

The image shows a dramatic landscape. On the left, a steep, rocky mountain slope rises, characterized by layered rock formations and sparse vegetation. The sky is a clear, bright blue. In the foreground, a valley is filled with lush green trees and shrubs, contrasting with the arid-looking mountain above. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

*The Advocate
of Truth*

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Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

David DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

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

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THE SEVEN FEAST DAYS

(Taken from a tract)

This tract has been prepared to expressly discuss the seven festivals that the Lord added to the already existing 7th Day Sabbath (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16:23). Also ask for our tract “The Lord’s Sanctified Day”. To see about The Passover (Exodus 12:6), see our tract, “The Passover and The Lord’s Supper.”

These seven feasts were added because of Israel’s transgressions (see Galatians 3:19). Remember, while Moses was receiving the tables of stone, containing only the Ten Commandments that came from God, the people were sinning (Exodus 32:7). The tables of stone were “written with the finger of God” (Also see Deuteronomy 9:9-10). The sacrificial, ceremonial or Mosaic laws were written by Moses in a book (Deuteronomy 31:24).

It is important to understand that these feast days are a “road map” to Jesus for Israel. The people who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and soon coming King do not need to keep these days. We are not “spiritual Jews”. We are not blinded. But, those who were blinded needed to do the “whole law” (Galatians 5:1-3).

In Numbers, chapters 13 and 14, Israel does not believe God (See Numbers 14:11). Israel did not hear Moses and the prophets (Luke 16:31), and they did not believe Jesus (John 8:45-46). Read Matthew 21:33-46. Israel has become blind and deaf, not to the ways of God but, to His Son (Acts 28:23, 31). Read also Acts 25-27, and John 5:37-40. Jesus has used, and will use, these days to reveal Himself to them.

THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

The feasts of Israel are a very intriguing subject. Like all subjects of the Bible, they must be studied to understand

why they existed in the first place. Some of the questions that are asked today are: “Haven’t they always existed? Shouldn’t we be keeping them now? Aren’t they only for Israel? Since God is finished with Israel, shouldn’t God’s people keep them today? We could go on and on about the comments and questions, but that gives you, the reader, an idea of what a Bible student faces today. Always remember, God’s truth is very simple. Man has complicated it. In fact, the truth is so simple that many reject it (Proverbs 1:1-4). It is the purpose of this tract to enlighten, inform and instruct the reader as to the who, what, when, where, how and why regarding these feast days.

When God created man, we have to believe that He instructed them, Adam and Eve, about His commandments, otherwise they could not have sinned. He taught them, they disobeyed and therefore, were cast out of the garden. We know that Adam sinned, because we are told in Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”. In addition, the word sin is used eight times (Strong’s Concordance) before Exodus 20. What is Sin? I John 3:4 tells us, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: FOR SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.” The law of God that was in effect was the Ten Commandment Law. We also learn that Abraham, the father of the faithful is commended for his character, in Genesis 18:19, “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” If the Ten Commandments were not

in effect, Cain could not have sinned (Genesis 4:7). The men of Sodom would not have been wicked and sinners (Genesis 13:13), and King Abimelech would not have been so troubled by the possibility of committing sin (Genesis 20:9).

When God brought forth the nation of Israel, He reintroduced the people to the Ten Commandments, because, after all, they had been reduced to slaves, the “flesh pots of Egypt” and had lived this way for over 400 years. In Exodus 20:1-20, God wrote the Ten Commandments with His finger (etched in stone) and Moses states in Verse 20, “...Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.” Now, this is a very critical time because it was God's intention to give the Ten Commandments and nothing else. This He did for we are told in Deuteronomy 5:22, "These words (verses 6 to 21) the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: AND HE ADDED NO MORE. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me." You see, God only gave the Ten Commandments to Moses at this time. But, what happened? While Moses was receiving the tablets from God, the Israelites were complaining to Aaron that they did not know what happened to Moses, and they told Aaron, “...Up, make us gods, which shall go before us...” (Exodus 32:1). They said to Moses they would hear in Exodus 20:19-20, “...Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.” Before Moses had returned from sojourning with God, they wanted to have “others gods before them” in direct violation of the first commandment which they agreed to “hear”. We find that the Lord spoke to Moses in Exodus 32:7-10 and wanted to destroy Israel. "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I COMMANDED THEM: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and,

behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.” We know that Moses intervened on behalf of the people, and God changed His mind (Exodus 32:14). Because of these transgressions, He added the seven feast days (Galatians 3:19-24). We see in verse 24, “...the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ...” God knew that they were going to have difficulty accepting Jesus as the Messiah, so He planned a way to point out His Son. The laws had become so important, that they missed Him. Jesus spoke very plainly to them in John 5:39-40, and except for the disciples, most of the people rejected Him.

The feast days were an important part to their lives, so it makes sense that Jesus would do things in accordance with these practices.

Remember, we do not know too much of Jesus' early life and He indicates on at least two occasions that His time or hour had not yet come, John 2:4 and 7:6. It is interesting to note that here in John 7 we start to read of the transition or transformation. John 7:2-10 tells us, “Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him. Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee. But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.” In verses 14-18, we read, “Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is

true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” Even after this, they sought to kill him. Verse 19 states, “Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?” Late in verse 28 He tried to tell them plainly who He was and where He came from. Finally in verse 37 and 38, Jesus revealed Himself. “In the last day, that great day of the feast, (Ref. Leviticus 23:36) Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” Some people realized who He was, and some did not. “Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, this is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” (Verses 40-42). So Jesus used one of the feast days to try to show the people of Israel that He was the one that they awaited for--the Messiah. In the gospel of John chapter 12:12-15, Jesus fulfills Zechariah 9:9, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” Remember, John the Baptist had already identified Jesus as the Lamb of God. See John 1:29 and 1:36. Now, the people were selecting God’s Lamb as their King. In Exodus 12:3, we read, “Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house”. While the people were selecting their lamb for the annual Passover, Jesus was presenting Himself as the ultimate Passover lamb. The Apostle Paul clearly states in I Corinthians 5:7, “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our PASSOVER is sacrificed for us”. This is not coincidence, this is completing a plan. At approximately the same time Israel prepared its household lamb for the yearly feast, Jesus shed His blood on the stake. See John 18:28. The men who brought Jesus to Pilate had not eaten the Passover yet--Jesus had already instituted the emblems on the evening before, the start of the 14th day of the first month. Jesus fulfilled the feast of the Passover at His death.

In Leviticus 23:6 and 23:8 we learn of the first and last

day of unleavened bread. The purpose of these days were to mark the beginning and end of the spring festival but, more importantly to identify the weekly Sabbath after which the wave sheaf was to be offered. In Leviticus 23:9-11, we read, “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, TO BE ACCEPTED FOR YOU: on the morrow after the (weekly) sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

In I Corinthians 15:23 (first part), we read, “But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits. . . .”

We teach, and Scripture supports, a Wednesday crucifixion and Saturday resurrection. In keeping with this, John’s Gospel tells us in chapter 20:1 that Mary Magdalene arrived at the sepulchre on the first day of the week, Sunday, the morrow after the weekly Sabbath. Jesus had already risen from the dead. And she found the tomb empty. Her arrival does not indicate when the resurrection happened. It just confirms that it did happen. In verse 16 “Jesus (whom she did not recognize) saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.” Now Jesus tells us as well as Mary something significant. Jesus said unto her, “...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God” (Verse 17). Do you see the parallel? Jesus, the firstfruits, presented Himself to the Father on the same day the priest was waving the sheaf of firstfruits before the Lord. Later on in Luke 24:36-39, we read about Jesus who appeared in a different form. “And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

Sequence:

1. Jesus is resurrected.
2. He tells Mary not to touch Him.
3. He presents Himself as the firstfruits. Similarly the

firstfruits are being presented by the priest.

4. Later, it is alright for the disciples to touch Him.

Once the spring festival is under way, the weekly Sabbath that was used to precede the wave sheaf offering is the same Sabbath that is used to start counting for the summer festival, Pentecost. We read in Leviticus 23:15, "And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: (49 days) Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath (1 day) shall you number fifty days". Pentecost means fifty. On this day, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Church as a fulfillment of the feast of Pentecost. This was foretold in John 14:16-18; 15:26-27; 16:7-11, 12-15.

It was promised in Acts 1:1-5 and was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4. Jesus has now done something of great significance on these days. There is now a change because Israel did not accept Jesus. Paul indicates in I Corinthians 1:23, "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness". Read also Matthew 21:42-43. Because they rejected him, they became blind and their hearing dull (Acts 28:25-28). Israel remains in this condition unto the return of the Lord. Paul referred to himself as being "born out of due time" (I Corinthians 15:8). Jesus returned to his Father to prepare a place for us. He will return for the saints. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36).

In this return, He first returns for the Saints (I Corinthians 15:23, last part), "afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." See also Revelation 14:14; 15:1-3. After He reaps the saints, the seven last plagues will be poured out on the wicked (Psalm 91:8). After this, the saints return with Jesus to set up His everlasting kingdom. Now He returns as King of Kings. See Revelation 11:15; 19:11-16; 17:14. This phase, the second part of His coming, will usher in His kingdom here on the earth. The second phase of His coming will be heralded with trumpets, thus fulfilling the feast of Trumpets. See Numbers 10 and the uses of the trumpets. Pay particular attention to verses 7 and 9. Jesus will not only return to set up the kingdom but also to reestablish His relationships with Israel. In Zechariah 12:10, we learn that Israel will atone for its rejection of Jesus. "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of

grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn (blindness removed) for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." In that day, there shall be great mourning in Jerusalem. (See Zechariah 13:1, 2, 6). Later on in Zechariah 14:16, we learn that the feast of tabernacles will be kept. Remember, these days were added for Israel, and during the millennium the people (except for the saints) will still be physical, and they will be celebrating their temporary existence, temporary dwelling looking forward to the permanent and spiritual life.

Jesus used these feast days as a road map to find Him. The directions remain the same. It is necessary to pay attention to these feasts, and understand their fulfillment.

QUIET TIME

*This whole world is filled with noise,
Disturbing the peace of my day;
Often my mind had to wonder,
God, can You hear when I pray?
Cars and trucks racing over the highway,
TV's and radios blaring away;
The whine of a jet plane at takeoff,
And lawn mowers add to the fray.
I need some peace and quiet,
And I know just where to go;
I seek the Lord, my Shepherd,
To provide the peace I may know.
He leads my feet through green pastures,
Beside still waters, so deep;
He leads only in paths that are righteous,
And promises my soul to keep.
I need to have no fear of death,
For it is peace right here that I have;
He is guarding my every breath,
And His comfort is like soothing salve.
My cup, with joy, overfloweth,
Knowing my Savior is there;
His rod and staff give me comfort,
And His ear is turned to my prayer.
So world with all of your noise,
I know how to fade you away;
I need only seek His green pastures,
And still waters to comfort my day.
--Betty Whetstone*



Prophecy and The Feast Days

By Del DeLong

Prophecy is the truth of what will happen in the future. The truth is what is found in God's Word. We are told in II Peter 1:20 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." Many will tell you future events and when they will take place, but unless they are events told in the Scriptures, they can only be classified as speculation - not prophecy.

An example of prophecy is that Jesus will return to the Earth, and He will bring His kingdom with Him. There will be a resurrection of the dead, and the dead in Christ will be caught up to meet Him in the air. **In I Thessalonians 4:14 - 4:17**, we read, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

There are those who say they know the time that this will happen, but we read in Mark 13:32-33, Jesus' own words, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

So if someone tells you that they know the time, the day or even the hour when Jesus will return, they are not telling you the truth. The Word of God tells us things that will happen before Jesus returns, so we can be prepared to watch and be ready.

Many people will try to predict and call this prophecy. True prophecy comes from the Word of God. An example of this true prophecy can be found in the book of Daniel where King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him. Daniel gave him the true interpretation of this directly from God. The prophecy of the image was explained in full detail in God's Word. This prophecy even is included in these times.

If someone tells you they know a prophecy of the future, ask him to show you the proof from the Bible. If the prophecy that a person has is not explained in the Bible, then it is not prophecy but speculation.

In the book of Revelation, Revelation 5:1, there is a prophecy about a seven sealed book that no one could open. Many people have ideas as to what the seven seals are, but these ideas are not prophecy - they are just speculation. We can only use what the Bible tells us.

In II Timothy 2:15 we read. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". We must rightly divide truth from speculation. It is good to speculate and study those speculations from the Word of God, but it is important for us to rightly divide the word of truth and not proclaim we have new prophecy until it is proven by God's Word and accepted by the ministry of the Church. We should not preach speculation to the Church, before it is adopted by the ministry of the Church. There has been some speculation about prophecy and the feast days.

The first thing we need to look at is why were these laws added? When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, they were led by Moses and were still under the Melchizedek priesthood. When they came to Mount Sinai,

God spoke to them the Ten Commandments, and at that time He added no more. Let us read this in Deuteronomy 5:22. "These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me".

Moses had gone up into the mountain, and he received the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone written by the finger of God. While he was there, the children of Israel were in the camp worshipping a golden calf and breaking these Ten Commandments. When Moses came down and saw what the children of Israel were doing, he got so angry and he threw down the tables of stone and broke them. God wanted to destroy the children of Israel at that time and make a new group of people from Moses. But Moses pleaded their cause and the Lord did not destroy them. This was when God decided to add laws to them, because of their transgression.

Let us turn to Galatians 3:19. "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." This added law was for the children of Israel, and it was finished when Jesus was nailed to the cross. Let us read Colossians 2:14. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross".

These feast day laws were meant for the children of Israel and were not meant to be used as markers for prophecy for the children of God.

Remember, prophecy comes from the Word of God and not from an individual's private interpretation. Let us read II Peter 1:20. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

We should not turn again to the added laws which are called weak and beggarly. They are not meant to be prophetic for the children of God, but they were meant to point the children of Israel to Christ - who would fulfill them. We read in Galatians 4:9, "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" Let us also read Galatians 3:24-25, "Wherefore the law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified

by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster".

So, dear ones, let us study and rightly divide the Word of Truth. We know that Jesus could return at any time, so it is important that we remain ready, keep our lamps trimmed and bright, keep God's Commandments and hold on to the testimony of Jesus. Revelation 14:12, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

There are many who would like to prophesy when Jesus will return. The Scriptures do not tell us when this will happen. We know the time is near and it could happen at any time, but even His disciples asked Him these same questions. It would be helpful to see how Jesus answers His disciples. Let's look at the entire chapter of Matthew 24. "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.

Matthew 24:2

And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Matthew 24:3

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Matthew 24:4

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Matthew 24:5

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:6

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.

Matthew 24:7

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Matthew 24:8

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:9

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Matthew 24:10

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Matthew 24:11

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:12

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Matthew 24:13

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:15

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Matthew 24:16

Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Matthew 24:17

Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

Matthew 24:18

Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

Matthew 24:19

And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Matthew 24:20

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

Matthew 24:21

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:22

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matthew 24:23

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Matthew 24:25

Behold, I have told you before.

Matthew 24:26

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

Matthew 24:27

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:28

For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Matthew 24:30

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:31

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:32

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Matthew 24:33

So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Matthew 24:34

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Matthew 24:36

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Matthew 24:37

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:38

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Matthew 24:39

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all

away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:40

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:41

Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:42

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:43

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Matthew 24:44

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:45

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Matthew 24:46

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Matthew 24:47

Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Matthew 24:48

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

Matthew 24:49

And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

Matthew 24:50

The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of."

Jesus told them to watch and be ready. We must follow these same words, because He could come at any time.

Confirmation of the Holy Spirit:

Daniel Cruz



The premise for all things is seen through the eyes and somehow doesn't confirm the truth. We've been deceived once or twice when we may have seen something unimaginable or vaguely. It's in this instant that our mind does not comprehend what we've seen and causes doubt. Man is always pondering ways to wow us through magic or optical illusions, convincing us that we see something and fooling our minds to believe that an illusion is real. Deceptive practices can lead us astray and cause us to forget that we serve the One true God. Genesis 3:1: "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" What drove this serpent and his intent to deceive? Was Eve not in the right mind set or did not

the Holy Spirit guide her to do that which was right? Could she not know in her heart to follow God's instructions? Let's examine this more closely.

The Serpent used the most basic device that can hinder even us today, his tongue. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Proverbs 18:21). Eve was deceived and the tactic that was used was a mere question that had never been asked of her and her mind begin to wonder. This was a curiosity-killed-the-cat scenario. She was taken by her mind and the one true thing that could guide her, in her free will, was not applied. God had sheltered them from all things and instructed them of His will for them. God required obedience and not half heartedly. This led to mans' infinite destruction. God requires very little of us

and the conversion of the word obedience cannot be a thought or idea. It must be the Holy Spirit guiding us to do that which is right in the sight of God. Our hearts are where the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is and can dwell. It provides so much instruction and guidance in our everyday lives that is essential to a child of God. This same Spirit is what has guided many of His servants and prophets that carried out the instructions of God, even His only begotten Son.

The Lord provided us the One who had been with Him since before the time of Adam and Eve. Jesus was our example even until today. He never failed to mention these prophets who prophesied of Jesus many years before He came to be a man. "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" (Deuteronomy 18:18). We know Moses was speaking of Jesus and how did he know of this without the Holy Spirit guiding him? He listened and it was confirmed in Moses' heart that what was given to him was by the Holy Spirit. The power of this will provide us the same comfort and peace we need as children of

God. It is what guides us to accept or reject a sermon or word that is given as a truth or falsehood. Had Adam and Eve acknowledged the Lord and been obedient, the outcome would have been different.

In our efforts to be obedient we must learn to hear God and allow Him to guide us in all things. In these last days there are many deceivers all around us. Matthew 7:15: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Jesus was tempted in the early days of His ministry. He was able to rely on the Holy Spirit and used its power to maintain the course given unto Him. It's for this reason that He gives us warning today. The power of the Holy Spirit will confirm those of the faith. It allows us to be corrected and strengthens us to know and stand fast in the Truth. We are helpless without this guidance. When we rely on the power of God it will keep us on the path of truth and confirm our faith in God and the promises that will be granted us. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). Let this be our reward.



Suffering For God's Glory

By David DeLong

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Peter 2:19-21). All believers will face some sort of suffering in their walk of life. The Apostle Peter wrote that it is much better to suffer wrongfully, for the Lord's sake, than to suffer for one's own faults. Let us study examples from the Scriptures where believers suffered for the Lord's sake.

One of the great examples, given in the Old Testa-

ment, is the suffering of Joseph. We probably know the story well. Joseph was wrongfully persecuted by his brothers and was sold into the land of Egypt. After suffering wrongfully in prison for a crime he didn't commit, Joseph was finally released and became a great ruler in Egypt. Later, he was reunited with his brothers and this is what he told them: "And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me be-

fore you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 45:4-8).

We can see clearly that it was the hand of the Lord, working through Joseph's brothers, that brought Joseph into the land of Egypt and caused him a certain amount of suffering. One might think that since the Lord was behind Joseph being guided into Egypt, then his brothers would be free and clear from their actions. The Apostle Paul refutes such thinking, however. In Romans 3:5-8 we find: "But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just."

No matter how much the Lord directs events upon this earth, every person is still responsible for his or her actions. Condemnation will still be meted out for unrighteousness, even if God receives some sort of glory in the end. The Lord is able to take a bad event and turn it around for His glory. Jesus said in Matthew 18:7: "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" So we can plainly see that even though offenses are prophesied to come, the one who brings the offense will be held accountable.

The Apostle Paul suffered many things for the sake of Christ, including being in prison. But he knew that this was to help in ministering for the Lord. He wrote in Philippians 1:12-14: "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." Paul also knew that his own personal suffering was for his good. He wrote: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should

be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

Though the Patriarch Job didn't understand it at the time, his suffering was for God's glory. Job greatly suffered to counteract Satan's claim that Job only served God because he was blessed by Him. We find this situation in Job 1:8-11: "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." Throughout all of Job's suffering, he still remained loyal to the Lord. Job 1:20-22 informs us: "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

However, as was the case with Paul, Job's suffering also brought him closer to the Lord. In Job 42:1-6 we read: "Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

As we mentioned before, all believers will face some sort of suffering in their walk of life. Also, as we have

noticed, that suffering is for a two-fold purpose: to glorify God and to bring the saint closer to the Lord. The Apostle Peter gives us these words of instruction: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (I Peter 4:12-19).

Finally, we look at the suffering of Christ, Himself. He foretold of His suffering to His disciples in Matthew 16:21: "From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day." Jesus' suffering was for the glory of God and to help Him learn obedience. This last thought we find in Hebrews 5:8: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered". We find Jesus, on the eve of His last Passover observance, having a great desire with His disciples: "And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:14-15).

When we suffer for Christ's sake, it is because we are living godly lives. II Timothy 3:12 assures us: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." However, we also have the blessed assurance in II Timothy 2:11-12: "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us".

The Sufferings of the Apostle Paul

(from II Corinthians 11:22-28)

By David DeLong

Are they Hebrews? so am I,
I am of Israel, too;
I am the seed of Abraham,
A minister of Christ, so true.

In labours more abundant,
In stripes above the rule;
In prisons very frequent,
In facing deaths, so cruel.

Thirty nine the stripes I had,
And this was five times given;
Three times beaten up with rods,
With stones my body riven.

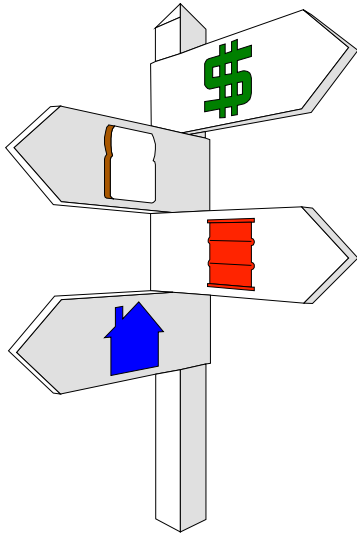
Thrice I suffered shipwreck,
A night and day at sea;
In travels, often, in the deep,
And robbers threatened me.

In perils by my countrymen,
In perils by the heathen;
In perils in the city,
And the wilderness, a seethin'.

In perils, once again, by sea,
And, too, among false brethren;
In weariness and painfulness,
All this, I have been weatherin'.

In watchings, often, without food,
And without drink, I fast;
In cold and also nakedness,
And care upon me, cast.

This comes upon me, daily,
The churches, I must aid;
So was the life of servant, Paul,
And the price he paid.



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.

TRADE WARS?

NAFTA, North American Free Trade Agreement, is in doubt. A news report said that Mexico is looking to Europe and beyond for new allies.

Comment

Trade wars are a sign that we are living in the last days. They will no doubt increase as time goes by.

CHILDREN ON THE PHONE

Children are getting phones as young as ten. An authority says that parents who want to moderate and monitor their children's usage, the ubiquity of smartphones and tablets is a constant challenge.

Comment

Of course, parents should monitor their child's usage of smartphones and other technical media equipment. This is especially true of those parents who are trying to rear their children in the Lord. Children seem to be much brighter at an earlier age than in the past.

ABOUT LAW OFFICERS

It seems that the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty dropped sharply in 2017. This is the second lowest toll in more than fifty years.

Comment

This is good! We all may remember not too long ago when there were many law officers being killed. It seemed to be an epidemic.

REMEMBER STAR WARS?

I read a commentary by Thomas Friedman entitled "Star Wars technology coming to job near you." In his sub-heading, he writes "Some incredible changes are happening that will pose an adaptation challenge to American workers." In it he discussed Classical computers and Quantum computers.

He wrote that Classical computers, the type of computers that are in use now, do not solve certain problems very well, but Quantum computers, future computers, with their exceptional processing power, will be able to crack most encryption without breaking a sweat.

He wrote that IBM's CEO, Ginni Rometty remarked to him in an interview: "Every job will require some technology, and therefore we'll need to revamp education."

Comment

Let us pray that all who work in the future, when these incredible changes come into effect, will be able to comprehend the changes.

SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES SO SOON?

I read that General Motors expects to carry passengers and deliver goods with self-driving vehicles in big cities sometime in 2019, telling investors it's moving quickly and plans to be ahead of other automakers and tech companies.

Comment

No doubt Ford's self-driving cars will be very good.

However, the manufacturing of these cars should not be a race to be first but to be sure of a quality product. Remember the phrase “Haste makes waste?”

HOW ABOUT FLYING CARS?

The following are the first two paragraphs from an article by Marc della Cava which appeared in **USA TODAY** about flying cars: **SAN FRANCISCO** So here’s just how fast technology is accelerating. We haven’t even nailed down self-driving cars yet, and now the buzz is all about *flying* cars.

In fact, the dogged pursuit of an airborne escape from traffic has been with us for more than half a century, from the limited-edition Aerocar of the 1950’ to the host of contemporary companies now taking pre-orders for the airborne vehicles.

Comment

There is an old slogan which goes “Back to the future”. Perhaps you have seen flying cars in some old movies and funny papers. To view these flying cars in those days made some laugh and think they were impossible to develop. The development of flying cars shows the power of the mind that God has given to man.

PUERTO RICO

You no doubt know that Puerto Rico was devastated by hurricane Maria. At the time of this column, I understand that around 30 percent of the island is still without electricity, and life is far from returning to normal. The island has still not received the monetary help which they need.

HARVEY

It is reported that Hurricane Harvey was a big and bad hurricane. The following is a segment of an article by Mike Hixenbaugh which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**: We told you so.

The National Hurricane Center’s official report on Hurricane Harvey, released Thursday, five months later, mostly confirms what those who lived through the storm already knew: Harvey was the worse rainstorm ever to hit the U.S.

The weekly government document – 76 pages of graphs, charts and meteorological analysis – reported the

word “catastrophic” seven times, and it was not short on superlatives.

It declared the August hurricane “the most significant tropical cyclone rainfall event in United States history.”

A “prolific tornado producer.”

Rainfall that was “truly overwhelming, literally and figuratively.”

“The second most costly hurricane in U.S. history.”

“The deadliest hurricane to hit Texas since 1919.”

“Unprecedented.”

Comment

The facts in the above article are very true. Although we live far from the city in which it touched down, the flooding was overwhelming! Our homes did not suffer flooding, but the residences of the neighbors suffered water damage. Many schools suffered damage and have not been able to complete repairs these months later.

IGNORING TWEETS

There appeared an article in the **Houston Chronicle** entitled *U.S. officials tell world to ignore Trump’s tweets*. The following are the first three paragraphs:

MUNICH – Amid global anxiety about President Donald Trump’s approach to global affairs, U.S. officials had a message to a gathering of Europe’s foreign policy elite this weekend: pay no attention to the man tweeting behind the curtain.

U.S. lawmakers – both Democrats and Republicans – and top national security officials in the Trump Administration offered the same advice publicly and privately, often clashing with Trump’s Twitter stream: the United States remains staunchly committed to its European allies, is furious with the Kremlin about election interference and isn’t contemplating a preemptive strike on North Korea to halt its nuclear program.

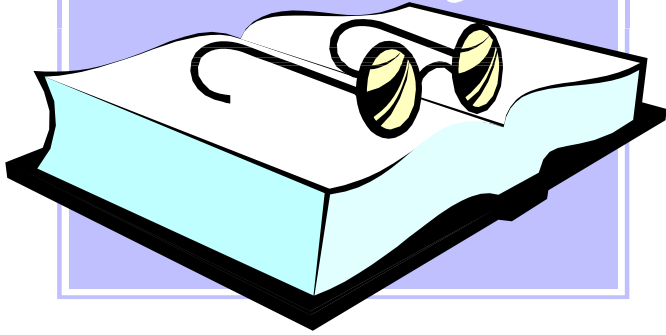
The determination to ignore Trump’s foreign-policy tweets has been bipartisan.

Comment

If it were any man, we possibly could ignore his tweets. But with the leader of the free world, every word he tweets and speaks must be taken as fact.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: When we pray, which bodily posture do you believe is most pleasing to God?

ANSWER: Praying from a clean heart is most pleasing to God. The most frequently mentioned bodily posture is standing. In Genesis 17:17-18, Abraham “fell upon his face” and prayed; in Genesis 18:22-23, he stood and prayed. In Genesis 24:11-13, Abraham’s servant stood “by the well of water” and prayed. After the battle of Ai, Joshua “fell to the earth upon his face” and prayed (Joshua 7:6-9). Samson prayed standing between the pillars in the Philistine temple at Gaza and asked for strength to destroy that temple, and God answered (Judges 16:28). In II Samuel 7:18, David “sat before the LORD” and prayed. In I Kings 19:4, Elijah “sat down under a juniper tree” and prayed. In II Kings 20:2, Hezekiah prayed in his bed with his face turned toward the wall. Ezra knelt to pray in Ezra 9:5-6. In Nehemiah 2:3-4, Nehemiah “shot the bird on the wing” in prayer, standing before the king and the king’s mother. Later in Jerusalem, he stood (9:4-5) in prayer and had the congregation stand. In Daniel 6:10, Daniel knelt in prayer three times a day when his life was threatened for it. Jonah prayed “out of the fish’s belly” (Jonah 2:1).

In Gethsemane, our Lord “fell on his face” and prayed. He also prayed from the cross. The penitent thief also prayed while on the cross. Stephen knelt down in the middle of his prayer (Acts 7:59-60). Saul of Tarsus

Questions and Answers

prayed from the ground as he lay in the middle of the Damascus road (Acts 9:4-5). After he had become the great Apostle Paul, he wrote, “...I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:14). Let us avoid formalism in prayer. May we “draw near with a true heart” when we pray!

QUESTION: Why do you think our Lord delayed His going to Bethany in response to the cry of Mary and Martha when their brother, Lazarus, was near death?

ANSWER: The natural conclusion for His delay would be that He did not love His Bethany friends, but the real reason for His delay was the other way around. It was because He loved them! Let us look at the record in John 11:5-6: “Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.” The delay was not because He did not love them, but because He loved them. If He had gone to them at once, Lazarus could not have died. No one ever died in His presence, and it was necessary that Lazarus die in order that God and His Son might be glorified in his resurrection. Instead of having a sick brother healed, these sisters had a dead brother raised from the dead.

QUESTION: How is the word *yoke* used in the Scriptures?

ANSWER: The following are ten ways the word *yoke* is used in the Scriptures:

1. The word *yoke* is employed in the Bible for the

“wooden frame used to fasten two work animals together.” See Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3; Jeremiah 27:2; 31:18; Hosea 11:4.

2. The word *yoke* is used in the Bible for a team of oxen or other animals. See I Samuel 11:7; 14:14; Luke 14:19.
3. The word *yoke* is used in the Bible symbolically for bondage or slavery of one nation to another, or of one individual to another. See Genesis 27:40; Leviticus 26:13.
4. The word *yoke* is used symbolically in the Bible for discipline, restraint, and correction. See Lamentations 3:27.
5. The word *yoke* is used in the Bible as a symbol for God’s commandments, His will. See Jeremiah 5:5.
6. The word *yoke* in the Bible is used as a symbol of the bondage of injustice and oppression. See I Kings 12:4, 9, 10, 11, 14; Isaiah 58:6, 9.
7. The word *yoke* is used in the Bible as a symbol of the power of sin. See Lamentations 1:14.
8. The word *yoke* in the Bible is used symbolically for the bondage of legal teaching and ceremonies. See Acts 15:10; Galatians 5:1.
9. The word *yoke* in the Bible is used symbolically for any union with others, such as believers with unbelievers. See II Corinthians 6:14.
10. The word *yoke* in the Bible is used symbolically for any association with other Christians in God’s service. See Philippians 4:3.

QUESTION: Will you please give a good Scriptural definition of the word slander, and give a few verses that pertain to it?

ANSWER: Slander is a false or untruthful report maliciously uttered or told with the intention of doing injury to the peace of mind or reputation of another. Slander is a direct violation of the commandment: “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” It is a deadly sin since it often ruins character and reputation. The Bible commands us in no uncertain words not to slander our fellows.

The following are a few verses prohibiting slander:

“Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness” (Exodus

23:1).

“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile” (Psalm 34:13).

“Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother’s son.

These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes” (Psalm 50:20-21).

“Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer” (Psalm 101:5).

“He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool” (Proverbs 10:18).

“Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders” (Jeremiah 9:4).

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice” (Ephesians 4:31).

“Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (I Timothy 3:11).

QUESTION: What is the real meaning of the word “Amen” used in the Bible?

ANSWER: This Hebrew word means “to be reliable, sure, and true.” When used at the end of a doxology, it signifies, “yes indeed!” “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen” (Psalm 41:13). “And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen” (Psalm 72:19).

When the listener uses the term, he indicates his hearty assent. “And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too” (I Kings 1:36). “That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD” (Jeremiah 11:5).

When it is applied to Christ, as a proper name, it depicts His faithfulness in carrying out His works. “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God” (Revelation 3:14).



Myanmar

Our Brothers and Sisters holding a Church service in Myanmar.





LESSON I

AARON'S ROD IS TURNED INTO A
SERPENT

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7:1-14.

Golden Text: Exodus 7:3.

“And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.”

1. What did the Lord speak unto Moses, and what was He going to cause Moses and Aaron to do? Exodus 7:1-2.
2. What did God cause to happen to King Pharaoh, and would Pharaoh hearken unto Moses and Aaron? Exodus 7:3-4.
3. Why would the Egyptians know that He was the LORD? Exodus 7:5.
4. How old was Moses and Aaron at this time? Exodus 7:7.
5. What did the Lord tell Moses and Aaron to do with the rod, and did they do as the Lord commanded? Exodus 7:8-10.
6. What did the magicians of Egypt do? Exodus 7:11.
7. What was Aaron’s rod able to do that the magician’s rod could not do? Exodus 7:12. This shows that God is more powerful than Satan.
8. Was Pharaoh’s heart hardened, or did he let the

people go? Exodus 7:13-14.

LESSON II

THE RIVER TURNED TO BLOOD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7:15-25.

Golden Text: Exodus 7:21 (last part).

“...and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.”

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses and Aaron to do, and what were they to take with them? Exodus 7:15.
2. What was Moses to say to Pharaoh, and what are they to do with the rod? Exodus 7:16-17.
3. What will happen to the river and the fish that are in it? Exodus 7:18.
4. Read Exodus 7:19 and then tell in your own words what the Lord said unto Moses.
5. Did Moses and Aaron do as the Lord commanded? What happened to all the waters? Exodus 7:20-21.
6. What did the magicians of Egypt do, and was Pharaoh’s heart still hardened? Exodus 7:22-23.
7. What did the Egyptians do for water to drink? How long did the river stay in this condition? Exodus 7:24-25.

LESSON III

LESSON IV

THE PLAGUE OF FROGS

THE PLAGUE OF LICE AND FLIES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 8:1-15.

Golden Text: Exodus 8:4.

“And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants.”

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Exodus 8:1.
2. What did the Lord say He could do if the king would not let His people go? Exodus 8:2.
3. Describe the plague which would come upon the people in Exodus 8:3-4. How extensive was this plague to be?
4. What did the Lord instruct Moses to have Aaron do? Did Aaron obey? Exodus 8:5-6.
5. Did the magicians of Egypt also cause frogs to come upon the land of Egypt? Exodus 8:7.
6. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. What did he say to them? Exodus 8:8.
7. Moses cried unto the Lord to take the frogs out of the houses, villages and fields. Did the Lord do as Moses asked? Exodus 8:12-13.
8. Did Pharaoh again harden his heart, or did he let the people go as he promised? Exodus 8:15.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 8:16-32.

Golden Text: Exodus 8:24 (first part).

“...and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt....”

1. What was Aaron told to do with his rod, and what happened to the dust of the land when he obeyed? Exodus 8:16-17.
2. Did the magicians also bring forth lice? Did the magicians realize that God was working through Aaron and Moses when they failed to bring forth lice? Exodus 8:18-19.
3. Pharaoh's heart was still hardened. What warning was Moses to give to Pharaoh if he did not release his people? Exodus 8:20-23.
4. Did the Lord do as he had warned Pharaoh? Exodus 8:24.
5. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. What did he say to them? Exodus 8:25.
6. How did Moses answer Pharaoh? Exodus 8:26-27.
7. Pharaoh again wanted the Lord to take the plague away from him. Did Moses ask the Lord to do this? Exodus 8:28-30.
8. The Lord did as Moses asked and removed the flies from Pharaoh and his servants. Did Pharaoh let his people go as he promised? Exodus 8:31-32.

THE EMPTY ENVELOPE

"Mother," said a little girl one day, "you and Father get letters, but I get none. Why? I can't understand!" Said Mother, with a smile, "Jessie, a received letter is often like an answered payer—you get it because you've asked for it. How can you expect to receive a letter if you don't write one?"

Jessie said, "Then I'll write one. I can write a little. I'll write to Uncle Charles in Scotland. May I?"

"Yes dear," said her kind mother. And so Jessie wrote the letter, and having received a stamp from her mother, she put it on the envelope she had addressed and posted the envelope.

But no answer came, though she waited for days.

"You see, Mother," she said, "it's no good. Uncle will not write to me."

"But," said Mother, "what did you say in your letter?"

"Oh! I forgot—lots."

"Did you post it?"

"Yes, I posted the envelope."

"But what about the letter?"

"Oh, I don't know what became of that."

"You mean you posted the empty envelope?"

"Yes, I don't think the letter mattered much. There was nothing worth reading in it. It was a scribble."

"Foolish child," said Mother. And then she taught her little daughter a lesson which her child still remembers.

"Jessie dear," said she, "do you not sometimes pray, but there is nothing in your prayer for God? I've heard you pray: "Our Father who art in heaven", and "gentle Jesus, meek and mild," and "Be present at our table, Lord," thoughtlessly repeating the words, and not feeling or really meaning what you have said. It has been like sending an empty envelope to God, for only true and heartfelt prayer reaches Him. Think about what I have said, dear."

Jessie began to think about it, and presently she too felt how solemn it was to speak to God—to send Him a prayer, and yet for Him to find nothing in it that He could answer.

But by and by Jessie yielded her heart to the Savior,

and learned to know, to love, and to trust Him. Then when she prayed there was something inside her prayer for God. It was like a full envelope, written letter inside it, and not like an empty envelope.



MAKING SUNSHINE

When days are dark and rainy,
And I am feeling blue;
My mama tells me gently
The things that I should do.

She says that I should never
Be cross or sulk or pout;
Or keep complaining all the time
Because I can't go out.

Instead, I should be happy,
And smile and laugh and play;
And frolic with the baby
On every dreary day.

She calls this making sunshine
When there is none outside;
And tells my papa when he comes
That I'm her joy and pride.

—Sunshine for Little People

**HOW OLD WAS JOSEPH
WHEN HIS BROTHERS SOLD HIM?**

Start with the number of years Moses led the Hebrews in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33).

Subtract the number of chapters in the book of Jude.

Divide by the number of crosses on the hill where Jesus died.

Add the number of chapters in the book of Ruth.

You now know how old Joseph was when He was sold by his brothers.



MAKE YOUR OWN SUIT OF ARMOR

In the days of old, when knights were bold and went off to try to rescue the Holy land from the infidels who then held it, they took a coat of armor along to protect them when fighting their battles. You would find one of their suits of armor awkward and rather heavy. However, you can make yourself a most useful and effective suit of armor, exactly your own size and weight to war as you fight your battles to keep your land a holy land. Paul calls it the "...armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day..." (Ephesians 6:13). Fill the blanks in the following texts, and you will have a suit of armor that will last a lifetime if you keep it bright and shiny by constant use.

1. "An helmet of _____ upon his head." Isaiah 59:17.
2. "He put on _____ as a breastplate." Isaiah 59:17.
3. "Having your loins girt about with _____." Ephesians 6:14.

4. "And your feet shod with the preparation of the _____ of peace." Ephesians 6:15.

5. Your shield may be either (a) "the shield of _____, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16), or (b) "His _____ shall be thy shield and buckler" (Psalm 91:4).

6. "And the sword of the _____, which is the _____ of God." Ephesians 6:17.

**FORTYDAYS
AND
FORTYNIGHTS**

Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-17;

Mark 1:9-11; 12-13.

Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-2.

Use the number code to solve this puzzle.

- A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6,
- G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12,
- M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17,
- R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22,
- W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26

"13,1,14 19,8,1,12,12 14,15,20

12,9,22,5 2,25 2,18,5,1,4

1,12,15,14,5." "20,8,15,21 19,8,1,12,20

14,15,20 20,5,13,16,20 20,8,5

12,15,18,4 20,8,25 7,15,4."

"7,5,20 20,8,5,5 8,5,14,3,5

19,1,20,1,14."

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THE PRIDE OF LIFE

(Psalm 74-78)

By Pat Evans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

