



# *The Advocate of Truth*

*Watch*

*When Is  
God  
Judged?*

*Living By  
Faith*

*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2:2).*



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*About The Cover: This photo was taken near Seward, Alaska in the month of June. You can still see traces of snow on the mountain.*



# *LIVING BY FAITH*

The Scriptures declare, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). The Scriptures also declare, "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23).

The child of God lives by faith! "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God..." (Galatians 2:20).

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4).

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

The child of God not only lives by faith, but he also stands by faith! "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear" (Romans 11:20).

Let us hear the Apostle Paul's admonition to the Corinthian church: "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand" (II Corinthians 1:24).

The child of God also walks by faith! "And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised" (Romans 4:12).

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7).

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6).

The child of God lives, stands, and walks by faith that

he may obtain a good report! "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report" (Hebrews 11:1-2). The child of God's faith gives a good report to God.

The child of God overcomes the world by faith! "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). One must have faith in God and all of His promises. Real faith is overcoming power!

The child of God resists the devil by faith! "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Peter 5:8-9). Resist means to stand against, to withstand, to oppose. When the devil tries you, resist him, and he will flee from you. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). The child of God must stay sober, be vigilant, for his adversary is subtle and strong. He must seek God's help when combating him. He could never resist without Him.

This is triumphant and victorious living. If the child of God continues to live by faith until the end, he can say with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8).

# When Is God Judged?

By David DeLong



Suppose you woke up one morning and read these headlines in your newspaper: “God is on Trial for Crimes Committed.” You would know, without a doubt, that such an allegation is preposterous, and the one bringing such an allegation is a horrendous liar.

But wait! Haven’t we been guilty on occasion of bringing such allegations against the Lord? Whenever one says, “Why me, God?” to a negative situation in life, or, “I don’t deserve this!” he or she is flinging before the universe the charge that God is not just. Or, in other words, God is being put on trial for crimes committed.

Now, I would like to make a forthright statement: Life is not always fair, but God is just. Why, for instance, is it that some people suffer horribly with great pain for years and years, while others live life in the best of health? Why do some have riches, while others live in poverty? Sometimes the answer is found in cause and effect. One person may abuse his body with riotous living and therefore suffer for it, while another may take good care of his body and be blessed for it. Or, someone else may work hard enabling her to enjoy riches, while the life of poverty may come to a person of slothful attitudes. But, this is not always the case. Some people suffer for reasons beyond our ability to know why.

However, God is just! Nothing that His children experience will ever go unnoticed (see Psalm 33:18,19.) Nothing they need will go unprovided (see Matthew 6:25-34.) Nothing they do for Him will go unrewarded (see Matthew 10:40-42.) God is also good. We read about His goodness in Matthew 7:7-11: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

And yet, incredibly, God is blamed for a host of wrongdoing from a number of sources. Satan accuses the Lord of being unjust, the world gladly takes up that accusation, and, as we’ve already mentioned, sometimes even God’s children hint at the same thing. Let’s take a look at some of these unfounded accusations.

First, Satan is known as “the accuser of our brethren” (Revelation 12:9,10.) We find an accusation being levied against Job by Satan 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.”

Satan was not only accusing Job of potential unfaithfulness to the Lord, but he was also subtly accusing the Lord of being unjust. In other words, Satan seems to be implying that only those who are greatly blessed with the Lord’s material goods and who are hedged about with His protection are the ones who will serve Him. Thankfully, Job and many other saints throughout history have proven Satan wrong.

Satan has pictured God as being a cruel tyrant through the false doctrine of everlasting torture in hellfire. Many have turned away from a God that they believe to be unjust for making people pay for their sins in an agonizing eternity. It is true that there will be a lake of fire into which unrepentant sinners will be cast, but the fire will completely annihilate them (see Revelation 20:13-15; Malachi 4:1-3.)

Second, the world blames God for practically everything that is bad in it. Some even claim that God doesn’t exist because of all the wars, famines, suffering, and hatred that they think He certainly would put an immediate end to. Many centuries ago, some heretical “Christians” known as Gnostics believed that there were actually two different Gods described in the Bible--One in the Old Testament, and One in the New Testament. They believed that the God in the Old Testament was mean, spiteful, and rather whimsical, whereas the God in the New Testament was loving, merciful, and just. They also believed, apparently, that part of Christ’s mission was to point people to the New Testament God. Some of the Gnostics went so far as to blaspheme the Old Testament God and His law so as to try to minimize His influence.

Third, sometimes even faithful servants of the Lord speak against Him things which they ought not to speak. Again we go to the book of Job to see a conversation taking place. This time, however, it is between the Lord

and Job rather than between the Lord and Satan. We read in chapter 40, verses 1-8: “Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?” Job was truly sorry for having said things against the Lord because we read Job saying in chapter 42:6, “Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

It is a fact that God is being judged. But we are assured from the Scriptures that He will come out blameless. Notice Romans 3:3,4: “For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” This passage is partly taken from Psalm 51:4 which records David confessing, “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.” These parallel passages appear to be slightly different. In Romans 3 we are told that God will overcome when He is judged. In Psalm 51 we read that He will be clear when He judges. God is both being judged, and He judges others. In either of these events, He is justified from all wrongdoing.

What the world doesn’t understand (and what the Gnostics didn’t comprehend) is that God has two aspects to His loving, holy character. This was described by the Lord to Moses in Exodus 34:5-7. These verses read: “And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the

children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

Notice that the Lord mentioned to Moses the merciful and gracious aspect of His character first. This is apparently how He wants to be known. Only for one reason will the Lord show the other aspect of His character which is judgment and wrath. That reason is for unrepentant iniquity (which involves transgression and sin.) When repentance is shown, the Lord will forgive "iniquity and transgression and sin."

How do we know that God would rather be known for being merciful and gracious? Because that is the way that Jesus was known, and His example showed what the Father is like. Consider Jesus' response to Thomas and Philip in John 14:5-9. "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

The Apostle Peter speaks about the Word of God that was preached unto the children of Israel. In Acts 10:37,38 we find: "That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." We see that Jesus' work (and the Father's too) involved "doing good." Everywhere that Jesus went He only did good to others.

The Lord's work is the most important work in the universe. Let it be our work as well. Our ministering to others is actually showing them God's heart. It is sharing the cure for a dreaded sickness (sin and death), as well as sharing the secret of how to find a vast treasure (eternal life). It has been said that witnessing to someone is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.

Now, an astounding thing seems to be advocated in the pages of Scripture. Though God is never to blame for

wrongdoing; though Satan and others blame Him for committing horrid offenses; nevertheless, He appears to take the responsibility for the sufferings and wrongs of others. Let's look at some possible clues for this.

In I Chronicles 10: 4,5,13,14 we read about king Saul: "Then said Saul to his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. So Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword, and died...So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; And inquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse." In these verses we see that Saul committed suicide by falling upon his sword. He had a choice whether to do this or not. It seems likely that he would have been forgiven for his sins if he had truly repented of them, as David did for his sins. Yet, the Lord "slew him." Even though Saul killed himself, the Lord took responsibility for his death.

Returning to the book of Job, we learn about the intent for harm which Satan wanted to inflict upon the Patriarch. In chapter 1:12 we are told: "And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD." After fulfilling his evil scheme, we find where Satan reports back to the Lord. We read in chapter 2:3: "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? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." Satan inflicted much harm upon Job. The Patriarch lost his oxen and asses, his sheep, his camels, a number of servants, and his sons and daughters. Later, he lost his health. However, the Lord took the responsibility for Job's calamities, saying of Satan, "thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause."

In another example, we read where David committed a great sin in wrongly numbering the children of Israel. This can be found in II Samuel 24:1 which informs us: "And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against

Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.” Now notice the parallel passage to this in I Chronicles 21:1: “And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.” The Bible plainly tells us that Satan “provoked David” to do this sin, but it also seems to indicate that the Lord “moved David” against Israel to allow them to be numbered. The Lord did no sin, but He appears to take the responsibility for the incident.

We know that it was the leadership in Israel which condemned Jesus to be crucified. Furthermore, it was the Romans who actually nailed Him to the cross. The argument could even be made that it was our sins that caused His crucifixion. But in Isaiah 53:10a we find, “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him...” In this verse we find the Lord taking the responsibility for His Son’s death.

But perhaps the most amazing thing of all is how the Lord takes the responsibility for the sins of His people. Consider the fathomless depths of Christ’s love for them in Psalm 69. Here, in verses 5-9 which is considered a Messianic prophecy, we find: “O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother’s children. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.” When Jesus, Who never once sinned, bore our sins, He took them as His Own: “my sins are not hid from thee.” Now, please ponder the last phrase of verse 9: “the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.” To reproach means to blame. Man’s blaming God for things that He never committed, fell upon Christ. In other words, though neither the heavenly Father, nor His Son, ever did anything to be blamed for, Christ took the reproaches (our sin) upon Himself, and died for it. Oh, the wonder of our “holy, harmless, undefiled” Savior. All praises be to Him and the Father of Whom we read: “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed

unto us the word of reconciliation...For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:18,19,21.) The cross of Calvary is the revelation of Who God, and Jesus, are.

Why does the Lord take the responsibility for the sufferings and wrongs of others? First, I would like to propose that He does it so that He can remain sovereign. God is on the throne, and nothing happens without His allowing it to happen. All that does happen, however, is for a righteous reason, and therefore the Lord cannot be blamed for wrongdoing. Second, He takes the responsibility so that He can forgive our sins when repented of. Without God, through Christ, taking the responsibility for our sins, we could not have been forgiven. Had our sins remained our sins, we would have to be punished for them. Furthermore, we cannot handle the guilt from the sins we have committed. The Lord not only forgives us, but through His grace He washes our consciences clean so that we don’t feel defiled.

God will not be on trial for ever. We read in Isaiah 11:9, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” When people come to realize how awesome the Lord is, He will be justified. And what is the Father like? He is just like His Son in character (John 14:9). He is “meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29); He blesses people (Matthew 5:3-11); turns the other cheek (Luke 6:29); goes the extra mile (Matthew 5:41); loves others (Mark 12:31); is merciful (Luke 6:36); is perfect (Matthew 5:48); He is a rewarder (Matthew 6:1-18); a forgiver (Luke 11:4); a provider (Matthew 6:33); He gives good gifts to His children (Luke 11:9-13); and He even sees a sparrow fall (Matthew 10:29-31).

This, of course, is how the Father wants to be known and is how Jesus portrayed Him foremost during the first advent. The other aspect of the Father’s character--that of wrath and judgment which He will be forced to show because of unrepentant sin--will also be portrayed through the Lord Jesus Christ during the second advent.

May we ever represent to the world the Father and the Son in their one true character. May we never be among those who heap reproach or blame upon our holy and righteous Sovereigns. Many today are wondering just Who God and Jesus really are. God’s people are the visible Bible that some will be looking to for that answer.

# Watch

## A Study Lesson

"And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37). Please read Mark 13.

Mark's account draws attention to the great events that would take place during this present gospel age, the period between the first and second advents of our Lord Jesus. The early church lived in faithful expectation of our Lord's promised return, but over the course of time many lost sight of our Lord's promise. However, our Lord's promised return is being revived in this age by those who faithfully study the prophecies of God's Word.

In anticipation of that promise, the Apostle Paul cautioned the Thessalonian brethren "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand" (II Thessalonians 2:2). It was a common basis of faith that the Lord would return some day, but the time was wisely concealed by God. As Paul's ministry drew to a close, he wrote to Timothy and said, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:8).

A few of Jesus' disciples came and asked him the meaning of some of the prophecies of which He spoke. They said, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?" (Mark 13:4). He then briefly, as recorded by Mark, outlined the events that would transpire during this age. Then He added, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (verse 32). These remarkable prophecies are being fulfilled.

We hear the admonition of the Master who said, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (verse 33). Any who have been alert to the sure word of prophecy have been blessed with understanding.

Those who are vigilant note the signs of the times. They also seek understanding through prayer, and they strive to keep their hearts in a humble and teachable con-

dition. They feed upon spiritual food from God's great storehouse of truth. Jesus said, "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch" (verse 34).

Jesus tells us, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (verses 35-37).

## PHILEO AND AGAPE

In the New Testament, there are two Greek words that are translated love. These words are *phileo* and *agape*. *Phileo* expresses the kind of love that is exercised between persons that are close of kin. Matthew 10:37 illustrates this kind of love: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." It is the love that is exercised by those who have received the Holy Spirit, and toward others in whom we see the Spirit operating. From the Greek, we have the word *Philadelphia* which means love of the brethren.

*Agape* is the second word which is translated love. *Agape* is disinterested love. It is a love that will go all out, including those who are not naturally lovable. It is a love that will operate in spite of things that would tend to hinder its operation. This love is the unselfish love of God. *Agape* love is the perfect expression of unselfishness. The epistles of John speak of it: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (I John 4:9). John used it again when he wrote, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John 3:16). This is love out of a pure heart for which we are told to strive.

Let us heed I Timothy 1:5: "Now the end of the commandment is charity (love) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."



# Timothy

## A second-generation believer?

Timothy grew up in a home where the parents were divided on their religious beliefs. Nothing is said of Timothy's father, except that he was a Greek. But he must have allowed his wife Eunice and mother-in-law Lois to teach his young son the Scriptures because Paul wrote, "And that from a child that hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 3:15).

Timothy was not a believer because his mother and grandmother believed. He was standing solidly on his own convictions. His faith was his own.

There are no second-generation believers! Even if our parents were believers, each of us has to study the evidence, be convinced, and make our own decision. Each of us has to say, *"This I believe, here I stand, and this I will do, God helping me."* We cannot expect God to accept us on the merits of our parents anymore than He will condemn us if they were lacking in faith.

Each generation has to internalize their beliefs and make them their own. Each generation has to test and discover anew what it means to be like Christ. We cannot coast on the glory and faith of the past. We cannot claim any merits for what others have done. Our faith, our convictions, and our spirituality have to be meaningful to us and transform our hearts, or they are worthless.

Let us always remember that God will judge and reward each of us according to what we--not our fathers, or sisters, or grandparents have done. Please read II Corinthians 22:12 and Revelation 22:12.

## WAIT A MINUTE

The other day I heard a speaker telling this story. Before he was saved, he had thought he had no need of a Saviour. He had wondered if and how Christians were different from other people. But gradually one specific man began having an influence on him. Was it really possible to live all the time the life this man was living?

Then one day the test came. The Christian man was repairing his car engine. He straightened up very quickly and gave his head a mighty whack. Now, what would he say? Would he go into a rage and use bad language?

The Christian man didn't say a word. He kept quiet, and after a moment continued his work in spite of a pounding head.

So this is it! This man didn't let off a stream of curse words. He didn't get angry or call the car names. This was a difference the speaker couldn't explain. He was so impressed that eventually he came to find Christ as his Saviour and Redeemer from sin too. If Christ could make such a difference in the life of his friend, then Christ was the One he needed.

Others are watching us, the kind of life we live. Is there any visible difference between my reactions and the reactions of someone who doesn't belong to Christ? There are plenty of everyday opportunities that we can take to be a witness and testimony for Christ. Not always will it be the words we speak. It may be the words we don't speak or the things we don't do that will influence someone for Christ.

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he advised: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

The proverb states it well: "What is in the well of the heart comes up in the bucket of speech."

Selected

# PERSISTENT PRAYER

## A WIDOW AND AN UNJUST JUDGE

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me" (Luke 18:1-5).

Jesus gave His reason for speaking this parable in verse one. The reason was to teach men to always pray and not to faint (give up). He used two persons to illustrate His point.

Let us look at the character and personality of the judge. He was a powerful man who had no fear of God and no respect for man. The persistence of the poor helpless widow was great. Did she have a chance? There was a great battle between them!

I Corinthians 1:27-29 tells us, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence." The question raised in this text is, Will God do less for the ones He loves than the unjust judge did for someone he cared nothing about?

The widow came as a stranger. We come as children of God.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2-3).

The widow came to an unjust judge, but we come to a righteous judge.

The unjust judge said, "Keep your distance."

The righteous judge says, "...Come boldly..." (He-

brews 4:16).

The widow came to an unkind, hardhearted judge. We come to a tenderhearted, caring father.

We read in I Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (I Peter 3:12).

In the first part of Jeremiah 33:3, God told the Israelites to "Call unto me, and I will answer thee..." How much more will He answer His children when they call upon Him? The widow had no friend to speak for her. We have Someone to plead our cause.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (I John 2:1).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5).

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

The widow had no promise nor encouragement. We have the blessed promise. The judge kept putting her off. We are told, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:11-13). "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

The widow had access to the judge only at certain times. We can cry day or night. God's ears are always open to His children's cries.

"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1).

We can call on Him day or night. He never wearies, and He is never too busy to answer our prayers!

# *Children of God In The Resurrection*

Children of God can never see each other for the last time. Although they may be separated by years of time, distance of miles, or the shadow of death, they know they will meet again because they have the promise of resurrection and immortality. The child of God's blessed hope is to be raised from the dead to immortality when Jesus comes to catch them away and take them to the New Jerusalem.

What will God's children be like after they have been made immortal? Will they be transformed into angels? Will they have bodies? If they have bodies, will they be immaterial, invisible, and ghostly? Will they become like some science fiction mythical creature from another solar system? Will they be reincarnated in another person? Speculation is unneeded. The Bible reveals what immortal believers will be like. In immortality, believers will have real, literal material bodies of flesh and bones. They will be like the glorified Christ. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2). "Who (the Lord Jesus Christ) shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philippians 3:21).

One can know what children of God will be like in immortality by knowing what Christ is like. After His resurrection, Jesus had the same body He had before He died, except it had been changed from mortality to immortality. When Jesus appeared to His disciples, they recognized Him as their beloved Master who had been raised from the dead. During the forty days between His resurrection and ascension, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times and revealed Himself in His resurrection nature. He wanted the disciples to know that He had a real body of flesh and bones. "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" (Luke 24:36-39). Yes, the disciples saw Him! He walked among them and talked with them! He ate fish and honey in their presence. "And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them" (Luke 24:41-43).

When children of God become immortal in the first resurrection, they also will have real bodies, They will be able to walk and talk. Suffering, sorrow, and sadness will be no more. They will have perfect joy. God's plan of salvation for children of God includes not a redemption from the body, but a redemption of the body. The child of God's body will not be exchanged. It will be changed. Children of God will be glorified, not apart from their bodies in some indistinct, misty, immaterial condition, but in their bodies which will be transformed from mortality to immortality. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (I Corinthians 15:51-55).



# THE COMPASSIONATE CHRIST

"And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him" (Matthew 20:29-34).

Here are two blind men, who no doubt, had tried many ways and means to receive their sight. They finally met the all sufficient One, the Christ. He was the one who went about doing good, saving the lost, healing the sick, casting out devils and relieving the oppressed. Let us notice that:

## JESUS PASSED THEIR WAY

The blind men heard that Jesus passed by. How did they hear? Was it by someone's testimony or maybe the voice of the multitude? They perhaps heard the multitude following Jesus. They felt the thrill of happy worshipers. All that follow Him are happy! There are no long faces, sour unhappy people among those who truly follow Him. "...happy is that people, whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 144:15).

Their faith was inspired by what they heard. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). He is passing the way of the weary to-day!

## THEIR CRIES STOPPED HIM.

They cried out, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David." The multitude rebuked them. They said that the blind men should hold their peace, or in other words, "Be quiet! Don't make any noise! Or, "don't get emotionally upset." This was an obstacle in their way. But "they cried the more."

On one occasion, Jesus was asked to make His disciples be quiet. His answer was, if they "...hold their peace, the stones would...cry out" (Luke 19:40). Something will always be in your way when you come to Jesus.

These men sought Jesus, not the crowd. "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13.)

Jesus Christ hears earnest prayer!

## HE ANSWERED THEIR CRY.

The wonderful thing about this story is, "And Jesus stood still..." (verse 32). He called them and said, "What will ye that I shall do unto you?"

Divinity stops for frail humanity. The infinite stands still for the finite. The heavenly King stops for earthly paupers. The Son of God stops for mortal man. Such condescension is too marvelous to comprehend. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (I Peter 3:12). "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4). Their need was, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

Let us cry, "Lord, open my eyes." Many need to see His all-sufficient power to save. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

## HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM

What wonderful words! "...Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight..." (Matthew 20:34). Jesus put His love and compassion into action. He touched them. He loves

and touches us. He has neither lost His compassion nor His power!

## HE MET THEIR NEED COMPLETELY.

They received their sight. "They followed him." He met their need physically and spiritually.



"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

The following Scriptures tell us of four things that children of God are made.

### Children of God are made nigh by the blood of Christ

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" (Colossians 1:21).

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10).

### Children of God are made heirs according to the hope of eternal life

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." (Romans 8:17).

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4).

### Children of God are made partakers of Christ

"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end" (Hebrews 3:14). Notice the *if*... "*if we hold the beginning...stedfast unto the end.*"

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..." (II Peter 1:4).

Partakers of divine nature! Partakers of Christ! No human can now understand, but someday it will become clear.

### Children of God are made kings and priests

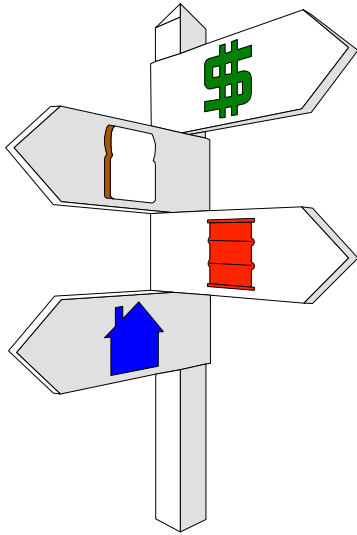
"...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God..." (Revelation 1:5-6).

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ" (Revelation 20:6).

"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests..." (Revelation 5:10).

Someday children of God will no longer be in the "nobody class." If they are faithful to the end, they will be in the "upper class." They will no longer be hated and despised by the world. They will be born of the Spirit!

Isn't it wonderful to be a child of God?



# 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.*

**The Following article appeared in the  
*Houston Chronicle.***

**As food prices soar, some say a "perfect storm"  
is brewing for yet more discontent**

By Marc Lacey  
New York Times

## **Port-Au-Prince, Haiti**

Hunger bashed in the front gate of Haiti's presidential palace. Hunger poured onto the streets, burning tires and taking on soldiers and the police. Hunger sent the country's prime minister packing.

Haiti's hunger, that burns in the belly that so many here feel, has become fiercer than ever in recent days as global food prices spiral out of reach, spiking as much as 45 percent since the end of 2006 and turning Haitian staples like beans, corn, and rice into closely guarded treasures.

Saint Louis Meriska's children ate two spoonfuls of rice apiece as their only meal recently, and then went without any food the following day. His eyes downcast, his own stomach empty, the unemployed father said forlornly, "They look at me and say, 'Papa, I'm hungry,' and I have to look away. It's humiliating and it makes you angry."

That anger is palpable across the globe. The food crisis is not only being felt among the poor but is also eroding the gains of the working middle classes, sowing volatile levels of discontent and putting new pressures on fragile governments.

\* In Cairo, Egypt, the military is being put to work baking bread as rising food prices threaten to become the spark that ignites anger at an oppressive government.

\* In Burkina Faso and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, food riots are breaking out as never before.

\* In reasonably prosperous Malaysia, the ruling coalition was nearly ousted by voters who cited food and fuel price increases as their main concerns.

"It's the worst crisis of its kind in more than 30 years," said Jeffrey Sachs, the economist and special advisor to the U.N. secretary-general, Ban Kimoon. "It's a big deal, and it's obviously threatening a lot of governments on the ropes, and I think there's more political fallout to come."

Indeed, as it roils developing nations, the spike in commodity prices--the biggest since the Nixon administration--has pitted the world's poorer south against the relatively wealthy north, adding to demands for reform of rich nations' farm and environmental policies. But experts say there are few quick fixes to a crisis tied to so many factors, from strong demand for food from emerging economies like China's, to rising oil prices, to the diversion of food resources to make biofuels.

There are no scripts on how to handle the crisis, either. In Asia, governments are putting in place measures to limit hoarding of rice after some shoppers panicked at price increases and bought up everything they could.

Even in Thailand, which produces 10 million more tons of rice than it consumes and is the world's largest exporter, supermarkets have placed signs limiting the amount of rice shoppers can purchase.

"This is a perfect storm," President Elias Antonio Saca of El Salvador said Wednesday at the World Economic Forum on Latin America in Cancun.

"How long can we withstand the situation? We have to feed our people, and commodities are becoming scarce. This scandalous storm might become a hurricane that could upset not only our economies but also the stability of our countries."

Leaders who ignore the rage do so at their own risk. President Rene Preval of Haiti appeared to taunt the populace as the chorus of complaints grew. He said if Haitians could afford cell phones, they should be able to feed their families.

"If there is a protest against the rising prices," he said, "come get me at the palace and I will demonstrate with you."

When they came, filled with rage and by the thousands, he huddled inside and his presidential guards, together with U.N. peacekeeping troops, rebuffed them.

Within days, opposition lawmakers had voted out Preval's prime minister. Fragile in even the best of times, Haiti now walks on the edge, its population and politics simmering.

### COMMENT

This is really a prime sign of the times. Of course the less food that is available, the more it will cost. There are many reasons for the scarce food supply. The above article tells us this and mentions three of them--the strong demand for food from emerging economies like China, rising oil prices, and making biofuels.

We must not forget that drought is one of the main reasons for the high price of food. In Matthew 24, when Jesus was telling His disciples what would transpire as signs that the end of the age was approaching, He said, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matthew 24:7). Notice

the two reasons given for the scarce food supply in the world--famines and pestilences.

The Book of Revelation, concerns itself with events which happen before the end of this age. Revelation 6 tells us of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The third rider and his black horse clearly represents famine. "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine" (Revelation 6:5-6).

We cannot expect famines and pestilences to cease before Christ returns.

### Pastor at megachurch says churches should have guards.

Associated Press

Colorado Springs, Colo.- The senior pastor at a megachurch where a gunman killed two teenage sisters before being shot by a church volunteer recommends that all churches have armed guards.

The Rev. Brady Boyd, pastor of New Life Church, made the comments just before convening a free forum on church security that drew participants from 120 Colorado churches.

"We've had a contemporary experience that can help others," Boyd said, referring to the Dec. 9 shootings at the church.

"We just don't want this to happen anywhere else."

Matthew Murray, 24, killed two people at a suburban Denver missionary training center and several hours later killed the two girls in the New Life parking lot. He committed suicide after he was shot and wounded by a volunteer security guard.

The forum included discussion on emergency planning and the role of church greeters and ushers.

New Life now has uniformed police officers patrolling during Sunday services.

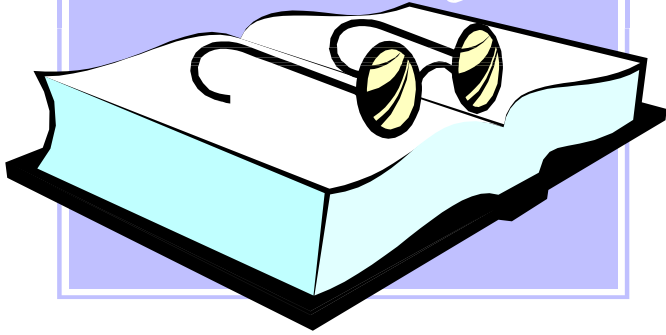
The Houston Chronicle

### COMMENT

Churches, regardless of their denominations, were at one time considered holy and off limits to those who would desecrate them. This article shows us the progress of wickedness during these last days.

# BIBLE

## Study



**QUESTION:** What is the meaning of "scarlet" and "red like crimson" in the well known passage in Isaiah 1:18?

**ANSWER:** The verse reads, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: through your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Why these colors, and not for instance black? These terms may be used because red is such a vivid color, making such deep stains. Smith's Bible Dictionary states: "The only fundamental color of which the Hebrews appear to have had a clear conception was red." Another authority states: "Certain scarlet cloth is first dyed in the grain and then dyed in the piece. It is thus double dyed. In contrast with this, we are to be washed white, like the undyed wool, and even like the snow. This contrast is between a deep stain and purity."

**QUESTION:** "Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones" (Psalm 137:9). Is God telling Israel to be happy in destroying innocent babies?

**ANSWER:** On the contrary, God is not telling Israel to smash the heads of infants against rocks. He is not speaking to Israel at all. He is pronouncing judgment upon Babylon for its great sin in showing no mercy when it destroyed Jerusalem and led the Jews captive.

Here is what God says, "O daughter of Babylon, who

# Questions

## AND

# Answers

art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones" (Psalm 137:8-9).

This is a prophecy in which God is warning Babylon that she will be dealt with in the same manner in which she treated Israel, that she will be destroyed as viciously as she destroyed other nations. The day is coming when an enemy other than Israel will rejoice in its triumph over Babylon, an enemy that will be happy in the slaughter. It was not Israel that destroyed Babylon.

**QUESTION:** Don't you believe that Christians who say that Jesus is the only way to eternal life are narrow minded?

**ANSWER:** In no way! True Christians who follow our Lord Jesus must both DO what He commands and BELIEVE what He said.

In John 14:6, Jesus said: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Therefore, the argument is not with the true followers of our Lord, but with our Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

**QUESTION:** Why must children of God be steadfast?

**ANSWER:** Being steadfast is very necessary in the life of every child of God. By being steadfast with God, one will be at odds with the world. The majority of Israel were not steadfast with God. The Lord wanted Israel to teach the commandments unto their children. "That the generation to come might know them, even the children which



should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:6-7).

The spiritual record of Israel reveals how they were alienated from God because of failing to remain steadfast unto Him with all their heart.

This same exhortation continues today. We read, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you in an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end" (Hebrews 3:12-14). Peter admonishes us to resist the devil, "...stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Peter 5:9).

Steadfastness may be compared to a river. A river continually flows. Sometimes its banks are beautiful, or sometimes displeasing, and its current may be strong or sluggish. The river's surface may reflect the beauty of the flowers in spring and the ferns in summer. It can carry the dead leaves in the fall. Even though in winter it may be covered with ice, nevertheless it continues to flow onward. At the river's source, it may only be a noisy brook but later in the majestic flow ships are carried to the ocean. Often times the current may appear to be turned back or meet resistance by an arm of land, but the main stream moves steadily onward.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Mainstream in the river of life for all His disciples. Though He carried the heavier burden (our sins), yet He never turned from His Father's will. Jesus felt both pleasure and pain, but He never altered His onward movement in obedience. He was totally steadfast. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). Jesus pleased only the heavenly Father--all else remained incidental in His life. In speaking of His disciples, He said: "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord..." (Matthew 10:25).

Let us remember then that, as we experience the joys and sorrows of our lives, so did Jesus. Therefore, like as Jesus remained steadfast, so must we. Consider how strong, peaceful, and deeply joyful our lives may be if we

continue to live steadfast in Christ.

"Blessed are they that do 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:** What was Jesus' first sermon?

**ANSWER:** Luke tells us (Luke 3:23) that Jesus was about thirty years of age when he began His ministry. During His sojourn in Galilee (Luke 4:14), He had already spoken in the synagogues. Mark 1:14-15 mentions these instances, though very briefly, and so does John 2:11.

His first recorded sermon is mentioned in Luke 4:16-28. It was on the Sabbath day, and He took His text from the prophet Esaias. He had passed through the forty days of temptation by Satan in the wilderness, and He was ready for His work.

**QUESTION:** It seems to me that for the Bible even to be involved in prophecy puts it in the realm of speculation and detracts from its credibility and reliability and its excellent teaching on morals. Will you please comment on this?

**ANSWER:** The Bible is about thirty percent prophecy, and for this reason it is absolutely unique. There are no prophecies in the Koran, in the Hindu Vedas or the Bhagavad-Gita, in the sayings of Buddha and Confucius, in the Book of Mormon, or anywhere except in the Bible.

Also there are no prophecies concerning the coming of Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed, Zoroaster, Confucius, or the founder or leader of any other of the world's religions. Our Lord Jesus Christ is absolutely unique in this respect. His coming was foretold in dozens of specific prophecies which were fulfilled in minute detail. These prophecies include His life, death, and resurrection.

**QUESTION:** Was the prophecy in Isaiah 13 regarding Babylon literally fulfilled?

**ANSWER:** Yes, it was literally fulfilled. Babylon is now a heap of ruins. It has never been rebuilt and is uninhabited save by wild beasts. Its extensive ruins are traced on the east bank of the Euphrates River. The region, once fertile, has become a sterile waste, largely marsh. Explorers have made many excavations, but it has never been rebuilt.



## *Panama*

*These photographs were taken during a recent trip to Panama.*





**LESSON I**

**THE FIRST TRIP CONTINUES**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 14:19-28.**

**Golden Text: Acts 14:22.**

**"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."**

**NOTE:** We have been studying about Paul and Barnabas and their missionary journey. We will now continue to study about the places they travel and the people they meet. Do not forget to use your Bible maps to find these different cities.

1. Who came from Antioch and Iconium, and what happened to Paul? Acts 14:19.
2. Where did Barnabas and Paul travel to after leaving Lystra? Acts 14:20.
3. After they had preached the gospel to that city, where did these two men return? Acts 14:21.
4. What did Paul tell them to continue in to enter into the kingdom of God? Acts 14:22.
5. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Acts 14:23? Explain in your own words why you think it was necessary for them to do these acts.
6. Tell where the brethren then sailed. Acts 14:24-26.
7. When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch (Syria), what did they tell to the disciples gathered there? Acts 14:27-28.

**NOTE:** You learned from one of your questions that Paul and Barnabas went back to the very cities where they had been persecuted. What love they must have had for their brethren. They knew they might meet the same

fate as when they first arrived, but the reward would be far greater and worth any persecution they must suffer.

**LESSON II**

**PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 15:36-41; 16:1-15.**

**Golden Text: Acts 16:5.**

**"And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."**

1. Paul asked Barnabas to return to the cities that they first visited. Who did Barnabas wish to take along on their second journey? Acts 15:36,37.
2. Did Paul want Mark to go with them? Acts 15:38.
3. Who did Barnabas and Paul choose to make their separate trips with and to where did they sail? Acts 15:39-41.
4. Who did Paul meet on his journey, and who were his parents? Acts 16:1-2.
5. Were churches being established at this time? Acts 16:5.
6. To what lands were Paul and Silas not able to go? Acts 16:6-8.
7. What vision did Paul see, and did he take heed of this vision? Acts 16:9-12.
8. Where did Paul and Silas go on the Sabbath, and to whom did they speak? Acts 16:13.
9. Tell about the woman they met. Was she baptized? Acts 16:14-15.

**LESSON III**

**A DEMON CAST OUT**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 16:16-40.**

Golden Text: Acts 16:33.

"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."

1. Who met Paul and Silas, and what was her occupation? Acts 16:16.

NOTE: Divination and soothsaying are when someone predicts the future or tells secrets by using magic.

2. What did Paul say to the spirit? Acts 16:18.

3. Tell what happened to Paul and Silas because of this deed. Acts 16:19-24.

4. What did Paul and Silas do while in prison? Acts 16:25.

5. What happened while Paul and Silas were in prison? Acts 16:26,27.

6. What did Paul say to the jailer, and what did the jailer do and say? Acts 16:28-30.

7. Paul and Silas told the jailer to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ". What did the jailer then do that same night? Acts 16:31-34.

8. Explain in your own words what happened in Acts 16:35-40.

LESSON IV

PAUL AT THESSALONICA

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:1-14.

Golden Text: Acts 17:11.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

1. Paul and Silas now enter a synagogue in Thessalonica. What three points did Paul talk about in the synagogue?

Acts 17:1-3.

2. Who believed and listened to Paul? Acts 17:4.

3. What happened in verses 5-9 of Acts 17?

4. What did the brethren then do to Paul and Silas? Acts 17:10.

5. Paul and Silas are now in Berea. How did the people here compare to those in Thessalonica? Acts 17:11.

6. What was the result of Paul and Silas's presence in Berea? Acts 17:12.

7. What did the Jews of Thessalonica do in Berea? Acts 17:13.

8. Who remained in Berea? Acts 17:14.

PERGA

Perga was a town in Pamphylia, and under the Romans was the capital of the province. The word Perga means "doubtless citadel or burg." Paul and Barnabas visited the town on the first missionary journey, both as they went and returned. It was on the right bank of the river Kestros. Nearby was a well-known temple of the goddess Artemis, who was known as the queen of Perga.

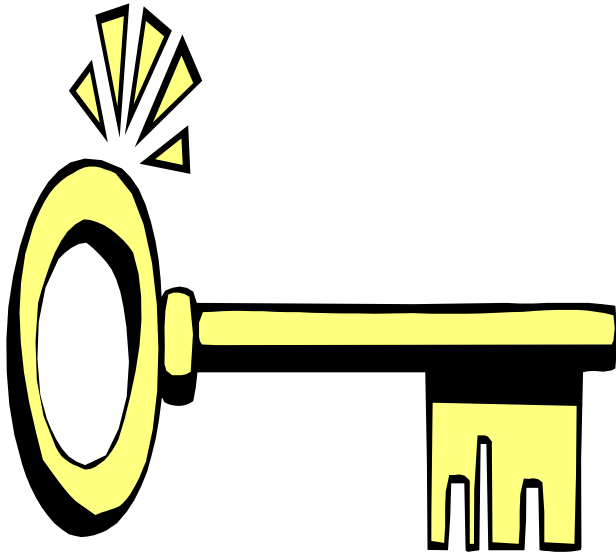
Unscramble the letters to find out what objects Gideon used to fight the Midianites.

IHTPERC.....

RCTOH.....

MRETTUP.....

Answers on Page Twenty-Three



## THE LOST KEY

By Lillian McNeily

"Is that all of the cookie dough, Aunt Mary?" asked Jenny.

"Yes, I will put this cookie sheet in the oven and then we will be ready to clean up the kitchen," answered Aunt Mary.

Aunt Mary was not really Jenny's aunt, but all the children in the neighborhood called her Aunt Mary, and she loved all the children as though they were her own nieces and nephews.

"Why don't you run home and ask your mother if you can eat lunch with me?" suggested Aunt Mary. "I'll fix some soup and sandwiches, and we can have some warm cookies for dessert."

"Oh, thank you Aunt Mary," said Jenny excitedly. "I'm sure mother will let me stay for lunch. I'll be right back."

Jenny ran out the back door and down the street to her house. In a few minutes she was back. As she came into the kitchen she called, "Aunt Mary, Aunt Mary! I can stay. Mother said I--"

Jenny stopped suddenly, for Aunt Mary wasn't in the kitchen. Jenny looked in the living room, and there she saw Aunt Mary kneeling by the sofa. Jenny went quietly

back to the kitchen. Soon Aunt Mary came in.

"I am sorry I shouted, Aunt Mary," said Jenny. "I did not know you were kneeling in the living room. Were you praying? I usually pray by my bed at night."

"Yes, I was praying," answered Aunt Mary. "I pray by my bed at night, too, but you know that God is ready to listen anytime we want to talk to Him. You remember how Daniel prayed three times a day regularly. I am sure that he prayed at other times, too, if he felt he needed special help."

"Oh, I see," said Jenny. "It's like when we pray in the car before going on a trip, or if I should get lost I could pray right then for Jesus to help me find my way."

"That's right. Anytime we have a special problem Jesus is ready to hear us," said Aunt Mary.

"Did you have a special problem, Aunt Mary?" asked Jenny.

"Yes, I did," said Aunt Mary. "You see, just as you ran out the door to go home, the telephone rang. It was Mr. Bradley to say that he would be over to pick up the key to the Community Care Center. I had borrowed it yesterday when I took a bundle of clothes down there. Mr. Bradley gave it to me wrapped in a piece of paper which had 'Community Care Center' written on it. I thought I knew right where it was--in my purse--but when I looked, it was not there."

"When is he coming for it?" Jenny asked.

"He said he was coming right away. Of course, he lives across town; but even so it won't take him too long," Aunt Mary replied.

"So when you couldn't find it you asked Jesus to help you, and now you found it, didn't you?" asked Jenny.

"Wait, not so fast," said Aunt Mary with a smile. "I did ask Jesus to help me, but I haven't found the key yet."

"You haven't!" exclaimed Jenny in surprise.

"That's right," said Aunt Mary. "I have read stories where someone has asked for help in finding something and as soon as he opened his eyes, there it was! But it has never worked that way for me."

"What do you do then?" asked Jenny.

"First of all, I'll go back and look where I first thought the key was, that is, in my purse. Sometimes the first time I look I am in a hurry and I miss seeing what I am looking for. But now I am more calm, and I believe Jesus will help

me find the key if I do my part. Let's go get my purse."

Jenny followed Aunt Mary to the bedroom where her black purse lay on her bed.

"Now I will take everything out of my purse," said Aunt Mary, "and you can help me look carefully to see if we can find a key. I wrapped it up again after I used it, and I was sure I put it right back in my purse."

Aunt Mary and Jenny looked very carefully, but no key was to be found.

"Now what will you do?" asked Jenny.

"Let's see. I had my gray coat on yesterday," said Aunt Mary. "Let's go and look in the pockets. Maybe I slipped it into my pocket instead of my purse."

Jenny ran ahead to where she knew Aunt Mary hung her coat. She and Aunt Mary carefully felt in both pockets but found no key.

"I can't think of any other place to look unless--yes, it might have fallen on the seat in the car," said Aunt Mary thoughtfully. "Let's go out and look there. But first I'd better take these cookies out of the oven. I'm sure they are more than done."

"Ummm. They look just right to me," said Jenny hungrily as she watched Aunt Mary take the cookies out of the oven.

Aunt Mary and Jenny looked on the car seat, on the floor, and even in the glove compartment, but there was no key.

"You must be getting hungry," said Aunt Mary. "Come, I'll get lunch on the table."

"What will you tell Mr. Bradley when he comes?" asked Jenny.

"I am sure we will find it before he comes," said Aunt Mary with confidence. "We have done our best in looking for it, and I know that Jesus will not fail us."

Aunt Mary soon had lunch on the table. They ate silently for a few minutes, and then Aunt Mary stopped suddenly.

"Jenny, I know where the key is," said Aunt Mary calmly.

"You do?" asked Jenny excitedly.

"Yes, I know exactly where it is. Will you go into the hall and look on the telephone stand? I am sure you will find it wrapped in a paper on the left side of the telephone."

Jenny ran quickly into the hall and looked on the telephone stand, and right there the key was--exactly where Aunt Mary said it would be.

"Here it is!" called Jenny triumphantly as she returned with the key in her hand.

Just then the doorbell rang. Aunt Mary went to the door and opened it. It was Mr. Bradley who had come for the key.

"How do you do, Mr. Bradley?" said Aunt Mary. "Won't you come in for a few minutes?"

"Thank you very much," said Mr. Bradley. "I wish I could come in, but I must hurry, for a gentleman is meeting me at the Community Care Center and I do not wish to be late."

Aunt Mary handed Mr. Bradley the key, and he hurried on his way. As Aunt Mary closed the door she said, "Jesus never fails. He helped me remember where the key was just in time to give it to Mr. Bradley so that he would not be late for his important appointment."

Before Aunt Mary and Jenny finished their lunch they bowed their heads and thanked Jesus for helping them find the lost key.

## MY HAPPY DAY

I have had a happy day,  
I heard the robins sing,  
While I was eating breakfast,  
And late this evening.

A cardinal and a blue jay  
Flew high above my head;  
I have had a happy day--  
Now it's time for prayer and bed.

Answers to Word Scramble  
Pitcher, Torch, and Trumpet

# David

By David DeLong

A shepherd boy out with his sheep,  
His harp in hand to praise the Lord;  
As he was kept, so did he keep  
The flock his father could afford;  
His love ran deep, and overpoured.

Youthful David slew a lion,  
And also killed a hungry bear;  
Later on, he took Mount Zion  
From Jebusites with courage rare,  
For Jesse's scion strove in prayer.

The Giant fell before his sling,  
The panicked army fled in fright;  
He led God's host through field and spring,  
And killed ten thousands in the fight;  
His heart did wing as birds in flight.

When the youth became a king,  
His kingdom sprang, and soon was great;  
At his height he felt sin's sting  
By taking up another's mate;  
But repenting, saved the state.

David was a special one,  
A real man after God's Own heart;  
And though for all the sin he'd done,  
He trusted God, and did his part;  
A champion - God's work of art.