
APPLE - CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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 16:25
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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Matthew 6:28-29

"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."



