

The Advocate of Truth

Jacob's Name Is Changed

The Resurrection

Our Choices

City Of The Great King



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Jacob's Name Is Changed

A classic question often asked is “What’s in a name?” Certainly a great deal of importance was attached to names by ancient peoples, especially Hebrews. Often the personality and temperament of the bearer was reflected in his or her name. A name could also attest to an individual’s physical qualities and accomplishments. For instance, among female names Deborah meant “bee”, Tamar was “palm tree” and Zipporah translated as “sparrow”. The masculine name Samuel meant one “heard of God,” and David meant “beloved.”

The prefix “Ab” denoted “father.” Therefore Abner meant “father of light,” and Abram was “high, exalted father.” Significantly, God renamed the patriarch, Abraham, which meant “father of multitudes.” Now, Abraham was gone and God’s promise rested with a person long regarded as a schemer and a conniver. Still in all, the one who had been a youthful deceiver was maturing and growing in the Lord. Would his emerging personality require a name change also?

After his pact with Laban, Jacob continued his journey toward Canaan. Though some tension had been relieved, there was still danger yet to be faced. Mostly, Jacob feared the anger of his brother, even though Esau had prospered and was now a great patriarch in his own right. Jacob did not believe that Esau would, in spite of his success, ever forgive him for stealing the birthright and blessing.

At a place called Mahanaim, Jacob was met by a host of God’s angels who ministered to him. Unfortunately they could not allay his fears concerning Esau. Attempting to make a peace his own way, Jacob sent messengers

into the land of Edom to tell Esau that his brother would be sending gifts. Hopefully these would make up for the wrongs of the past. The messengers, however, came back with the news that Esau was coming to meet his brother with 400 armed men.

Convinced beyond all doubt that his brother’s anger could not be overcome, Jacob divided his household into two parts, placing those who were dearest to him in the positions of greatest safety.

Having done everything possible to protect his family, Jacob sought a quiet place alone where his thoughts would not be disturbed. Suddenly a mysterious being appeared beside him, one who had the appearance of a man but who certainly had far greater than mortal powers. Jacob was seized roughly, and it was necessary to defend himself. The two of them wrestled vigorously throughout the night, with Jacob giving a good account of himself even against one who was much physically stronger. The angel (for this is what the being turned out to be) finally touched Jacob’s thigh, causing him to collapse into the dust with lameness. Though now painfully wounded, Jacob still had persistence and courage. He clung to the angel, refusing to set him free until a blessing was received.

The angel then asked the name of his worthy opponent. “Jacob is my name,” the son of Isaac said.

“No longer will you be called Jacob,” the angel told him, “but Israel, for as a prince you have power with God and with men, and you have prevailed.” The heavenly visitor vanished as quickly as he had appeared. Jacob – now Israel – called the place Peniel, for “I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved.”

It is amazing just how quickly the most miserable and distressed life can be set aright when that life comes in harmony with God. Israel was now a prevailer, a mighty prince who would bring God's salvation to the whole earth through his family. Now filled with great spiritual strength but manifesting outward humility, Israel walked quietly

forward to meet the advancing Esau and his 400 warriors. Bowing seven times, Israel's sincerity could not help but have an effect upon the older brother. With open arms, Esau rushed forth to embrace him. The two brothers later departed in peace, never again to meet until they stood together at the grave of their father.

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson



Echoes From The Past

The following article appeared in the September 28, 1981 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*.

God, The Great Master Scientist

By Elder Kenneth Summers (deceased)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. We do not know how or why he did it. We do not know how long it required and how long it was in this condition. Next we read that it was without form and without use. This is all quite vague, and much is left to the imagination. Different people have theories (ideas without proof) about the way it might have been. We really do not know.

We know that when the Heavenly Father took notice of this that the Spirit or Power of the Father moved upon it. This caused changes to take place on the area surface. The first result of the Spirit moving on the face of the waters was the command to let there be light. Light did appear! This may sound like magic to many people. However it is not magic. We know today that the sun is a very great atomic reactor. Man has been able to create an atomic reactor on a small scale. If a man can do it, certainly the great master Scientist could create it. With all the energy that exists in the universe, the electrical energy in all the storms around the earth in one day would equal many hydrogen bombs.

The Heavenly Father now is giving light to all the area that was once without form and void. Light is a form of

energy that can be absorbed and transferred to other objects for use. Then this energy may be transferred through what is known as the energy chain today.

All plants need the light to absorb this energy. However, they need time to change this energy into matter so that it can be transferred in this energy chain. An example of this is during the day our plants make food by sunlight and change it and store it at night. This goes on during the growing season; for example in wheat the grain stores the food the leaves make from water and minerals in the ground by the aid of energy from the sun on the leaves. The grain is then made into bread. When you eat it, you get the energy to play or work. This energy first came to the plant from the sun. This is part of the food chain in which you are involved.

The Father saw that this was all good. He named the dark and light. He called the dark, night and the light, day. Now the rest of Creation could continue. After day and night were created, it was possible to determine a day by the method of one dark part and one light part. These two periods made the complete day.

The firmament was created the second day by creating

the gases of our atmosphere. These gases separated the water that covered the earth from the water in the atmosphere. The atmosphere around the earth was called heaven. The space above the earth also became known as heaven. Thus, the second day ended!

The next act of Creation was having dry land appear. The waters were gathered into certain areas. This separated the waters from the land. Now we have the seas in one place and the dry land in another place. It was now possible to have plant and animals that have need of the water and need of dry land. It was now possible for seed bearing plants to live and fruit trees to grow. Thus, another dark period and light period ended. This was the third day.

Next the Father, who is the great master scientist, placed in orbits the heavenly bodies so their motions would be so exact that we could see their movements to mark exactly all our seasons. We could also have a bright light with much energy for the day and a very small light at night so as to be able to see an outline of an object but not so bright as to disturb our sleeping and getting rest. Today, we still mark our year by the movement of the sun and our month by the movement of the moon. The Indians, who lived in our land when the first settler came to our country, measured everything by moons. The Church still does this today as the new moon nearest the Spring equinox measures the beginning of a new year. This is not new because from the Bible we find Israel doing this long before our country was known. This was done on the fourth day by passing through another period of dark and a period of light.

The next act of our Heavenly Father was to create the animals that live in the waters and the birds that fly. He saw that this creation was good. He also made it possible for these animals to produce eggs. The eggs would then hatch and produce young that could feed on plants and seeds. The young animals would grow and become adults. They would produce more eggs and more young so there would always be animals on the earth. This added to the food chain which gets all its original energy from the sun. Plants make food from the energy of the sun. This makes it possible to feed the animals. Thus, ended the fifth day by passing through another dark period and light period.

Next, the Heavenly Father created the animals that live on the land. He created all the beasts and creeping

things. Last he created man in his own image. Note He said, "Let US make man - - -." This denotes more than the Heavenly Father. In other places, Jesus says that He was there when Creation took place. Now we know that the Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, created all things together.

Notice that He gave man dominion over all Creation, not to destroy it but to protect it and care for it. Man's food first consisted of all plants, seeds, fruits, etc. In the beginning, meats were not mentioned as food. But later God listed meats that would be clean and those that would be unclean for food.

The dark part and light part of time in which the land animals and man were created was the sixth day. The Heavenly Father was well pleased with all that He had created. The Heavenly Father rested from His work of creation on the Seventh Day. The Seventh Day was also a time to enjoy all He created. This seemed so good to our Heavenly Father that He declared every seventh day a day of rest. He then commanded man to rest on that day. If we work hard for six days, we will be very happy to have this day upon which we can rest and gain strength for another six days of work.

Some people will tell you that they do not know which day of the week is the Seventh Day. However, if you ask them about, "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre..." (John 20:1), they will tell you that is Sunday morning. The day before Sunday then has to be the Seventh Day of the week or what is commonly called Saturday. When we look at the calendar, we find that the week starts with Sunday and ends with Saturday.

When Jesus was on earth, He rested on the Seventh Day of the week. He called it Sabbath. When He returns, He will do the same and so will everyone else!

For the first 325 years after Jesus left earth everyone that was called Christian rested on the Seventh Day Sabbath. There was a split in the church. One group accepted the sun worshipers holy day which was Sunday or the first day of the week. However, they still called themselves Christian. Remember everyone who worshiped the true God observed Saturday as the Seventh Day and worshiped on that day for the first 325 years after Christ.

Scriptural Facts Proving The Resurrection Of Christ

Bond Tennant

“And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead” (Acts 13:29-30).

If one believes that the Bible is the factual and true record of God dealing with His people, one must believe in the resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The following are three proofs, found in the Scriptures, of Christ’s resurrection.

“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: For I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:5-6). The tomb was empty. The disciples preached of the resurrection in Jerusalem. If they were lying about the facts, the Jewish leaders would have produced the body and removed all doubts.

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre” (Luke 24:1-2). The large stone blocking the doorway had been rolled away. Witnesses who saw the massive stone noticed it stood upon a slope away from the entire tomb.

“And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time” (I Corinthians 15:5-8). Yes, over five hundred people witnessed Christ’s appearances after His resurrection. These people could attest to having literally seen Jesus in the flesh after His resurrection.

Many have tried to deny the resurrection of Christ.

Some claim the women who reported His missing body went to the wrong tomb. The body could have been produced to prove them wrong if this were true.

Others want people to believe that the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection were hallucinations. It is hardly possible that over five hundred people had the same hallucination. People have hallucinations only when they wish something to be true. Until he personally saw Jesus, doubting Thomas refused to believe in our Lord’s resurrection.

Some theorize that Jesus did not really die, but simply fainted and revived. It is not possible for a person to survive a crucifixion, live for three days in an airless tomb without any food, and roll a large stone away from the entrance.

The Jewish leaders said that the disciples stole our Lord’s body. “And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day” (Matthew 28:12-15). However, the disciples defended Jesus’ resurrection. They suffered persecution for their belief. No one dies for a known lie!

Jesus said of Himself, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). If he had stayed in the grave, His words would have made Him a liar. But since He arose from the dead, His words are true!



Our Choices

By Bibi Allicock

Choices have consequences, and whichever way we decide to go we will be rewarded thereby, whether perfection to eternal life or destruction and damnation in the lake of fire. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished” (Proverbs 16:2-5). “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself” (Galatians 6:3). “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps” (verse 9). “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:7-8).

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they murmured a lot against Moses. Thus, they that came out of Egypt all perished but only the little ones they claimed would have died in the wilderness went into the promised land. “And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our

wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?” (Numbers 14:1-3) “And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;) And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night. Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness. And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now. And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my

miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it” (verses 11-23). “Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised” (verses 28-31).

“And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die” (verses 33-35).

Thus as it was said of the Lord, it was done. “For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD swore that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey” (Joshua 5:6).

We saw that although Moses made intercession for the children of Israel concerning their murmurings, God still gave them the full punishment wherewith He told Moses He would give unto them. Nevertheless Joshua brought forth those that were nineteen years and under which would have been fifty-nine years old after they had wandered forty years in the wilderness into the promised land, by the power and the might of the Almighty hands, who had dried up the waters in the Jordan. “And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD

had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel” (verse 1). “And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day. And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year” (verses 9-12).

Indeed, if we make the right choices, we would be able to have the good benefits that pleases the Father to bestow upon us. “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:31-33).

Since God’s promises are sure, we saw in the Holy Book that as He promised the Israelites to give them a land which flowed with milk and honey, they did eat of the good fruits of the land. But we must remember that God had made a covenant with them, that they must circumcise the foreskin of their flesh in order to be partakers of His promise. For example, individuals could not partake of the Passover if they were not circumcised. “And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: But every man’s servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof” (Exodus 12:43-45). “...for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof” (verse 48, last part).

We saw how God dealt with Moses when he did not remember to keep the covenant. “And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the

circumcision” (Exodus 4:24-26).

Since we have these patriarchs to be an example to us, we should be able to understand our calling and make our election sure. “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). Since Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever (see Hebrews 13:8), we in this dispensation have to circumcise therefore the foreskin of our hearts, and be no more stiffnecked. “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward” (Deuteronomy 10:16-17).

The same penalty that was given unto the Israelites will be given unto us. “For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29). “If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good” (Joshua 24:20). And we must take note that other gods do not mean only an image of some sort, but also of the things we lusted after, and the things that bring excitement unto us. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:14-18). “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (verse 6). “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God” (verse 5). “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). Amen.

Encouragement

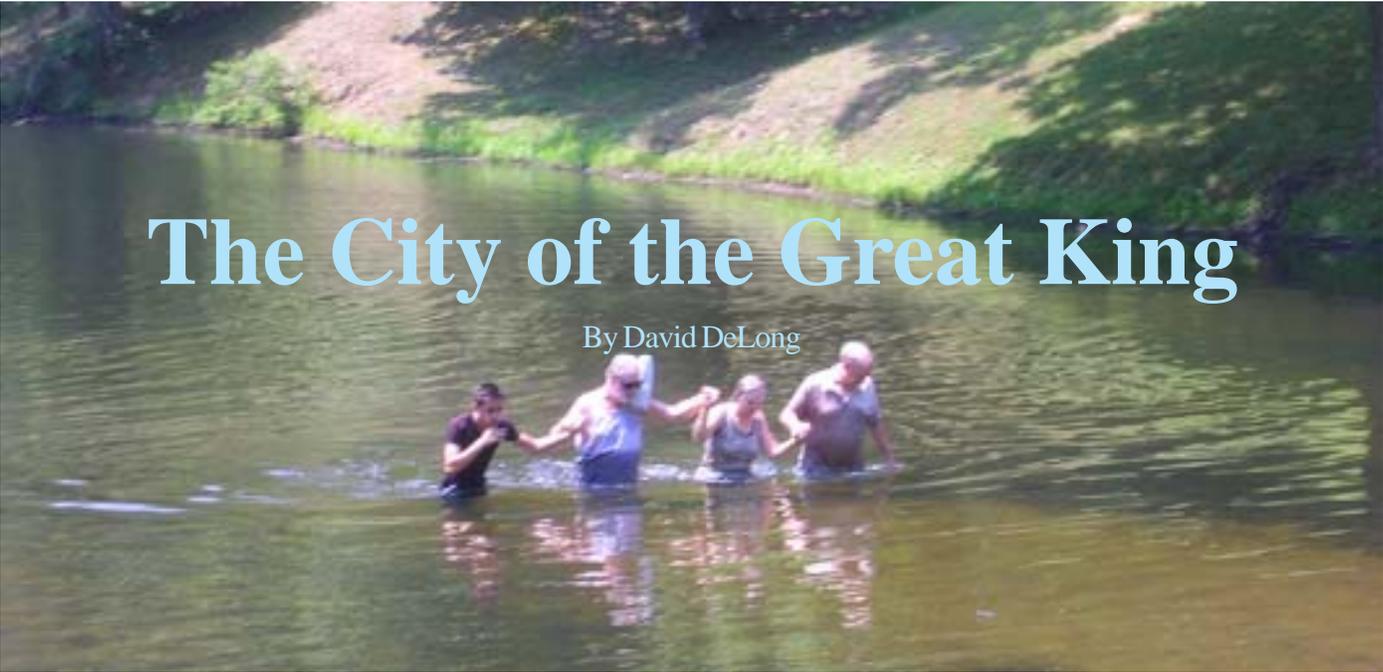
“The Lord was wroth . . . and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter . . . But charge Joshua, and **encourage him**, and strengthen him; for he shall go over.” **Encourage him!** Twice these words occur. **Encourage him!**

The dark background of Moses’ failure throws into stronger relief the words of encouragement given to Joshua. He needed encouragement because of the task that lay before him. He was to lead Israel into the Promised Land. A leader must be a man of courage. Without it, how can his followers be courageous, or have confidence in him, or maintain their morale? Therefore Moses encouraged Joshua and God Himself encouraged him, and so did Israel on a later day. (See Joshua 1).

Joshua bore the marks of true greatness. He was a great leader, a great commander, a great administrator. He received his training under Moses. Those long years of close contact with Israel’s first leader fitted him for future leadership. But something more was wanted. Our Lord is the best of masters, and He knows how to perfect that course of desert training which He gives to all His faithful followers. In Joshua’s case, it was this enheartening word that completed the otherwise perfect schooling of the wilderness.

Another leader of Israel found divine encouragement at a critical moment. David, like Joshua, was emerging from desert obscurity unto a place of prominence. Adversity was upon him. But instead of being discouraged, he encouraged himself in the Lord. Thus he turned defeat into victory. If others do not encourage us, let us encourage ourselves in the Lord. How much He encouraged others – on the stormy lake and in the upper room. He spoke words of cheer to the paralytic, and to the stricken women. He administered words of comfort. When Paul lay in prison, He said, “Be of good cheer, Paul.”

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The Advocate of Truth



The City of the Great King

By David DeLong

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King" (Psalm 48:1-2). This holy city, of course, is Jerusalem and is known by a number of names. As the above text reads, it is known as mount Zion.

King David captured this city from the Jebusites. II Samuel 5:6-7 informs us: "And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David." He later reigned as king in Jerusalem for 33 years (see II Samuel 5:5).

Many years earlier, in the time of Abraham, this city was called Salem meaning "peace" (see Hebrews 7:2). Genesis 14:18-20 reads: "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."

We can see then, that at an early age in human history, the Lord chose this place to be special. As Melchizedek

king of Salem and priest of the most high God shows, this city was to represent God's righteousness, peace, and communion with His people. We also see that Abraham responded to God's holiness by paying tithes to Melchizedek (see Hebrews 7:4-8).

It was in Salem where God chose to have His tabernacle placed. "In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel. In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion" (Psalm 76:1-2). This city, renewed, will become God's eternal residence. "For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it" (Psalm 132:13-14).

Mount Moriah, which makes up a portion of Jerusalem, was known for being a place of sacrifice. We read about Abraham: "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of...And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb

for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen" (Genesis 22:1-2, 6-14).

When David sinned by numbering the Israelites, the Lord sent a plague which killed thousands. God also sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem (see I Chronicles 21:1-17). In verses 18, 22-27 we learn: "Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite... Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost. So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof."

What is interesting about this story is that David built this altar to the Lord on Mount Moriah where Ornan had

his threshingfloor. We know this because King Solomon built the house of the Lord on this very place. II Chronicles 3:1 tells us: "Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite." So we learn that Abraham took his son Isaac to a mountain in Moriah, David offered sacrifices to the Lord in mount Moriah, and Solomon built the house of the Lord in mount Moriah. Here, in the holy of holies, the Lord would make His dwelling upon the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant.

Jerusalem, "the city of the great King", was to be a witness to the world of God's righteousness. However, the children of Israel sinned against the Lord. We read in Isaiah 1:2,21: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me... How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers." In the book of Revelation, chapter 11 verse 8, in reference to the two witnesses who will be killed by the beast we find: "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

Though Jerusalem was called a harlot, and even in the future it will have the spiritual designation of Sodom, God's purpose and intent is still to renew and make it His permanent dwelling place. In the future kingdom we learn about Christ's reigning from this city. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:2-6).

This king, the Lord Jesus Christ, was tried by the Lord and found worthy to reign. We learn from Isaiah 28:16, "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." To see that this stone is a reference to Christ, please read I Peter 2:6-8.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem will also be holy after they have been made to endure severe punishment. "In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain" (Isaiah 4:2-6). What is this tabernacle that will be a refuge? We will give a later comment on this subject.

When Jesus was upon the earth He did much ministry in Jerusalem. For instance, as had been ordained by the Lord, He went with His parents to this city for the Passover. "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast" (Luke 2:41-42). Here Jesus conversed with the "doctors" and told His parents, "...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (verse 49).

When teaching that people should not swear, He confirmed Jerusalem as God's holy city: "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King" Matthew (5:33-35).

At one point Jesus uttered a lamentation over the city because of the people's hardness of heart. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your

house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 23:37-39).

It had been prophesied that Jesus would die in Jerusalem. This took place during His transfiguration, as He talked in vision with Moses and Elijah. "And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:29-31; see also verse 51). Hebrews 13:12 informs us that Jesus shed His blood suffering "...without the gate."

Because the people had rejected their King, Jesus had prophesied the desolation of Jerusalem. He said, "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20). Perhaps this event was also proclaimed by Asaph in Psalm 79:1: "O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps."

Before He ascended to heaven, the Lord Jesus gave instructions to His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:4-5). This took place on the Day of Pentecost.

This article would not be complete without a reference to the New Jerusalem which will descend out of heaven. We read of this city in Revelation 21:23-27. "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Let us now refer back to our text from Isaiah chapter 4: "And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a

covert from storm and from rain" (verse 6). This may well be the New Jerusalem which will hover above the city of Jerusalem in Israel.

It is in the New Jerusalem where God will have His throne. Revelation 4:6 reads, "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind." Notice how Revelation 21:18 describes this sea of glass: "And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass."

The Apostle Paul gave a comparison of the two Jerusalems in the book of Galatians. In chapter 4 verses 22-26 we find: "For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

The Lord chose Jerusalem to be His dwelling place. With ancient Israel He abode among His people upon the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant in the Temple. When the Lord returns, God's throne will be in the New Jerusalem where He will dwell with His redeemed people for eternity. Today Jerusalem is in troubled times. We are admonished in Psalm 122:6: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee."



To: Ministers and members of the Church of God (7th Day)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Our prayer is that this letter finds you and yours well.

We are launching an initiative to collect funds for the purchase of a new church building for the members of the Body in Seagoville, TX, U.S.A. The Body has continued to grow in membership in this area of the world and has outgrown the current location. In addition to a larger sanctuary for services, they are in need of more and larger classrooms for children/youth classes.

To further the work of the Gospel, and, under the direction of the Twelve Apostles, we are planning the purchase of a larger facility. While a property has not yet been identified, planning for the identification and purchase has already begun.

We prayerfully and respectfully ask that you consider a financial contribution to this great endeavor. Additionally, we ask that you share this need with your congregations and members of the Church at large.

Please send your donations to the Church of God Publishing House PO Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 and identify the offering as: "Dallas Building Fund".

Your consideration and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

May the Lord bless you and keep you until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Board of Seven U.S.A.



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.

Drought keeps on breaking records 2011 farm losses exceed 5.2 billion estimate By William Pack

Agricultural losses from the historic dry spell will jump past the original \$5.2 billion estimate, and crop insurance indemnity payments in Texas have set a record with \$2.5 billion in claims paid out through March 12, agriculture officials say.

“As time went on yields got worse and worse,” said David Anderson, a Texas Agri-Life Extension Service livestock economist who helped calculate the original estimates in August, which itself set a record. “I expect livestock losses to get worse.”

Travis Miller, an extension service soil and crop sciences specialist who contributed to the August estimate, also believes the real impact is greater than \$5.2 billion. More cotton acreage was abandoned than had been estimated last summer, and rising food costs caused greater livestock losses, he said.

“It’s hard to imagine the damage it’s caused across the state,” said Miller, who serves on the Governor’s Drought Preparedness Council. “It’s nothing anybody alive has seen before.”

The USDA crop production summary for 2011 showed that only about 57 percent of the 23.3 million acres of crops planted in Texas were harvested. In 2010, a strong year for crop production, almost 87 percent of the planted acreage was harvested.

The only other states where harvests fell drastically short of plantings last year were also scorched by drought.

In Oklahoma, about 68 percent of the planted acreage was harvested. In New Mexico, it was less than 60 percent.

Irrigation a necessity

Cotton harvests were especially weak in Texas last year, with less than 41 percent of the planted acres deemed productive. Sorghum production, meanwhile, fell from 119 million bushels in 2010 to 56.4 million bushels last year, the USDA said.

Steve Verett, executive vice president of the Plains Cotton Growers, said cotton producers who don’t irrigate – about half of his membership’s 4.6 million acres of production – were lucky to get any production. Even farmers with irrigation suffered losses as the drought continued.

“To get above average yields, you still need rainfall. Irrigation by itself is not enough,” Verett said. “Thank goodness most row crops are covered by crop insurance.”

Crop insurance vital

Officials call crop insurance a vital tool that helps farmers buffer losses from droughts, floods and other natural disasters. A government subsidy helps keep premiums low, but farmers choose the amount of coverage they want.

Mark Lamon, who grows wheat, cotton, corn and sunflowers in Medina County, said coverage never makes up for what a decent crop would produce, but it’s enough to keep farmers going.

“It does provide an effective safety net,” he said.

Nationally, agricultural insurance companies made

almost \$10.3 billion in crop insurance indemnity payments as of March 12, the Us Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency reports.

"That's a record, passing the old record of nearly \$8.7 billion in 2008, and could rise slightly before all claims are reviewed," said a spokesperson for National Crop Insurance Services, a trade group.

Texas' \$2.5 billion in indemnity payments from 2011 is the top in the country, beating the second highest, North Dakota, by almost \$1 billion.

It's also Texas' highest total since 1989, when record-keeping began.

--Houston Chronicle

Experiencing The Drought

Yes, the drought of 2011 was very severe here in Texas, let alone other States which it affected. You have just read of the hardships which both the crop and livestock farmers endured in Texas. The drought also was hard on the people in general.

Not only was the drought, which was caused by lack of rainfall, difficult to endure, but the hot temperatures were hideous. There were several days straight of triple digit temperatures. Those with pets which stayed more or less outside were brought in the house for most of the day. Much work done by state or city crews had to be curtailed or delayed. The severe heat caused cracks to appear in many of the roads, both in the city and in the suburbs. The intense heat also caused many of the waterlines to rupture in Houston and several nearby areas. A Brother said that it was hotter than a firecracker in Dallas.

The drought destroyed many trees, especially pine trees. In our yard, there are four dead pine trees which we have not gotten around to cutting down as yet. The city of Houston has had to spend several million dollars to destroy dead trees and replace them.

Many wildfires erupted during the drought which destroyed many homes and livestock. I heard of an incident of two cows that were out in a field. They tried to escape the wildfire, but they could not.

The Heart Of The Subject

As you have been reminded in this column, severe drought is only one of the signs of the times. Let us ever be reminded of what Jesus said when He was asked what

would be the sign of His coming and the end of the world (age). Let us again consider Matthew 24:4-8, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 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." Notice that one of the signs that Jesus gave was famines. As we know, drought and wildfire, which may result from drought, are two major causes of famine. We know that famine is a time when there is no food, and the people are starving. Several countries, especially in Africa, are experiencing famine now. Famine also can be caused by the political system of a country when the leaders are greedy and deny their subjects the right to imported food and the land on which to farm.

Notice that after telling of the coming of the false Christs and the wars and rumours of wars in Matthew 24, Jesus said, "... see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (verse 6). This includes the things mentioned in verse seven. Then in verse 8, Jesus says that, "All these are the beginning of sorrows." In other words, the world has not experienced its most painful times.

We are not ignorant of the signs of the times. We know that only God knows when Jesus will return to catch away His saints. When asked of Jesus if He would restore the kingdom of Israel when He was on earth, He said, "...It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7). Therefore, we do not know the severity and number of the many signs of the times that Jesus mentioned would happen before He comes to rapture (catch away) His saints to transport them to the New Jerusalem. We only know that they will cease then. After the saints are in the New Jerusalem, the wrath of God (the seven last plagues) will be poured out upon the earth, which will be far worse than the signs of the times which the world is experiencing now. We do not want to be left on the earth when God's wrath is poured out!

B.T.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: How can a child of God be perfect? Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

ANSWER: Jesus spoke the words found in Matthew 5:48 in His Sermon on the Mount. We know that every word spoken by our Lord has its purpose because He never uttered any idle speech.

We find these words: perfect and perfection used in various verses in Scripture. **"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection..."** (Hebrews 6:1). **"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"** (James 1:4).

After examining these verses, and especially Jesus' words, are children of God to consider themselves in a state of perfection? The answer to that is NO, and a thousand times NO! We are reminded that the Scripture hath concluded that we are all under sin, therefore we are not perfect as long as we remain in our fleshly bodies.

Are we to think the Scripture would contradict itself? The answer to that is also in the negative.

In the Word of God, we understand that the word perfect may have more than one meaning – depending on how it is used.

Let us examine a verse that we may gain understanding. **"The Lord is not ... willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (II Peter 3:9).

We know that God is perfect and so is His Son. Therefore, God's will is perfect in that He would that all would receive salvation through repentance. Does this mean that all will be saved? We know by the Scriptures themselves that certain will be lost. Therefore, we can safely conclude that God's desire is perfect. However, it's total fulfillment will not be accomplished because of those who did not desire Him.

We now begin to realize the meaning of being perfect in the sight of God. As children of God, our desire should be to do our Father's will. By maintaining that basic desire, (though we are not of ourselves perfect) we will be perfect in Christ Jesus. **"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ ..."** (Galatians 2:16).

Thus, we come to understand that the heart of the matter is in our ATTITUDE, rather than our ATTAINMENT. It is for us to REACH OUT AND TRY. Our eventual hope is in the attainment which will come in due time – our present intention is what we must concentrate upon.

As each day ends, we may not have accomplished our desired goal, but we are more accomplished for the attempt.

Consider for a moment the man Moses. This great leader of Israel was brought up under very good conditions being raised with the royalty in Egypt. He did not realize it at the time but this was part of his training by God for

those things to come. Moses' years in the desert were also for the same purpose. Those latter years were not very easy, and many hard set-backs occurred which no doubt brought disappointment. For forty years, we find this preparation taking place in the life of Moses. We also know that this most meek of men continued each day to reach out to try that his effort would be made perfect before God. After those forty years of preparation, we then read how Moses led the children of Israel for forty years in the wilderness because of their lacking faith at the border of the promised land. Even through such set-backs and disappointments with Israel, we still see faithful Moses trying his best as he followed God's will. We know that this meek one could not finally enjoy the blessed feeling of crossing over into the promised land because of his striking the rock the second time. Nevertheless, he remained committed to giving his best right up to the end.

There have been other saints down through the ages who have willingly served the Lord in their various capacities and under extreme conditions. By doing their best every day, they fulfilled the will of God. Under these conditions, one betters his best.

This is exactly what the purpose of the ministry is to be as given in the Scriptures. **“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith ... unto a perfect man ...”** (Ephesians 4:12-13). **“... that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”** (Colossians 1:28).

Not that every member is already perfect, but that they daily reach forth unto that perfection in the best way they know how through God's indwelling Holy Spirit.

“Blessed are they that DO (that daily love and reach out to fulfill) his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

QUESTION: Do not the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:32 prove that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob went to heaven after they died?

ANSWER: The words of Jesus found in Matthew 22:32 do not prove that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob went to heaven after they died! Let us quote verses 31 and 32,

“But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” Jesus used the words in verses 31 and 32 to prove God's promise to raise the dead, not to prove that the dead are alive.

Luke's record gives us further insight. It reads, “Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him” (Luke 20:37-38).

Because Jesus provided a ransom from death, God looks upon all the dead as being asleep. Therefore, they “live unto him.” In God's own due time, they will be awakened from the sleep of death. This is true of all the prophets and those of faith who have died, as the Apostle Paul says concerning Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham that “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, ...” (Hebrews 11:13).

QUESTION: Who is Belial?

ANSWER: It is a name applied to Satan in II Corinthians 6:15. The word signifies “worthlessness” or “wickedness” or “baseness.”

QUESTION: Does Satan have equal power with God?

ANSWER: Never is it true that Satan has equal power with God. Unquestionably God has delegated great power into Satan's hands, but it is always limited, and it is never in any sense equal to the power of God.

QUESTION: Was Cornelius saved before he sent for Peter?

ANSWER: The words of Acts 11:14 seem to indicate that he was not. However, Cornelius sought after God. His salvation came through hearing and believing the gospel from Peter's mouth.



Salem, West Virginia

The laying on of hands after baptism.





Baptisms in Salem, WV



LESSON I

THE ARK RESTORED TO ISRAEL

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 7:1-17.

Golden Text: I Samuel 7:8.

“And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.”

NOTE: We have learned that the ark of the Lord was in the hands of the Philistines seven months. After the Lord brought great destruction upon them, the Philistines decided the ark should be returned to Israel. When the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark, thousands were smitten because of this act. Now, let us learn how the Philistines were subdued and the ark restored.

1. Where was the ark taken, and who was to keep the ark? I Samuel 7:1.
2. How long was the ark in Kirjath-jearim? I Samuel 7:2.
3. What did Samuel tell the people of Israel to do if they wanted to be delivered out of the hand of the Philistines, and did they listen to what Samuel told them? I Samuel 7:3-4.
4. What did Samuel then do for the children of Israel? I Samuel 7:5-6.
5. When the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered at Mizpeh, what did they do? I Samuel 7:7.
6. While Samuel was offering the burnt-offering to the Lord, what did the Philistines do? I Samuel 7:9-11.
7. Did the Philistines pursue the Israelites anymore? I Samuel 7:13-14.

8. How long did Samuel judge Israel, and how many places did he judge? I Samuel 7:15-17.

LESSON II

ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 8:1-22.

Golden Text: I Samuel 8:19.

“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us.”

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how the ark of God was restored to Israel. Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. Israel still was not satisfied, and now they desired a king to reign over them. Let us study about it in I Samuel 8.

1. When Samuel became old, who did he make Judges of Israel? I Samuel 8:1-2.
2. Did Samuel's sons walk in the way they should? I Samuel 8:3.
3. What request did the elders of Israel make of Samuel? I Samuel 8:4-6.
4. When Samuel prayed to the Lord about this request, what did the Lord tell him to do? I Samuel 8:7-9.
5. Did Samuel tell the people the words of the Lord? I Samuel 8:10-18.
6. Did the people still refuse to obey the voice of Samuel? Did they insist upon having a king over them? I Samuel 8:19-20.
7. Samuel again took the words of the people to the Lord. What did the Lord tell Samuel to do? I Samuel 8:21-22.

LESSON III**SAUL CHOSEN TO BE KING (PART I)**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 9:1-10.

Golden Text: I Samuel 9:2.

“And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that the people of Israel would not obey the voice of Samuel, and they asked him to give them a king to reign over them. Samuel took their plea to the Lord, and the Lord said to hearken unto them and make a king to rule them. Let us see now who was chosen for this position.

- 1. Who was Saul, and what type of person was he? I Samuel 9:1-2.**
- 2. On what kind of mission was Saul sent? I Samuel 9:3.**
- 3. Through what land did Saul and his servant go on this mission? I Samuel 9:4.**
- 4. When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul wanted to return to his father. What did the servant suggest that they do? I Samuel 9:5-6.**
- 5. What was Saul concerned about if they should visit the man of God? I Samuel 9:7.**
- 6. What did they have to give to the prophet for telling them their way? I Samuel 9:8.**
- 7. Did Saul agree with his servant to go to the city to see the man of God? I Samuel 9:10.**
- 8. In Israel, what was another name for a prophet?**

I Samuel 9:9-10.

LESSON IV**SAUL CHOSEN TO BE KING (PART II)**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 9:11-27.

Golden Text: I Samuel 9:17.

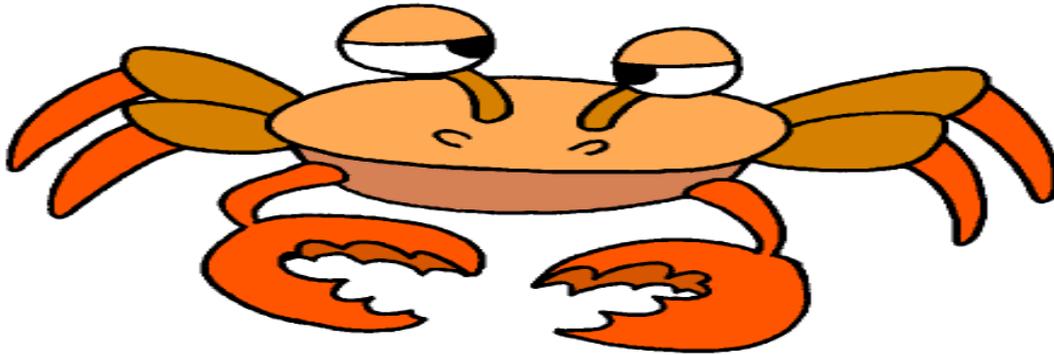
“And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned about Saul and the journey that he had with his servant. The servant suggested that they find the man of God in the city to show them the way that they should go. Let us continue to see what happens when they meet this man of God also called a Seer.

- 1. When Saul and his servant arrived, where the man of God was, whom did they meet? I Samuel 9:11.**
- 2. What did the young maidens tell Saul to do? I Samuel 9:12-13.**
- 3. Saul did as the maidens had told him to do. Who did he meet in I Samuel 9:14?**
- 4. What had the Lord told Samuel the day before Saul arrived? I Samuel 9:15-17.**
- 5. Saul inquired of Samuel to find out where the seer's house was. What was Samuel's answer to Saul? I Samuel 9:18-20.**
- 6. Did Saul understand what Samuel was saying to him? I Samuel 9:21.**
- 7. Where did Samuel take Saul, and what did they do? I Samuel 9:22-24.**
- 8. Discuss what Samuel and Saul did when they came down to the city. I Samuel 9:25-27.**

WONDERS IN THE SEA

GOD'S HERMIT CRAB



“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day” (Genesis 1:20-23).

Today, we are going to look at another of God's wonders in the sea, the hermit crab. These small wonders live everywhere along rocky ocean beaches, and sometimes along sandy beaches. God made more than one kind of hermit crab, though they are basically the same. They can be found inside a shell that has belonged to some kind of snail or sea animal. The hermit crab is different from other crabs. He has an unusually soft body, so soft that many sea animals like to eat him. So, by borrowing a hard shell to live in the hermit crab can stay alive without much trouble. He can pull his entire body into the shell, and leave only his largest pincer outside. He has long feelers which can be used to test the water to find out if there is any food nearby for him to eat. The right claw, larger than the left is used to close the entrance of the shell. The two pairs of legs behind the claw are used in walking, but the next two pairs are small and are

used to grip the shell. The last pair of limbs on the abdomen are sickle-shaped and used for holding onto the central column of the shell. There are swimmerets on the left side of the abdomen only.

As a hermit crab outgrows his shell, he must go and find a larger one. Since he must leave his old shell behind while he looks for a bigger one, this is a dangerous time for the hermit crab. Some fish may swallow him before he finds a new shell that is the right size for him. If he finds a shell that is too big, he is not able to carry it around with him.

The hermit crab must go into his shell tail first for he cannot turn around inside. The crab examines the new shell all over for several minutes with its claws, then, if it seems good enough and no enemy is near, it hurriedly transfers its abdomen from the old shell to the new. Sometimes one hermit crab may try to drive another from its shell.

It is fun to watch two hermits crabs in a small tide pool. They do not like each other very well. They will rush at each other, each one trying to make the other run away in terror. They can bluff each other like this for a long time. If you keep very still and do not move, they will not know you are around.

The common hermit crab of European seas is the soldier crab. Usually only the young are found on the shore. They make their homes from winkle, topshell or dog whelk

shells. They are well-protected from the pounding waves and from drying up when the tide is out. The older soldier crabs live in deeper water and occupy the larger shells of common and hard whelks.

If we were to go to a tropical coast we would find hermit crabs that are semi-terrestrial (live partly on land). These crabs occupy ordinary snail shells, but have been found in joints of bamboo or coconut shells.

Another hermit crab found in deep water in the Indian Ocean, lives in pieces of bamboo. Those found in the West Indies live at 600-1200 feet in hollow cylinders of wood.

Hermit crabs eat both plants and animals. They are scavengers, tearing up food with their smaller left claws and transferring it to their mouths. The methods of obtaining food may vary with each type of hermit crab.

Just as any hard object lying on the sea bed, the shell of a hermit crab becomes encrusted with weeds, sponges, barnacles and hydroids. Certain sea anemones regularly associate with hermit crabs and form close partnerships with them. Some types of hermit crabs carry the anemone on their shells, sometimes several of them. While the hermit feeds, the anemone can be seen sweeping the ground with its outstretched tentacles as it gathers fragments left by the crab. The hermit crab may also benefit from bits of food caught by the anemone.

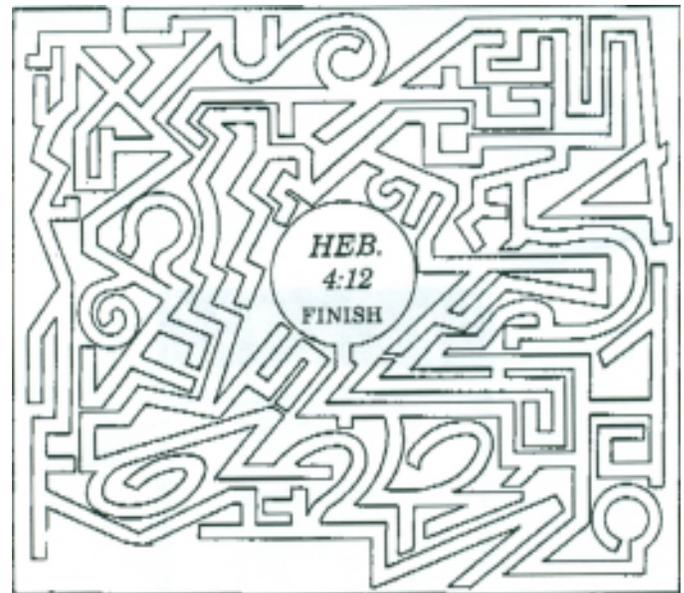
There are still other characteristics of this small creature which we have not listed. Each species of the hermit crab seems to have its own traits. Each of God's creatures are uniquely different, designed for a specific purpose and to survive in its own territory.

If you live near the ocean why not hunt for one of these small creatures. You can keep a hermit crab in an aquarium or a gallon jar of sea water. Plant some seaweed in the jar, and drop a worm or large insect about two times a week for him to eat. Replace the evaporated water with distilled water. If you live near the ocean, change the sea water every week. It is most interesting to have some pet crabs. Remember to put each crab in a separate jar.

The next time we see a hermit crab along the shore or perhaps even in your friend's collection, remember that this small wonder did not just happen by chance, but was created by a Grand Designer, our Heavenly Father.

A FUN MAZE

Can you find your way through this maze? It starts with loving thoughts and leads to our Heavenly Father. There are lots of surprises, so be careful.



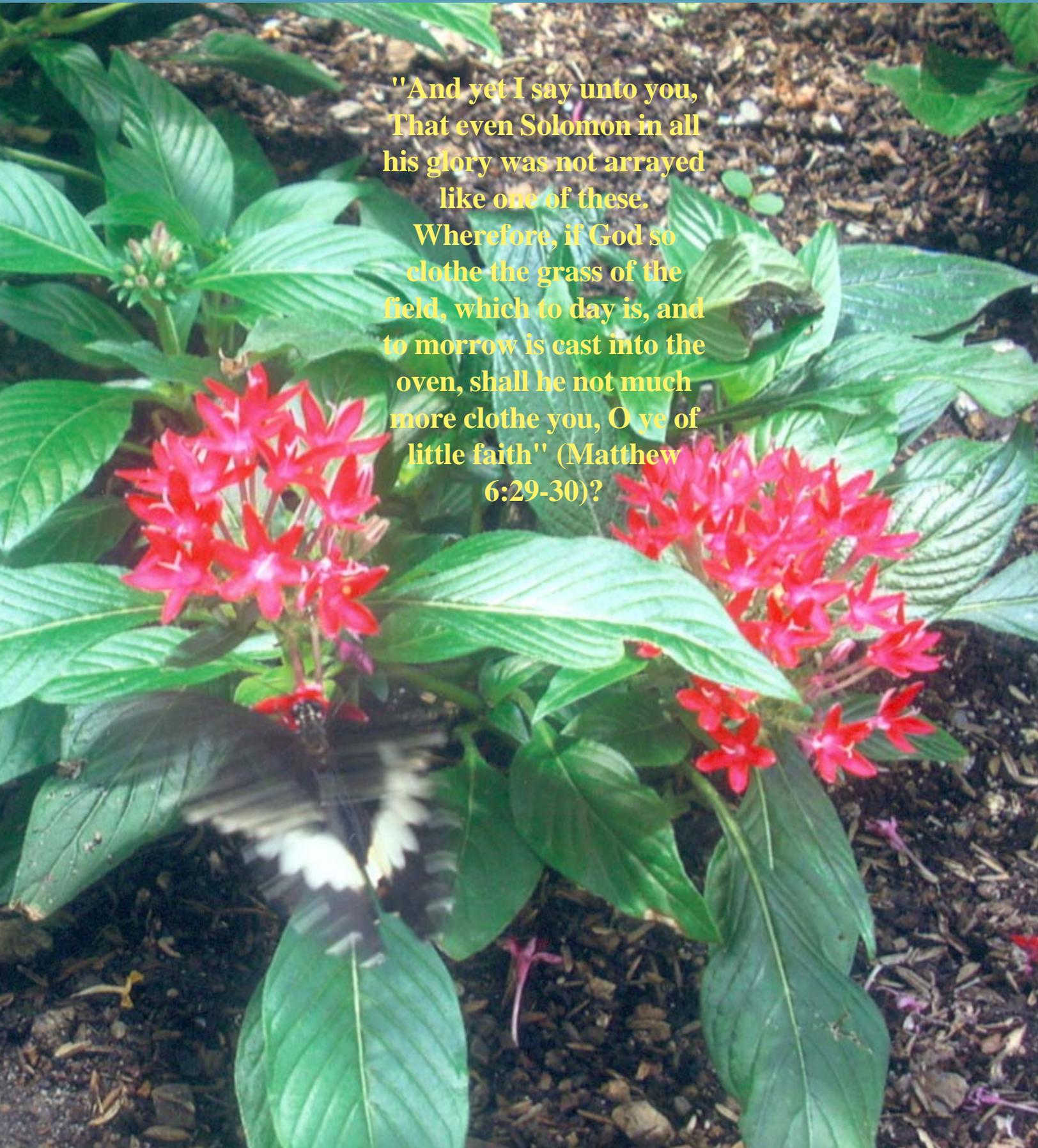
HIDDEN WORD SEARCH

The hidden words appear in John 14:6. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." All the words in this verse will appear in the puzzle. They will be found forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. Find each word and put a line around it.

T	L	E	O	N	O	N	M	A
I	U	B	Y	F	E	W	L	A
A	N	D	M	A	E	A	U	S
C	T	H	A	T	H	Y	R	U
N	O	I	N	H	T	I	A	S
L	L	M	E	E	R	H	B	E
L	I	F	E	R	U	U	E	J
S	A	E	H	T	T	I	D	N
U	N	T	O	T	H	E	B	O

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**"And yet I say unto you,
That even Solomon in all
his glory was not arrayed
like one of these.**

**Wherefore, if God so
clothe the grass of the
field, which to day is, and
to morrow is cast into the
oven, shall he not much
more clothe you, O ye of
little faith" (Matthew
6:29-30)?**

