

The Advocate of Truth

The Good Olive Tree

A Chameleon Christian

The Marathon



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

The Good Olive Tree 3-8
 What is the good olive tree? The answer may surprise you.

Don't Be A Chameleon Christian 8-9
 Do you blend in with the crowd?

The Marathon 10-12
 The race to eternal life takes much discipline.

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ 13
 We must keep up the good fight until the very end.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15
 We examine: world hunger; and, "stone age" families.

Questions And Answers 16-17
 What is the Lamb's Book of Life? Are angels "sons of God"?

The Church Around The World 18-19
 This month, we look at Myanmar.

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "The Little Bird Song"
Games and Puzzles

The date for the Lord's Supper will be Monday evening, March 29, 2010 (Roman time), which is the beginning of March 30th (Bible time). The Lord's Supper is to be taken after sundown and the foot washing is to be done before the emblems of grape juice and unleavened bread are taken.

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: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Volume LIX

Number 10

April 26, 2010

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

THE GOOD OLIVE TREE

ROMANS ELEVEN

The following article, written by the then Editorial Staff, appeared in the October 7, and was continued in the October 21, 1957 issues of THE ADVOCATE OF TRUTH.

Many people use this chapter to prove that Gentiles are grafted into Israel and thereby become Spiritual Israel. For these people to believe this theory they must also believe that Abraham was an Israelite, which we have already proven absurd. We have also proven that a Gentile does not become an Israelite through our Lord Jesus Christ, nor does an Israelite become a Gentile. They both become part of the new man made by the death of Christ, the church or body purchased by His own blood, "The Church of God." Then what does it mean in Romans 11 about Gentiles being grafted in, and into what are they grafted? Let us turn now to the Bible.

Romans 10:21: "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people." Here God tells us that the reason He was turning to the Gentiles was that Israel had become a disobedient and gainsaying people. They thought as a lot of people do, today, that God doesn't mean what He says.

Romans 11:1: "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin." Now here Paul identifies himself as an Israelite of the seed of Abraham. This seed we know was Abraham's grandson, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. Paul was not an Israelite directly of Abraham, but rather by the process already explained. Here Paul definitely says that as pertaining to the flesh he was an Israelite. He also assures us that God had not completely cast off Israel. In the next few verses we find his explanation of what he meant.

Romans 11:2-6: "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God to him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. EVEN SO then at THIS PRESENT TIME ALSO there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Now what have we found in these verses? It is plain and simple. That just as God had preserved 7000 Israelites in the day of Elijah, when Elijah thought he was the only one left, just so God preserved a group in Paul's day of Israelites who accepted Jesus Christ, before he (Paul) turned completely to the Gentiles. God used Israelites to convert Gentiles to carry on His work, before He turned wholly to the Gentiles, so that in the day of Paul a remnant of Israel had been saved. These were the firstfruits of the gospel, and had been saved by accepting Jesus as their Saviour, instead of by sacrifices and ceremonies which would have been by works. This remnant of Israel was by the grace of God. How can we find the number of the remnant of Israel which was called the firstfruits of the gospel?

James in his letter to the twelve tribes of Israel states

in chapter one, verse 18: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." So we see that James recognized the fact that the saved of the twelve tribes of Israel in his day were a kind of firstfruits.

We know that the sealing time began when the Holy Ghost was poured out at Pentecost, and that all are sealed by the Holy Ghost. I will quote a few verses to show that the sealing was going in the day of the apostles. II Corinthians 1:21-22: "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." Here Paul says the Christians were sealed in his day.

Ephesians 1:13: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." Here we find the very same thing as in Corinthians. Now who were sealed as the firstfruits, and how many?

Revelation 7:1-4: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God (Holy Spirit): and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Here then we have the number that was first sealed. They were of the twelve tribes of Israel, and there were sealed 144,000 or twelve thousand of each tribe. Now let us read the commission of Jesus Christ.

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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Here then we see that the Lord told them to go to Jerusalem and Judah. So the first ones to be sealed, or the firstfruits of the gospel, would be of Israel, then Samaria, and then to the uttermost parts of the earth. Since we have established the first class to be sealed by the

Holy Spirit, and the number, what was the second class, and how many?

Revelation 7:9: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." A great multitude which no man can number are sealed out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. That is in God's order. First, Israel: 144,000 of them sealed, the firstfruits of the gospel. Then the apostles turn to the Gentiles, and the sealing has been going on among them ever since. A great multitude of Gentiles will stand victorious in the great day of the coming of the Lord. Now can we find a place that definitely calls the hundred and forty and four thousand, the firstfruits?

Revelation 14:1-4: "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 (churches); 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."

These verses definitely show the hundred and forty four thousand are of Israel as shown in chapter 7. They are not defiled with women. These did not come out of pagan philosophies, or false religions. These are virgins, or of the Jewish faith that accepted Christ in the first century, being the FIRSTFRUITS unto God and to the LAMB. What could be plainer? Now after these firstfruits of Israel were sealed by the Holy Ghost, then where did God send his messages of salvation and warning?

Revelation 14:6: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." So this text shows that the everlasting gospel did not go to the Gentile nations until the 144,000 had heard it in Israel. Yes, the 144,000

Israelites is what Paul termed the Israel of God. There is not a single Gentile among them. They are of the twelve tribes of Israel. Both the 144,000 of Israel, and the great multitude out of the nations, belong to the Church of God. That is the spiritual part, but they do not change nationalities. There are no Gentiles in the 144,000 and there are no Israelites in the great multitude. These are two separate classes, and any Gentile expecting a place with the 144,000 will come up short some day. They are the remnant of Israel that were brought to the gospel under the preaching of the apostles, and the sealing of the Holy Ghost. These are the firstfruits of the Church of God.

Romans 11:7: "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." So it is improper to say that people who accept Christ become Israel. Israel is blinded. After the election, 144,000 were called out of Israel by the preaching of the apostles. God blinded the rest. So if we should claim to be Israel today, we would be saying to the world that we are blinded to the gospel. Israel was blinded, and did not obtain unto the salvation of the gospel. God called out, or elected, 144,000; 12,000 of each tribe, and blinded the rest. What could be plainer? This was a fulfillment of prophecy as explained in verse 8: "(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 remember, every time you read that, it will say the same thing. Israel is deaf and blind to the gospel, unto his day. No, friend, we are not Israel through Jesus Christ.

Listen to David describe this blindness of Israel, verses 9-10: "And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway." Yes, that came upon Israel by their rejection of Jesus Christ, as the Son of God. And they are still blinded.

Romans 11:11: "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." Can you see how plain that is? They have not fallen forever, but only for a time, while salvation is being offered solely to the Gentiles. But if the Devil can get our eyes off our obligation to bring salvation to the Gentiles, and spend our time, efforts, talents, and finances

to open the spiritual eyes and ears of a people made deaf and blind by God, then he will be happy, and God will be sad. Today is the time of the Gentiles, it will soon close and Christ will come. It will be too late then to warn our neighbors. God blinded the Jew, and He has a time to take away their blindness. Let us leave God's business to God, and let us be about the business He gave us to do: that of carrying the gospel of salvation to the Gentiles. Get your eyes off the earthly Jerusalem, and place them on the Jerusalem which is above, which is the mother of us all. (Galatians 4:26).

Verse 12: "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?" So God has taken from them the spiritual riches and has given them to the Gentiles, and has given Israel the earthly riches. Yes, He does promise them a fullness that we shall study about in another article.

Verses 13-14: "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." Paul did not say he was speaking to spiritual Israelites, but to Gentiles. Yes, Paul was ever trying to save those of this own flesh, or Israel, for the door of mercy was not completely closed to them until Paul's death.

Verse 15: "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?" Yes, at the time appointed, they shall be received back into the graces of God, as being from the dead. So God counts Israel as being spiritually dead at the moment.

Verses 16-17: "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." Do you see, friend, the tree was not cut down, only some of the branches were broken off? Israel was the branches that were broken off of the tree, but the Gentiles are grafted into the same tree from which Israel was broken off. Now if we can find out what that olive tree was then we will know from what Israel was broken off, and into what we are grafted.

A righteous man in the Bible, as well as a nation, is

considered a tree of righteousness, or olive tree, (Isaiah 61:3): “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.” Our righteousness is considered as oil; the oil is a representation of the Holy Spirit, so that we are trees with olive oil within when we obey God. Righteous people are considered God’s olive trees.

Now where does David say the righteous, as trees, are planted? Psalm 1:3: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Branches of a righteous tree, or God’s olive tree that do not bring forth good fruit are cut off, and good branches are grafted in.

Peloubet has this to say about Paul’s allegory of the olive trees. “The olive furnishes the basis of one of Paul’s allegories (Romans 11:16-25). The Gentiles are the wild olive grafted in upon the good olive, to which once the Jews belonged.”

Now what good olive, or righteous man, did the Jews claim for their righteousness? John 8:39-40: “They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.” So here we see Israel claimed Abraham as their father, or as their family tree.

Now listen to Paul as he speaks to both Jew and Gentile in Acts 13:26, and see what he calls the Jews. “Men and brethren, CHILDREN OF THE STOCK OF ABRAHAM, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.” So the real fleshly stock of Abraham were the fleshly descendants of Israel.

The question then arises, if we do not get into the stock of Abraham, or are not grafted into Abraham by Jacob or Israel, how do we get to be the direct seed of Abraham? The answer is supplied in Galatians 3:29: “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” So instead of coming to Jacob, or Israel, we are grafted in as Abraham’s seed, or children of God, by Jesus Christ. Isn’t that plain? Do you not see

that to try to get in any other way you are a thief and a robber? No friend, you are not Jacob’s seed through Jesus Christ, but Abraham’s, and Abraham is the direct type of God.

Who then is the Father of all the faithful of all the nations? Romans 4:16-17: “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law (Israel), but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham (Gentiles); who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”

The branches, Israel, were broken off of the tree (Abraham) because they did not bear righteous fruit, and through Jesus Christ the Gentiles are grafted in as children of the promise. The children of the flesh (Israel) are not revealed for the seed, but the children of the promise are. Israel is through Jacob, they are of the flesh. The children of the promise are through Jesus Christ, they are of the Spirit.

Romans 11:18-19: “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.” Did you ever hear anyone tell you that Israel was broken off, and that God does not count them Israel any longer? But that they, the converted Gentile, has now become a spiritual Israelite, and God accepts them as Israel instead of the fleshly seed. This is called boasting against the branches.

Listen to Revelation 2:9: “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the BLASPHEMY of them which SAY THEY ARE JEWS, AND ARE NOT, but are the synagogue of Satan.” Also Revelation 3:9: “Behold, I WILL MAKE THEM OF THE SYNAGOGUE OF Satan, which SAY THEY ARE JEWS, and ARE NOT, BUT DO LIE; I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.” Friend, it is a sin to lie, and it is a farce to boast against the branches that were broken off. God still loves Israel, His erring children, and some day will do better unto them than at their beginnings. Do not say you are a Jew, when you are not. It is dangerous, and by it you will miss eternal life.

Romans 11 verses 20-23: “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 graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.” As I said before, it is dangerous to boast against the natural branches, and say now you have taken their place, and that now you are Israel. You can be broken off for that very thing. They are the fleshly, natural branches of Abraham. You are there by faith, you can be broken off; and God is able to graft Israel again if they abide not still in unbelief. There is coming a day when we shall see this done again.

Romans 11:24-27: “For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part (God elected 144,000 and blinded the rest) is happened to Israel, UNTIL (not forever) the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.” In these verses Paul shows us clearly that the blindness now upon Israel shall be removed when Jesus comes again; that all Israel, all twelve tribes, shall be saved by the coming of Christ to Israel. We now live in Gentile times, but when the Gentile times are over, God will turn away ungodliness from Jacob or Israel. This should prove to the most skeptical that we are not Jacob’s seed. Their cleansing is in the future; ours is going on today, and by it we become Abraham’s seed. Jacob’s seed is still blinded.

Verse 28: “As concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.” So although the Jews are enemies of the gospel for our sakes, they are still beloved of God because of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the righteous fathers of Israel.

Verse 29: “For the gifts and calling of God are without

repentance.” People who do not understand Romans 11 believe this means we do not have to repent of our evil ways to obtain salvation. This is not talking about salvation offered to Gentiles; this is talking of the returning of God to Israel, and the returning of Israel to their own land. God is calling Israel back to Palestine today without repentance, so that the Deliverer can cleanse them after He gets them back in their own land, at the coming of Christ.

Verses 30-32: “For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.” Yes, the opportunity of salvation is now reversed. The Gentiles now have an opportunity to accept Christ. The Jews are in unbelief. We should, however, have mercy upon them and pray God to hasten the day when His Son shall return to show mercy upon all Israel. Only as we show Israel mercy today does she have any. They are blinded to the gospel, so for this reason she is more to be pitied than despised. Let us as the Church of God pray night and day for backslidden Israel to once again be restored to her rightful place, and the best way to do this is to help with the proclamation of the gospel to the Gentiles that Christ may so soon return.

Verses 33-36: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever: Amen.” And just so anyone would try to question the wisdom of the Lord in this plan or method of dealing with Jew and Gentile, Paul adds these verses. If you begin to question what God has placed in this chapter just turn to these verses and read them over, and over again. Accept God at His Word.

In closing this part of the study on Abraham’s seed, I want to quote to you the direct statements of the New Testament on God’s turning away from Israel with salvation, to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:45-46: “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against

those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should FIRST have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves UNWORTHY OF EVERLASTING LIFE, LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.” What could be plainer? Yes, it was necessary to go to the Jew first; that was God’s order. Remember God had to take the firstfruits, 144,000 out of Israel, and then go to the nations.

When Paul finally arrived in Rome, he called the chief of the Jews together and tried to reason with them about the gospel. He appointed a certain day to study the Word of God with them. The day arrived and the Jews came unto Paul. However, the Jews got into a terrible squabble over what they heard. It would do all of us well to read the entire 28th chapter of Acts. However, I will just quote verses 25-28. Paul tells the Jews here that God has cast them off from salvation. Listen to his grim announcement.

“And when they agreed not among themselves, they

departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that THE SALVATION OF GOD IS SENT UNTO THE GENTILES, and that they will hear it.”

This is the condition of Israel to this day, and it will not be reversed by any man or group of men. Only Jesus will perform the miracle of taking away their blindness at His second coming. O Church of God, arise and warn your Gentile neighbors of the doom that awaits them if they believe not the gospel. Take your eyes off Israel, and place them on Jesus Christ.

DON'T BE A CHAMELEON CHRISTIAN



God has provided one branch of the lizard family with an extraordinary ability. The chameleon lizard can change its skin colors to blend in with its environment. If we put it on the grass, it can look like the color of the grass. If we

find it on a rock, it resembles the rock, but it is the exact same creature.

The ability to change colors to blend in with the environment is not limited to the species of chameleon

lizards. It seems as though today many Generation X'ers are adopting chameleon personalities. They seem to please whomever they are with and are whatever their friends want them to be. They say they do this in order to cope with the pressures of a fiercely competitive society. They have a philosophy called auto-adapt. They adjust their resumes to fit the job, even if it does not describe the real person. If they get the job and can't do it, they just pretend and bluff their way through. Many feel that being believed is more important than being truthful! Over time, chameleonism is self-defeating.

But chameleonism does not stop with Generation X'ers. In these last days of the age, let us consider the church in which success is measured in numbers, and membership is dwindling. How can that church get more converts? They can play the chameleon. They can soften the colors of the church to blend with the culture. Beside Bible studies they may offer activities that appeal to the younger set such as games, movies, dances, bake sales. They may advertise events that feature well known country singers, rock bands, or sports heroes. They may relax the dress code and use contemporary music. Instead of Scripture-based doctrine, they may teach Christian psychology and positive thinking. They may avoid issues that can cause division. They encourage members to blend in with current culture. They may mold Scripture to fit the lifestyles of the people (or omit Scripture altogether), instead of requiring the people to meet the lifestyles of Scripture. By doing these things, they have a Chameleon church which cannot be Christian!

However, chameleonism does not stop with the church. This chameleon trait can go all the way to the individual believer who reads his Bible, and prays, and wants to be a good child of God and be accepted by his peers. He seems to look like the ideal when we see him participate in a Bible study. But when we meet him at the mall, or at school, or on the street, we can hardly recognize him. He has changed his colors to blend into the environment. He looks like one of the crowd.

From where does this chameleon trait come? It comes from our hearts and minds. Each of us has an instinct to belong. Who does not want to be a good Christian and

be accepted? Who does not want to be Christ's friend and everyone's friend? Please read James 4:4. We are warned against everyone speaking well of us.

The Bible says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). The Phillips translation puts it this way, "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its mold." In other words, don't be a chameleon Christian!

Under no circumstances must a child of God be a chameleon! When they are with friends (so called friends) who wish them to go against what the Bible teaches, they must say No! Children of God must not give in to the temptation to read a book or magazine that they know they should not read! There may be some conversations in which they must not join because of the words that are used or may be used! One's loyalty to Christ must always be strong whether he is with other Christians or friends.

The truly converted Christian will shed the patterns and habits of the world. This may make the world wonder about him! In the Bible, the followers of Jesus Christ are called strangers and pilgrims. "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (I Peter 2:11). They are called these two things for a reason. It is because they live in the world, but they have a foreign culture. They don't blend in because they know that they do not belong to this world. They cannot share the views and opinions of this world. It is for good reason that they cannot share the views and opinions of this world. The reason is that they know that the world and its lust will pass away but they will abide forever. "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:17).

It is impossible for a Christian to blend in with whomever he is with so he won't seem so different, so he won't attract negative comments and so he can avoid some of the awful embarrassment. He is either a chameleon or a Christian!



The Marathon

By David DeLong

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (I Corinthians 9:24-27).

In the above passage of Scripture, the Apostle Paul compares the Christian’s journey to a race that is run. Possibly he is referring to a race in the Greek Olympic games, which he would most likely have known about (as

would the Corinthians). The marathon race came into being, sometime after the Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C., in which the Greeks were victorious over the Persians. Supposedly a runner, Pheidippides, ran the 25 miles back to Athens, reported the victory, and then fell over dead.

When I was a teen-ager I ran cross country races, which are a type of mini-marathons, in the rugged terrain of Vermont. Running uphill, then downhill, for parts of several miles, I sometimes *felt* that I was going to fall over dead. During the course of strenuous practices, and of the races themselves, I endured a shin-splint (very painful), side-stitches, and lungs that felt like they were on fire. I wasn’t the fastest of the runners, generally being

somewhere in the middle of the pack, but I always finished the races.

In the race for eternal life, the Apostle Paul makes a number of points that are applicable to everyone. First, every runner can win the race. He wrote, "...So run, that ye may obtain" (verse 24). Second, every runner who expects to win must be self-controlled. In verse 25 Paul wrote, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate (self-restrained) in all things." Some people are temperate to win a "corruptible crown", but we must be temperate to win an "incorruptible" crown. Third, Paul wrote, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly..." (verse 26). We must not be uncertain about the race course, but rather we must know the route well, and pace ourselves accordingly. Last, he wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection..." (verse 27). In other words, Paul indicates that he needed a disciplined body to win the race. This disciplined body should be involved in proper training, proper nutrition, and proper rest (both physically and spiritually).

Every human being has this race to eternal life set before him or her. However, there are certain qualifications which every runner must observe. First, the runner must be acknowledged to be a participant in this race. He must have his name in the official registry book. This is done through repentance of one's sins, being baptized in Jesus' name, and then receiving the Holy Spirit, at which time the runner's name is acknowledged in the "Lamb's book of life" (see Revelation 21:27).

Next, the runner must observe all the official rules of the race. He, or she, must keep God's commandments and have the testimony, or faith, of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 12:17; 14:12). All of this is given in detail in God's official Rule Book, the holy Bible. If these qualifications are not kept by the runner, he or she, will be disqualified from the race. Even the Apostle Paul knew that he could become disqualified. He wrote in I Corinthians 9:27, "...lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" ("disqualified", NASB).

Some, tragically, will never enter the race. These are the persons whom I call the "non-starters". There are a number of reasons why these non-starters do not participate. Perhaps they believe that they have plenty of time to get started, so they wait. Perhaps they believe that the

race is too hard, too strenuous, and therefore they believe they can't make it to the finish line. Some, mistakenly, think that the race will be too monotonous or boring. The thinking goes something like this: "Living a Christian life is not as exciting as what the world has to offer." What a tragedy! The condition of this person is similar to the one in Matthew 13:19: "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."

Others will enter the race but will not have the stamina to finish it. These are the "sprinters". They don't pace themselves in the race, and so they burn themselves out. They don't realize that the race is a marathon and not a 100-yard-dash. However, these runners do start with enthusiasm, but it seems that an emotional "high" is what they really seek. They may be attracted to large churches with charismatic speakers, regardless of the truth. They enjoy the spiritual "adrenaline rush", the goosebumps, if you will, and when these wear off they may go elsewhere seeking them again. In other words, these sprinters may be looking to emotional experiences, rather than to the Giver of emotions, for their fulfillment. A person in this condition may be compared to the one in Matthew 13:20,21: "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."

Still others enter the race but they become distracted by things around them, and so they fail to finish. Some of these distractions could involve family and friends. Perhaps these family members and friends had started the race with you and had been a great source of comfort and inspiration. Along the way maybe some of these encouragers have died or dropped out of the race. Now you feel that you are running alone and the race is exceedingly tiresome. But we are never alone in this race. We are surrounded with a great "cloud of witnesses" involving angels, other runners, and even the Lord Jesus, Himself, to cheer us on. Listen to the words of Hebrews 12:1,2: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Look-

ing unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

At other times, side roads may cause us to become confused in the race, and we may even get off the right course. This can only happen, however, if we are unfamiliar with the right course. Let us be expert marathon runners, knowing exactly which path to stay on, which paths to avoid, and what are the stumblingblocks which may trip us up on this race of life.

Something that all runners must be watchful of is getting injured along the way. A bruised foot, a pulled muscle, or painful joints can cause a runner to slow down or stop. Any number of things can injure him and make him want to quit the race. Sometimes it is a lack of conditioning which causes the injury. In a spiritual sense, this lack of conditioning could involve not studying the Bible, not praying, not attending church services with other believers (runners), or not doing other spiritual exercises. Whenever a runner is injured, the main thing is for him or her *not* to quit the race. Slow down if you must; catch your breath when necessary; apply salve where needed. But keep going!

The proper equipment is necessary for a runner to successfully complete the race. So, too, a spiritual runner must be properly dressed for the rigors and dangers of the journey. Ephesians 6:10-17 gives a list of equipment that the Christian must wear. This equipment is actually armour that one would wear in battle, however, a few comparisons with a runner’s equipment may be in order.

Verse 15 states: “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace”. A marathon runner, especially, needs foot gear that is durable and well fitting, and yet is light enough so as not to fatigue him. Since Christians have been introduced to the gospel message, then they must be ready to take the gospel and share it with others. Hence, their feet need to be properly prepared, and protected, to bring that message to the world.

In verse 17 we read, “And take the helmet of salvation...” A helmet, of course, protects a person’s head from injury. Now, in a physical race a helmet would be too heavy for a runner, but still that runner may need a certain type of head protection. A cap can keep the sun from

beating down too strongly on the runner’s head thus preventing sunstroke, or a bandanna tied around his head can keep perspiration from stinging his eyes. Though perspiration in the eyes is probably only annoying, sunstroke can be lethal. Without the proper head protection the Christian runner can die spiritually, and thus lose out on salvation.

As we have seen, distractions in the race may involve other people, getting side-tracked, becoming injured, or simply not wearing the right equipment--the result of this latter situation ranging from being merely annoying to being deadly. One who has become distracted in the race is similar to the person in Matthew 13:22. “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

The last, and successful, category of runners is the “finisher”, or as the Bible states, the “overcomer”. These are the runners who, after starting the race, pace themselves for the journey. They run, even when they have no earthly companion beside them; run, by God’s grace, when they are injured; run, by His strength, when they are exhausted; run, by His mercy, when obstacles would trip them up. But, praise the Lord, the end is in sight! Such a person produces fruit like the one written of in Matthew 13:23. “But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Wonderful promises are given in the Word to the overcomer. Revelation 2:11 reads, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.” (See also Revelation 2:7; 2:17; 2:26-28; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21). Crowns will be given to the victors: a crown of righteousness (II Timothy 4:8), a crown of life (James 1:12), and a crown of glory (I Peter 5:4). As the great “cloud of witnesses” cheers us on to victory, let us look unto Jesus Who is waiting to give out those crowns. But we must be overcomers. We must keep running. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST

Contributed by Bond Tennant

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (II Timothy 2:3-4).

The above verses are very appropriate. Christ is our Captain. "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10). As soldiers, children of God have a real and standing engagement with the forces of evil without and within. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13).

Let us consider five qualifications of a good soldier for Jesus Christ.

NOTE: A few of the scriptural verses we will use are the same as those above.

A good soldier of Jesus Christ must be accepted into the Lord's army. Not everyone is fit to be a soldier because physical defects may hinder. Moral and spiritual defects hinder one from being accepted in the Lord's army. It is His choice. "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..." (John 15:16).

It's a great and satisfying privilege and pleasure to be

chosen and accepted into the army of the Lord.

A good soldier of Jesus Christ must be separated from all other entanglements. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (II Timothy 2:4).

Everything that would hinder in the service of God must be forsaken. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

A good soldier of Jesus Christ must be fully consecrated. Consecration is necessary to "please him" (II Timothy 2:4).

In Romans 12:1, the Apostle Paul admonishes us: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

A good soldier of Jesus Christ must be persevering in persecution. II Timothy 2:3 tells him to "Endure hardness." Jesus told His disciples that they would be persecuted as He was. The soldier must not be discouraged because of the way.

Even though spiritual bombs are falling all around, a good soldier continues fighting. He goes forward regardless of the hard knocks along the way.

A good soldier of Jesus Christ must be a self-emptying servant. He must "put on the whole armour of God" (Ephesians 6:11) and have no confidence in the flesh. Victory is then certain. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

The fight is fierce at times, and it seems it will never end. But it will! When the battles are over, we will wear a crown!



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.

World hunger hits staggering 1 billion mark

**1 in 6 on Earth go hungry,
U.N. food officials say**

**By Alessandra Rizzo
Associated Press**

Rome - The global financial meltdown has pushed the ranks of the world's hungry to a record 1 billion, a grim milestone that poses a threat to peace and security, U.N. food officials said Friday.

Because of war, drought, political instability, high food prices and poverty, hunger now affects one in six people, by the United Nations' estimate.

The financial meltdown has compounded the crises in what the head of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization called "devastating combination for the world's most vulnerable."

Compared with last year, there are 100 million more people who are hungry, meaning they consume fewer than 1,800 calories a day, the agency said.

"No part of the world is immune," FAO's Director General Jacques Diouf said. "All world regions have been affected by the rise of food insecurity."

Links to instability

The crisis is a humanitarian one, but also a political issue.

Officials presenting the new estimates in Rome sought to stress the link between hunger and instability, noting that soaring prices for staples, such as rice triggered riots in the developing world last year.

Josette Sheeran of the World Food Program, another U.N. food agency based in Rome, said hungry people rioted in at least 30 countries last year. Most notably, soaring food prices led to deadly riots in Haiti and the overthrow of the prime minister.

"A hungry world is a dangerous world," Sheeran said. "Without food, people have only three options: They riot, they emigrate or they die. None of these are acceptable options."

Even though prices have retreated from their mid-2008 highs, they are still "stubbornly high," in some domestic markets, according to FAO. On average, food prices were 24 percent higher in real terms at the end of 2008 compared with 2006, it said.

"Malnutrition kills through the fact that it weakens the immune system of a child," said Andrei Engstrand-Neaesu, a Nairobi, Kenya-based spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in East Africa. Some 22 million of the 1 billion hungry people counted by the United Nations are in the drought-stricken Horn of Africa, he said.

Engstrand-Neaesu said he just returned from a corner

of southern Ethiopia on the Kenyan border where the food situation is dire, and had been speaking to a family who lost a child to malaria in February. The parents said they were told he couldn't be saved because he was malnourished.

Engstrand-Neaesu called on donors to act before "skeletal African children are shown on the television screen at dinnertime" in the West.

The number of hungry people is estimated to have reached 1.02 billion--up 11 percent from last year's 915 million, FAO said. The agency said it based its estimate on analysis by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FAO said that the hunger rate is rising, too--that is, the number of hungry people is growing more quickly than the world population. Officials did not provide a rate but said the trend began two years ago.

Almost all the world's undernourished live in developing countries. But all regions of the world have registered two-digit increases in hunger from last year.

Excerpted from the Houston Chronicle

Comment

Jesus said, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:7-8). In these verses, Jesus mentioned only two causes of the lack of food, famines and pestilences. We are just seeing the beginning of world hunger.

Stone Age grave hints at early nuclear family

Scientists find remains of mom, dad and two kids

By **Randolph E. Schmid**
Associated Press

Washington - A Stone Age burial in central Germany has yielded the earliest evidence of people living together as a family.

The 4,600-year-old grave contained the remains of a

man, woman and two youngsters, and DNA analysis shows they were a mother, father and their children. "Their unity in death suggests unity in life," researchers said in today's edition of Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences.

While tools and remains from the Stone Age have long been studied, there are few clues to the social relationships between people.

The researchers studied four multiple burials at Eulau, Saxony-Anhalt, all dated to the same time and containing adults and children carefully buried facing each other.

Several of the skeletons showed evidence of injuries, suggesting a violent attack.

There was a stone projectile point in the vertebra of one woman and another had a skull fracture. Several had forearm and hand injuries, indicating attempts to protect themselves, the researchers said.

The scientists suggested that survivors of the raid later returned to bury the dead.

Besides the nuclear family in one grave, a second grave held three children, two of which were siblings, buried with a woman to whom they were not maternally related.

The researchers think she may have been a paternal aunt or stepmother.

The team also looked at the strontium levels of teeth of the skeletons. Strontium builds up in teeth during childhood and can be a clue where someone was raised.

Alistair Pike, head of archaeology at the University of Bristol, said the strontium levels showed that the females grew up in a different area from the males and children.

That is an indication of marriage between different groups, with women going to join their husbands, which would have been important to avoid inbreeding and to forge kinship networks with other communities.

The Houston Chronicle

Comment

This article proves the Genesis account of the creation of Adam and Eve by God. Man did not evolve from lower forms of animals and then wander around the earth aimlessly before they established families. The first family was Adam and Eve.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Will you please comment on The Lamb's Book Of Life?

ANSWER: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). This Scripture is very plain, and it is not hard to understand. It is a positive statement, and takes in not a part of the world, but all who dwell upon the earth. The word "him" in this Scripture refers to the evil power of Rome, on which John was shown the woman rider in Revelation, the seventeenth chapter. It is not hard for us to identify her and the beast when we read this chapter. This evil power has committed fornication with the kings of the earth, and has been made drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus. If you read any history, you will find there is only one power which answers this description. That power is Rome, the mother of harlots, that corrupt church, which directed and guided Rome in all the evil and murder during the Dark Ages. We have the wine of her fornication (false doctrines) fastened in every nation by the help of her daughters. See verse 5. All whose names are not recorded in the Lamb's book of life are going to be deceived by some of her false doctrines. It behooves each of us to fast and pray for an understanding of God's Word, that we may have the truth because it is the truth which makes us free. It will be hard

for those who have not received God's Holy Spirit to understand: "...they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,..." (Revelation 17:8).

Some will dare to say that there is no book kept in heaven. I prefer to believe God, for He calls it a book and talks about writing in it and blotting out. In Revelation 20:12, we read about the books being opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life. Who would dare to say it is not a record when we read such plain words as these? In Revelation 17:8, we read the phrase, "from the foundation of the world." This does not mean predestination as some claim, but the record has been kept from the foundation of the world. Let us see what Moses had to say when the children of Israel sinned. "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book" (Exodus 32:32-33). This book or record was infused in Moses' time. David also makes mention of the book of the living in speaking of those who smote and put Christ to death. "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous" (Psalm 69:28).

When Jesus sent the seventy out to preach the Word, they returned rejoicing that the devils were subject to them, but Jesus told them not to rejoice in that, but that their

names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). Those whose names are not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

There is a very close connection between the Holy Spirit and the Lamb's Book of Life. Before one can be saved, he must have both the Holy Spirit, and have his name recorded in heaven. Paul tells us about the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:11. "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Paul further says, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30). When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, we are then recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. Only those who possess the Holy Spirit and also have their names recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life can be saved.

It does not make any difference what people will tell you, or that this will happen, but you must have the Holy Spirit of promise in you to be saved. If that Spirit is in you and your name is recorded in heaven, you will bear fruit. Peter tells us what this fruit is in II Peter 1:5-10. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

The call is still to come out of her my people." And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). It is against this beast power that God pours out the first plague. "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (Revelation 16:2). By this verse, we see that God's first judgment is to be poured out upon

the beast power. God's children should be in earnest prayer about this matter. We must be ready to be changed at the sound of the trumpet and the voice of the archangel.

You will find many who scoff at this admonition, and some will even tell you that the plagues are already past. Please let us all read the Word and be ready. If you begin now to live holy with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can save your own life. His Holy Spirit will then lead you into all truth.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

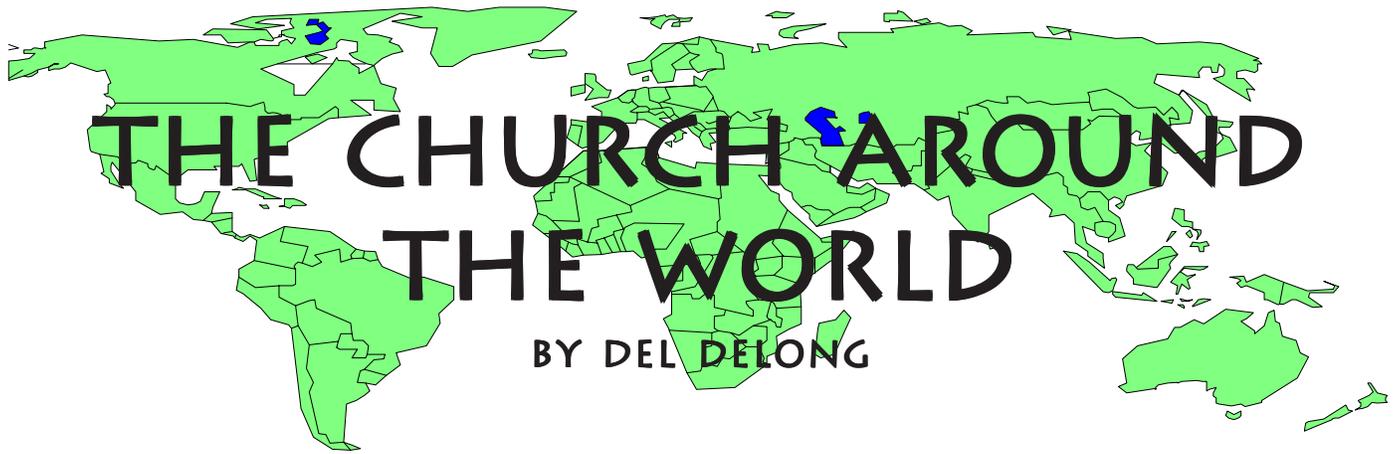
"And there shall in no wise enter into it (the New Jerusalem) any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

QUESTION: Are angels ever called "sons of God" in the Old Testament?

ANSWER: Yes they are sometimes referred to as "sons of God" in the Old Testament. Job 1:6 tells us, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them." Job 2:1 tells us, "Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD." Let us also read Job 38:5-7, "Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Angels are the sons of God in the sense of being created directly by the hand of God. When used of angels, the phrase "sons of God" simply denotes spirit beings who were brought into existence by a direct creative act of God.

Let us keep in mind that angels do not give birth to other baby angels. See Matthew 22:30. Therefore, we never read of "sons of angels." Since every single angel was directly created by the hand of God, it is appropriate that they be called "sons of God."



Myanmar



Kuatthit church members



Hakhalay church service



*Hakhalay church
service*



Socks from Salem

LESSON I

THE RAIN COMES

Scripture Reading: Genesis 7:17-24.

Golden Text: Genesis 7:24.

“And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.”

1. What happened to the ark when it began to rain? Genesis 7:17-18.
2. What happened to all the hills? Genesis 7:19.
3. How high above the hills did the waters go? Genesis 7:20.

NOTE: A cubit is about 18 inches. So 15 times 18 inches is 270 inches or 22 ½ feet.

4. What happened to all the people and animals that were on the earth? Genesis 7:21-22.
5. Who were the only ones that lived? Genesis 7:23.
6. How long did the waters stay on the earth? Genesis 7:24.

LESSON II

THE WATER GOES DOWN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:6-14.

Golden Text: Genesis 8:6.

“And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.”

1. What did Noah do at the end of forty days? Genesis 8:6.
2. What did he do with the raven? Genesis 8:7.
3. Why did he turn the dove loose? Genesis 8:8.

4. What did the dove do and why? Genesis 8:9.
5. How long did Noah wait before he sent out the dove a second time, and what did the dove do this time? Genesis 8:10-11.
6. What did the dove do the third time? Genesis 8:12.
7. What did Noah do when he found that the earth was dry? Genesis 8:13.

LESSON III

AFTER THE FLOOD

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:15-22; 9:1, 8-17.

Golden Text: Genesis 8:21 (middle part).

“...and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake...”

1. What did Noah do after the flood had dried up? Genesis 8:18-19.
2. What did Noah do after everything was out of the ark? Genesis 8:20.
3. What promise did God give to them? Genesis 8:21-22.
4. What did God tell Noah and his sons to do? Genesis 9:1.
5. What did God say would be a sign between Him and man? Genesis 9:11-15.
6. How long did Noah live after the flood? Genesis 9:28.
7. How old was Noah when he died? Genesis 9:29.

LESSON IV

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:1-9.

Golden Text: Genesis 11:1.

“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.”

1. How many different languages did the people speak? Genesis 11:1.
2. Where did the people travel to at this time? Genesis 11:2.
3. What did the people make in Genesis 11:3?
4. What did the people want to build with the bricks? Genesis 11:4.
5. What did God think of the tower? Genesis 11:5-6.
6. What was done to punish the people? Genesis 11:7-9.

NOTE: Another name for Babel is confusion.



BIBLE RIDDLES

BY MADELINE PETTET

See how many clues it takes you to solve these riddles.

1. We live in holes.
We are sly animals.
We spoil crops.
Samson caught 300 of us.
Who are we?
2. I was born the son of Lamech.
I found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
I built an ark.
Eight of us were saved from the flood.
Who are we?
3. I am a city near Jordan.
Two spies were sent to me.
Jesus healed here and also Elisha.
My walls fell down.
What is my name?
4. I am the son of Zebedee.
I am also the brother of John.
Jesus appeared to me.
There is a book by my name in the New Testament.
Who am I?
5. We walk in darkness.
God will mock us.
We must make a choice.
Jesus welcomes us if we confess.
Who are we?
6. They must be avoided.
Sometimes we get out of hand.
Herodias had one against John.
It takes two people to make me.
What am I?



THE LITTLE BIRD SONG

Just outside of Enna's bedroom windows 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!

ANSWERS TO BIBLE RIDDLES

1. Fox - Judges 15:4,2.
2. Noah - Genesis 6:8-13;
3. Jericho - Numbers 22:1
4. James - Mark 1:19
5. The Wicked - I Chronicles 28:9
6. Quarrel - II Kings 5:7

BIBLE CITIES



ACROSS

- 1. Where Paul lived two years in "his own hired house" (Acts 28)
- 4. Rabbit pen
- 8. Vertical direction
- 9. Lentil vegetable
- 11. Raw mineral
- 12. Home city of Mary and Martha (John 11)
- 15. Cereal grain
- 16. Town visited by Paul in Acts 14
- 18. Paul's home city (Acts 9)
- 20. Street (abbr.)
- 21. Place where Spain, France, etc. are
- 24. River of N. Italy
- 26. Simon Magnus was converted in this city (Acts 8)
- 28. Professional (slang)
- 30. Founder of Communist Russia
- 31. Spring bird
- 33. Mind, care for
- 35. Arm joints
- 36. Therefore

DOWN

- 1. Massage
- 2. Musical drama
- 3. Town where Demetrius caused an uproar (Acts 19)
- 4. Good looking, especially of a man
- 5. Toward
- 6. Baby beds
- 7. That man
- 10. Each (abbr.)
- 13. Home city of Hiram (I Kings 9)
- 14. King James form of "you"
- 17. Active volcano of Sicily
- 18. Knock down, tip over
- 19. Sea bordering Russia
- 22. Gasp of breath
- 23. A Great Lake
- 25. Of the mouth
- 27. Type of hotels
- 29. Circular object
- 32. Boxing victory
- 34. Perform

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God Loves You, Friend

By David DeLong

God loves you, friend, He gave you life,
And gave you Mom and Dad;
He set you in a family
To help you to be glad.

God loves you, friend, He gave you choice
To choose what's best for you;
And when you fail, repent and see
That He will make things new.

God loves you, friend, He gave you eyes
For many things to see;
For rainbows, sunsets, and blue skies,
And Autumn-colored tree.

God loves you, friend, He gave you ears
To hear His precious Word;
To hear "I love you" from a friend,
The sweetest things you've heard.

God loves you, friend, He proved it so
By giving you His Son;
No greater gift could any give,
No greater deed be done.

