

The Advocate of Truth

Dirty Windows

My Testimony

The Ways of Men

*Jews, Gentiles, and the
Church of God*

Attitude Adjustment



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This year the Lord's Supper will be held on Monday evening, March 25th, after sundown, which is the beginning of March 26th, Bible time.

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Dirty Windows

By Debra Andrews (Grenada)

While reading the book of Matthew, I came across this quote in chapter 7 and verse 5: "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

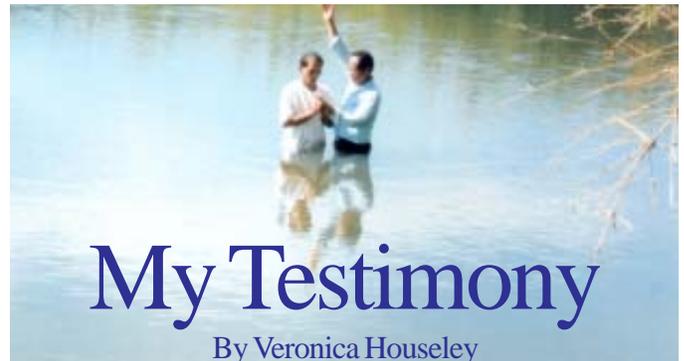
It reminded me of two families, the Smiths and the Matthews who lived next door to each other and had been fighting continuously. Every Sunday the wives would do their laundry, and peering through their windows they would view each other's washing. Mrs. Smith, who had always been the main instigator of the family feuds, would murmur to her husband every time about Mrs. Matthew's washing not looking clean.

One Sunday when she complained to her husband, he decided to take a look, but noticed instead that the same window through which his wife always spied was dirty and needed cleaning. He did not offer any comment but started looking at the rest of the house from day to day and realized it had not been cleaned as well.

The next Sunday as Mrs. Smith came to utter her usual complaint, her husband blurted out: "Judge not, that ye be not judged." "...why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy (neighbour's) eye, but considereth not the beam that is in thine own eye?" "Why, what's the matter?" asked Mrs. Smith. "Well," said Mr. Smith, "while you were looking at Mrs. Matthew's washing, did you not notice our dirty windows? Maybe if you had been minding your own

business, you would have seen that the dirty window was blurring your vision and needed to be cleaned."

Moral of the story: "Don't examine others until you have fully examined yourself."



My childhood was a very happy one. Being an only child to very devoted parents was God-sent. Life was good without any untimely tragedies. It was my parents who introduced me to God. Even though at times as a youngster I'd rather hang out with friends, it was never about not believing in God. Being brought up in a Catholic Church where weekly services were somewhat repetitious, I was comfortable and was never encouraged to ask questions. I realize now that even then I already had my blind faith in God, which in today's intellectual proof-hungry, faithless world seems so silly.

I did not know much then, only that I loved God and

He loved me. I was fortunate that especially my father nurtured me without any prejudice towards any religion. Love is the most important thing. This was my first step towards the life that I have today.

My first test was giving birth to a child with needs at a verily young age. It was unexpected, but with this precious gift My Father taught me the real meaning of motherhood. Today I cannot imagine a life without her. The values that her presence has instilled into our family is one that is priceless: unconditional love, compassion, and patience. He weaved His Commandments into our family. This test turned into a gift of love.

The second test was helping my dearest mother to die in peace. Being an only child and having my father in denial, left me no choice but to do this on my own. Having never seen a dying person, especially one so close to me, made the task at hand seem so overwhelming. But because I did His will and honored my mother, I had faith that He would carry me through this daunting test. God never left me and comforted me in my darkest moments. Unlike my fears, seeing my Mom taking her last breath, brought a sense of peace over me that is hard to explain. Another challenge was turned into victory.

My third test was the loss of Ken who was my very best and dear friend. When he died, I felt like a part of me died with him. And if it weren't for the children, I don't know how I would have survived this pain. Many wondered why such a man of God had to suffer the way he did. And if there was a God, how He could have been so cruel to take a father away of 5 young children who still needed him so much. Tiffany mentioned a few weeks ago that each and every one of us has a purpose in life. Ken's purpose was fulfilled. He finished the race well. His love for God was immeasurable, and he lived an uncompromised, godly life until his last days. This was quite an accomplishment, through God, especially in the world we live in today. Through my grief, I never lost faith and understood that this too is a test that I needed to go through. Ken's death changed me from lukewarm to hot. I have been given an opportunity to show our Father my commitment to Him, and to put my money where my mouth is and start living a life that is worthy of His promise. Again my Father knew my needs before I did. Plain and simple, Ken showed me the way and needed to die so that I, and many that he touched, can live. This was a sacrifice worth paying, Ken would say.

The fourth test was the sudden death of my sweet father. This almost broke me, especially after having lost a loved one just over a year before. Once again, God had my back.

My fifth, and on-going, test will be to be a mother to five teens. Bringing up teens at this day and age is quite a task for two parents, let alone one. Yet I am not afraid to tackle this single-handedly with my Father's guidance.

I serve the one and only living God. I know it, as I am standing here, that He is alive and aware of all. He has proven it again and again. He has carried me through a sea of tests full of stumbling blocks, disappointments, grief, despair, at times even anger. Through it all He delivered me straight through the fire and made me stronger and fearless. I know that nothing can harm me with Him beside me. I am confident that our Father can deliver me out of all situations if He so desires. And if He decides not to deliver, it is because He has better plans for me. I will stand on His decision and serve Him the rest of my life.

Daniel 3:14-30 gives us an example of three men who were obedient to God unto death.

I serve the one and only living God.

Another example is Joseph: how he was betrayed and sold by his brothers, wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife, ended in prison, etc. Through it all Joseph remained a model person, faithful to God and at all times made the best of worst situations. His rewards became greater with each test that he overcame.

Our Father never promised us an easy life in this independent world. This is not His world, but is the world of the Fallen Angel. However, He did promise us a Comforter to protect us during His absence, if we so desire. You see, it is easier to do the wrong thing when we are facing difficulties (i.e. health, or money problems.) We want to take it upon ourselves to fix any problems that we encounter.

From my own experience, I can vouch to you how faithful our Heavenly Father is when we are faithful to Him. Ask for the right thing and it will be given to you. Be obedient and put all your faith in Him.

I might be a babe in the knowledge of the Bible, but

I am certainly not a babe in the knowledge of His love and the knowledge of His might. Exodus 14:21 reads: "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided." We find in Joshua 10:12-13: Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." There is nothing He cannot do.

I might be tested and trials might come upon me. There is nothing that can separate my love for my God. I am honored to be His walking Testimony and to show the world His exceeding power, might and glory. I pray that I remain strong and stay joyful through all suffering. Our Father is a faithful Creator in all things. If we have faith in God, we can do anything.

If you really think about what He did for us so that we can live, it is just inconceivable. He loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son for our sins. His Son Jesus, who was innocent, was spat upon, struck over and over again, and was finally crucified. Jesus' death was very cruel and undeserving. Yet, as an obedient Son He carried out His purpose so that we can have eternal life.

We as parents are prepared to go through fire for our children. Are we prepared to stand by and see our children being abused and killed even if we know it is for a greater purpose? I am not sure I can. My kids know that it doesn't take much for my motherly instincts to kick in. Why is it so hard to understand and realize what God really has done for us? Has our heart grown so cold that it cannot feel the love; have our ears been so full of selfish wax that we cannot hear; have our eyes been blinded by our pride and puffiness?

To the young at heart and the young of age, I say: Don't be discouraged. Don't be afraid, or even embarrassed, to be different or to make a difference. The Fallen Angel will put all kinds of stumbling blocks before you, because you know and have been taught the truth. The ones who are already lost are not of his concern. At times they might even be more successful than God's obedient children. That too is a snare to weaken your

faith. Do not be fooled. God never said that you cannot enjoy this earth. But be steadfast in His knowledge and truth. I was not born into this Church. You can even call me an outsider if you like. Recently, the answer I gave is: I am a Christian, believing that Jesus was God's Son who died for our sins. And I belong to the CHURCH OF GOD. I am a member here because of what the Church stands for. And I am speaking about the salvational points. Like many things in this world, we sometimes don't agree with all. It is all right to agree to disagree. But know the difference between salvational points and points that are meant for guidance.

God's instructions are very simple. Do not overthink and overcomplicate the issues like most of this "intellectual world" does. If you are truly searching, take the first step and be unwavering. Our Father will do the rest. Your storehouse will be overflowing with His blessings. I know, I've lived it.

Like the days of Noah, so shall the last days be. Christ's coming will be like a thief in the night. Some will not know what will hit them until it is too late. As Revelation says we are living at the end of the fifth seal. Jesus will be coming at the beginning of the sixth seal.

Do not procrastinate, there is not much time left to make your choice. Just remember not to leave your heart unoccupied. Once the good Spirit leaves because it is unwanted, 7 ungodly spirits will move in and the way home, if you can find it, will be an uphill battle. God prefers us cold or hot, not lukewarm like most of this world is. As to how He will judge, it is only for Him to know. I often compare this with the rules of the road. If you follow the rules and do not speed, you will not get ticketed. If you do speed, you might or might not get a ticket. And if you get a ticket you can fight it in court and either win or lose. The outcome is dependant upon the judge.

In the Bible, we are clearly instructed to follow the Commandments. These Ten Commandments are definitely connected to our salvation. God is very clear about this and left no stone unturned. Why would you want to risk losing your salvation?

We live in this world today where money, fame, ego, and selfishness have become people's masters. We get easily offended and often resolve it with "an eye for an eye" solution. We are quick to criticize but cannot take criticism easily. More and more people walk with anger. This will only deteriorate them. We are constantly

bombarded by propaganda, consciously or unconsciously approving coveting, adultery, killing and stealing. This might seem trivial and innocent, but is it? Who do you think is behind all this? Isn't it the one who tempted Adam and Eve into this independent life? We have no choice but to live in this world that we have inherited and endure until either our death or Jesus's second coming. Let us be wise while enjoying the good things of this life. Let us never forget who we are and our purpose in life.

Let us distinguish the difference between God's and man's Commandments. Let us be faithful to our Father in heaven who is the Father of all fathers. Let us pray for strength, endurance and wisdom to know the difference.

As for me, I have seen, felt and experienced His power of love first hand. I will pray for continued growth in His knowledge so that I can serve Him better for all the days of my life.

--I dedicate this to my beloved, late husband,
Ken Houseley.



About The Following Article

The ways of men are so unpredictable. We may think that we know someone by what he does and says over and over, but one day he may do and say something completely different.

Being unpredictable can also be related to being double-minded. Here is what James 1:8 says about the double-minded man: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

God wants His children to be consistent in the doing and keeping of His Word. There is a saying that goes something like this, "O consistency, thou art a jewel."

In the following article, Bibi Allicock gives us the example of the unpredictability of King Nebuchadnezzar and other admonitions from Scripture.

Although King Nebuchadnezzar found that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were much wiser than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm,

yet when he wanted his dream interpreted, "Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king" (Daniel 2:2).

However, since they were not walking after God, but after the imagination of their own heart, and the guidance of Satan, they couldn't tell the king his dream nor the interpretation thereof. "The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh" (verses 10-11).

After the Chaldeans and companions couldn't tell the

dream and give an interpretation, let us see how the king handled the matter: “For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain” (verses 12-13). We have a saying which goes, “Peter paid for Paul, and Paul paid for all.” We saw here that Daniel didn’t have any knowledge of what was going on, but since he and his fellows were deemed as wise men, they also had to be destroyed.

Nevertheless, since God was with Daniel, Daniel acted with wisdom. “Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king’s guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king’s captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon” (verses 14-18). Here we noticed that Daniel and his companions asked the Lord that they should not perish with the others. “Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king’s matter” (verses 19-23).

After seeking God concerning the king’s matter, Daniel gave praise and thanks unto His most holy name for revealing it unto them. Thus, after Daniel made known the dream and the interpretation thereof unto the king, Daniel failed not to emphasize that, “The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers,

the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king” (verse 27, last part). “But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets,” (verse 28, first part) “. . . and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass” (verse 29, last part). “But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart” (verse 30). Daniel didn’t exalt himself, but he exalted Almighty God. Thus, the king acknowledged that there really is a God in heaven. “The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king” (verses 47-49).

Since the ways of man are so unpredictable, and the king acknowledged that there is a God in heaven, still it behooved him to make an image, whereby he commanded that everyone in his kingdom must bow down and worship the image. “And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace” (Daniel 3:11). Nevertheless, Daniel and his companions continued to pray unto Almighty God. Thus, He continued to protect them. It was made known unto the king that Daniel’s companions did not fall down and worship his image. “Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace” (verses 19-20).

But although they were the most mighty men in the king’s army, “. . . the princes, governors, and captains, and the king’s counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them” (verse

27). Again Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the presence of Almighty God. “Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God” (verse 28).



But did he subject himself unto Almighty God? No, he did not! “At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of MY MAJESTY?” (Daniel 4:29-30). Thus, God showed unto him who really has POWER, GLORY, HONOUR AND MAJESTY. “While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will” (verse 32).

Thus, the dream and its interpretation were fulfilled because instead of exalting Almighty God, he exalted himself. “The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds’ claws” (verse 33).

There are so many ways in which the Bible shows us that the ways of man are so unpredictable in that while a prophet would prophesy a specific thing, which was revealed to him by Almighty God, instead they hearken

and do the things they want to do that please them. However, we must always remember that, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

Almighty God is so kind towards us that He made us like unto Himself. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26, first part). “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (verse 27). Yet man is trying to teach something called evolution, whereby they claim that man evolved from “monkeys”. Then I must ask, from where did the monkeys come? Well, my Holy Book, which is the Bible, teaches me that all things were made by Almighty God. “And God saw every thing he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (verse 31, first part). “One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. THE THING THAT HATH BEEN, IT IS THAT WHICH SHALL BE; AND THAT WHICH IS DONE IS THAT WHICH SHALL BE DONE: AND THERE IS NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN” (Ecclesiastes 1:4-9).



Almighty God had made life very simple for mankind. “And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed” (Genesis 2:8). “And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, AND THERE WAS NOT A MAN TO TILL THE GROUND.

BUT THERE WENT UP A MIST FROM THE EARTH, AND WATERED THE WHOLE FACE OF THE GROUND” (verses 5-6). No, man hadn’t even to water the plants, but since the ways of man are so unpredictable, instead of yielding himself unto his Creator, he yields himself unto Satan, who misleads him to serve the creature. “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Romans 1:21-32). Amen.



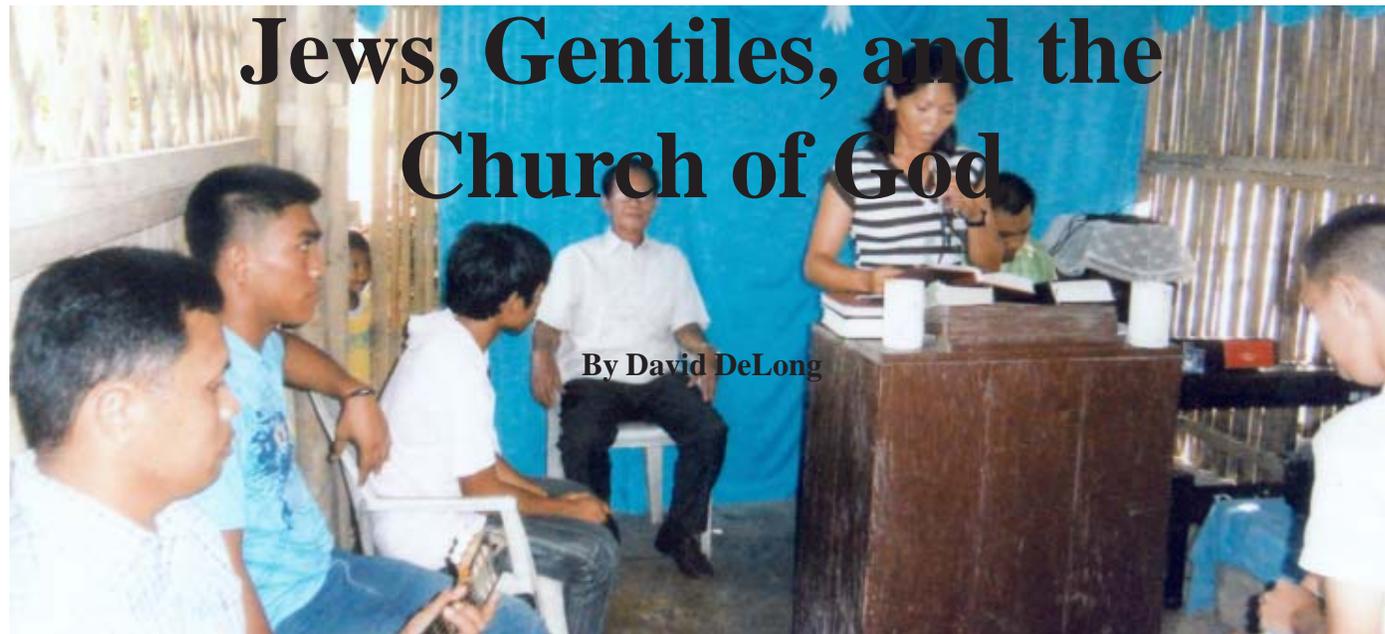
1. “A bird in the hand is worth two in a bush.”
2. “A word to the wise is sufficient.”
3. “A little bird told me.”
4. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”
5. “A stitch in time saves nine.”
6. “Charity begins at home.”
7. “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”
8. “Everything that glitters is not gold.”
9. “Let your conscience be your guide.”
10. “Money is the root of all evil.”
11. “Once in grace always in grace.”
12. “Think twice before you speak.”

NOTE: Many people believe that some of these expressions are biblical. One must read and study the Bible himself in order to please God. Please Read II Timothy 2:15.

--Bond Tennant

Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God

By David DeLong



Some people who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ also claim to be Jews or Israelites when, in fact, they are not. For instance, a number of people claim that they are members of the 144,000 of the twelve tribes of Israel as described in Revelation chapters 7 and 14. This claim cannot possibly be because we read in Revelation 14:4, "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." Let us notice that these 144,000 "were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits..." They were (past tense) redeemed from among men, and they constitute the firstfruits, or the first ones to be redeemed to God and to Christ. In other words, these were the first converts to Christianity and they were from the 12 tribes of Israel. They have been resting in their graves for about 2,000 years now.

At this time let us examine two Bible texts which some people have misapplied to try to prove that they are of Israel. The first one we will examine is Psalm 73:1: "Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart." At the time in Bible history when this verse was written, the only people of God were the Israelites and those few Gentiles who converted to the Lord. The ones, therefore, who had clean hearts were the faithful people of God at that time--Israel. We cannot apply this verse to believers today.

The second text is Galatians 6:15-16: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." The Israel of God mentioned here were those Israelites who believed in Christ (of the 144,000). They were not letting circumcision be a condition for salvation (see Acts 15:1-11 for the false, opposite view of some believing Jews). This passage of Scripture in Galatians does not refer to Israel today for we read in Romans 11:7: "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election (144,000) hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded". Nor does Israel in this passage refer to Christians today because we read above in Galatians 6:15 that "in Christ Jesus" avails "a new creature". We will have more to say on this later.

There is a belief and a teaching in christendom today which says that some of the nations of Europe and the United States make up a portion of the people from the tribes of Israel (British-Israel theory). Those who believe in the theory of British-Israelism contend that some of the inhabitants of northwest Europe and the United States (from Indo-European or caucasian groups) are the physical people of Israel. Let us list now some of these peoples, and then see from whom they descended. This list (of Indo-Europeans) includes Scandinavians, French, British, Slavs, Greeks, Italians, Russians, Spanish, and others.

When we go to Genesis, chapter 10, verses 2-5 we find: "The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations."

According to H. S. Miller, from the book "Genesis Chapters 1-15", by J. Vernon McGee, page 156 we read: "the Scythians, the Slavs, Russians, Bulgarians, Bohemians, Poles, Slovaks, Croatians came from Magog." One of Scofield's notes on Genesis 10:2 informs us: "From Magog are descended the ancient Scythians, or Tartars, whose descendants predominate in the modern Russia." McGee continues: "The Indians and the Iranic races--Medes, Persians, Afghans, Kurds--all came from Madai. From Javan we have the Greeks, Romans, and the Romance nationalities such as French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, etc. Coming from Tiras are the Thracians, the Teutons...the Scandinavians...the Anglo-Saxon race, the English People." Though not all of these peoples are from northwest Europe, we can see that they are descended from Japheth. So then, peoples descended from Japheth make up "the isles of the Gentiles" (see Genesis 10:5).

The 12 tribes of Israel, however, come from Japheth's brother, Shem. This is clearly stated in Genesis 11 and following chapters. We read in Genesis 11:10: "These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood". After listing a number of Shem's descendants, we come to Terah. Verse 26 reads: "And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran." Abram, of course, is Abraham who was the grandfather of Jacob, or Israel. From Jacob descended the twelve tribes of Israel. Just these few passages of Scripture, and history, should make it plain that the Indo-European peoples, who are descended from Japheth, cannot also be the Israelites who are descended from Shem.

We know that the Israelites separated themselves from Gentile peoples. In the book of Acts, chapter 10, verses 1-2 we read: "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God

always." Cornelius was a Roman soldier (Indo-European, likely) in the "Italian band". Peter, who was a Jew (see Galatians 2:14), was given a vision by God of a great sheet descending. This sheet contained a number of different animals. Peter was commanded to eat (of clean animals) from this sheet. Peter declared the meaning of his vision in verse 28. "And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

In Acts 21 we find Paul going into the temple at Jerusalem (see verse 26). Verses 27-29 then tell us: "And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)" Italians, Greeks, and all the other nations descended from Japheth were considered unclean peoples to the Israelites. God had to break down the middle wall of partition which separated Jews and Gentiles.

There is another belief and teaching in Christendom today which says that "Christians" are spiritual Israel. We will prove from the Scriptures that this is a false teaching as well. In the book of Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 11-17 we learn: "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came

and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

In Galatians 6:15 we learned that a person in Christ is a new creature. Here in Ephesians 2 we see that those who are in Christ, both of the Circumcision and of the Uncircumcision, are one new man. Furthermore, we find in Galatians 3:27-28: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (See also Colossians 3:10-11). This, of course, is spiritually speaking. We understand that in the flesh there are still Jews and Greeks, male and female, etc. So then, one cannot call himself or herself a spiritual Jew.

What is the proper name that a true disciple of Jesus is

known as? I Corinthians 10:32 gives us the answer. In this verse we see three groups of people. Paul wrote: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God". If we are in Christ then we are members of His body, the Church of God.

But what is the significance of all this? Does it matter to God if we call ourselves a Jew when we really aren't? Absolutely! Our salvation depends upon it! Notice what the Apostle John wrote in Revelation 2:8-9: "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."



Attitude Adjustment

(Or, Jonah Goes To Nineveh)

By Linda DeLong

I like Jonah. He didn't pretend to enjoy everything that God told him to do. On one occasion, though, he flatly refused to go to Nineveh when God told him to go there. I can almost hear Jonah arguing with God. The conversation might have gone something like this:

GOD: "Jonah, I want you to go to Nineveh and warn the people who live there that I have seen their wickedness, and it has to stop. They have to repent and serve only Me."

JONAH: "I don't want to go to Nineveh. You know how awful those people are! They don't deserve Your mercy and forgiveness! No, I won't go! I'm going to go

down to Joppa and find a ship going to Tarshish. I'm taking a little vacation!"

Jonah is asleep when the captain of the ship going to Tarshish wakes him and tells him to pray to the god he worships. The sailors cast lots to see who is responsible for the terrible storm. Jonah knew that the storm was sent for his disobedience to God. He tells the men to throw him overboard and the storm will stop. The men don't want to throw Jonah overboard, but the storm is so bad that the ship might break apart, and everyone on board could drown.

Jonah, it seems, would rather die than go to Nineveh,

so he again tells the men to throw him overboard and the storm will stop. The sailors pray to God and ask that they won't perish for Jonah's disobedience. They ask God not to hold them responsible for Jonah's death. When the sailors finally throw Jonah overboard, the storm stops. The men know that God is very real and offer a sacrifice and make vows.

God had prepared a huge fish to swallow Jonah. He is inside the big fish for three days and three nights. Jonah had no way of knowing that God had already made provision for him. After being inside the fish for three days and three nights, Jonah prays and God answers. God heard Jonah from the watery grave. Jonah's head is all tangled in seaweed. He goes to the bottom of the sea from where the mountains rise. God pulled Jonah from the grave--alive! Jonah worships God and gives thanks. He promises to do what God had commanded him to do. Jonah recognizes that salvation belongs to God. The huge fish vomits Jonah up on dry land. Does Jonah smell like long-dead fish? Is he covered in seaweed? We aren't given those details.

In chapter 3 God tells Jonah to go and preach salvation to the city of Nineveh. The city is so big that it takes 3 days to walk through. Jonah begins to preach to the city on the first day of his journey. He warns the people that God will destroy the city and all those who live there in forty days if they don't repent of their sins and serve only God. The king of Nineveh hears of the impending judgment of God and lays his robe aside and covers himself with sackcloth and ashes. The king commands that neither man nor beast will eat or drink. The king further commands that men and beasts will be covered with sackcloth and ashes. The king believes that God will turn away from His anger if all the citizens repent. The entire city repents and God spares all the people and beasts from destruction.

Now Jonah is angry. He's really mad that God isn't going to destroy all life in Nineveh. After all, the inhabitants are really bad people. They don't deserve God's forgiveness and mercy. I can almost hear Jonah and God talking again:

JONAH: "This is why I didn't want to go to Nineveh! I knew that if the city repented that You wouldn't destroy

it. I know You are full of mercy and slow to anger. Please take my life from me, Lord! I don't deserve to live!"

GOD: "Why are you so angry, Jonah?"

Jonah ends his conversation with God and goes outside the city and makes himself a small shelter. In love and mercy God sends a gourd to shade Jonah from the heat of the sun. Jonah was thankful for the shade from the sun. But the next day God sends a worm to attack and destroy the gourd that is shading Jonah's shelter. Jonah is angry again and wants God to let him die.

GOD: "Why are you so angry, Jonah?"

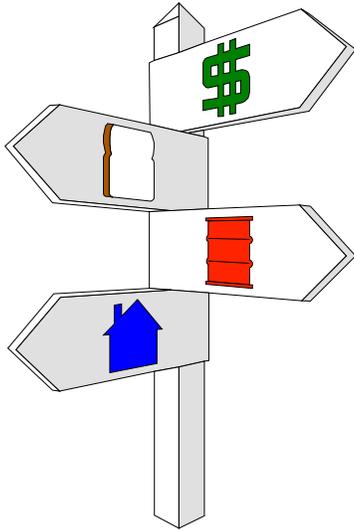
JONAH: "Strike me down, Lord! I don't want to live!"

GOD: "Why are you angry about the shade I made for you? You did nothing to tend the gourd. Why are you so angry that I spared the city of Nineveh? There are more than 120,000 people living there! I will save whom I will save!"

Jonah still has a bad attitude. Jonah wants God's love and mercy for himself, but it seems that Jonah wants to tell God who should be saved and who doesn't deserve to be saved. None of us on the planet deserve anything from God. Isaiah 64:6 informs us: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." God gives us the gift of salvation. We can't ever do enough good works to erase the sins we commit.

God loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die in our place (see John 3:16). Nothing can separate us from God except the sin that we won't repent of. It isn't up to us to determine who will be in God's kingdom. Murderers, thieves, sex offenders, liars--in fact all who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior and follow Him will be in the kingdom. There won't be separate rooms for so-called "good" people and "lesser good" people. I John 1:7 reads: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

It is important to remember that what we do and say is part of our witness to others. Once you have been a bad witness, you can't erase it. You can only repent and ask God to help you grow in His service.



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.

While reviewing the files of previous **Advocates**, I came across an article from the year 1993 entitled *As It Was In The Days Of Noah*. If these conditions in the earth were true in the days of Noah and 1993, they certainly are true today. I have edited and condensed the article.

As It Was In The Days Of Noah

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 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, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:36-39).

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly” (II Peter 2:5).

The people were doing all the things of the day in the type of life they were living. They thought then, as now, that it would last forever, but the flood came on them unaware. The flood came on them as Noah preached, warning them to turn to the Lord. So Christ shall come also at a time when He is not expected. People will not know it is the end. This is what Christ was trying to tell us.

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh

as a thief in the night” (I Thessalonians 5:1-2).

The sounding of the trumpet at the coming of Christ shall be a surprise to the people on the earth, but to the righteous, they shall not be in the dark, as Paul writes: **“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”** (verse 4).

What are we doing today, the same as they did in their day, that would cause our Saviour to make this statement? What would be the comparison? Genesis, the sixth chapter, will give us several clues.

Humanism and Materialism

Humanism: Intellectual movement centered around man.

Materialism: The tendency to be more concerned with material than with spiritual goals or values.

The Lord said, in effect, I am preparing for Myself a spiritual people to teach in My Kingdom. They are not to be concerned with the material things of the world, for they who are interested in material things will perish with them. Therefore those few who are willing to be My servants must make a decision to be led of the Spirit and not to be of the world of materialism.

The flesh and the pleasure of both men and women has gone insane with the desire of the flesh: food, sex, drink, and all pleasure of wickedness.

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

So the thoughts of man are self, power and greed. Most people have forgotten, or never knew, true values and the things pertaining to God. This is why the Lord shall come in a time when almost all are entertaining themselves with the pleasures of the world, and they will be greatly surprised.

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth” (Genesis 6:11-13).

The news today is of violence and corruption. We are born to be violent persons, to sin and disobey. We have to be taught to be good and obedient to parents and God. It does not take a child long to learn to have his own way, to throw a fit, to yell out, curse, and all these things a child will do if he is not taught otherwise. The people went their way. A great number of people crave power and material things, and will go to any length to get them. They will rob, kill, and destroy to cause violence and corruption in the world.

Politics is rotten from the ground floor up. There are those in government who crave power and the material benefits that go with it. Homes are not safe from the criminal. Businesses are robbed daily by them, and it will not end until the Lord returns. All one has to do is watch the news (if you can stand it) and you can see to what the Lord refers.

Why was Noah saved from the flood? One word will explain why. “Noah was righteous.” Peter used this word, “Noah was a preacher of righteousness.” Only the righteous will be saved. This is the key, and only they will see and understand the signs of the time. They may not know the day or the hour, but the righteous will know by these signs of the time of the coming of the Saviour.

There are ministers who say that they and their congregations are all sinners. Do they not know that **“He that committeth sin is of the devil..”** (I John 3:8). If this be so, then they are of the Devil, and sinners cannot save sinners. **“... whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother”** (verse 10).

Noah was saved because he was righteous, and those saved today also must be righteous. Whoever sins does not know Him, and neither can one love God if he has forsaken Him. How have we forsaken Him? We do not listen to Him because we love sin more than Him. We make our own rules, and we are lovers of self rather than lovers of God. We are followers of men who preach and teach the doctrines we like to hear. It is evident that people

have stopped following the Lord. We can see this in religion. Some follow the Devil and not the true teachings of God.

Yes, our downfall is “Humanism and Materialism.” All seems to center around these rather than the spiritual goals and true values.

Trashing The New Testament

There appeared an article in the HOUSTON CHRONICLE which told of an Israeli lawmaker tearing up a copy of the New Testament which had been sent to Israeli lawmakers by the Bible Society of Israel in order to foster good will among the religions.

He blamed Christianity and the New Testament for the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe that led to the slaughter of millions of Jews throughout history including the Crusades and Holocaust. According to the article, the lawmaker said that sending this book to members of Parliament is a provocation, and the appropriate response is to send this book and what it represents to the rubbish bin of history.

It is sad that this lawmaker thinks that Christianity was responsible for the persecution and death of so many of his people. If he had read the New Testament, he would have understood that true children of God, who are followers of Jesus, were not responsible for the persecution and death of so many of his people either then or now.

There are many today who try to tell us that many wars have been fought in the name of Christianity. From the standpoint of nominal Christianity this may be true. In these last days, let us be kind to others and do unto others as we would have others do unto us.

Nominal Christianity does not seem to want to walk in the peaceful footsteps of Jesus.

Atheist Fellowship

I read that a former pastor and church planter has openly declared that he is an atheist, but he thinks that fellowship with other atheists is important. Therefore, he launched a fellowship for atheists which he says is grounded in reason rather than revelation.

He spent much time in preaching something that he did not believe. This is proof that he had never been convinced that God exists in the first place. Scripture says, **“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). He was just using the ministry as an occupation, not a calling.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What is the glory referred to in Haggai 2:7?

ANSWER: Let us read the verse: "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts." The glory mentioned here is the millennial glory connected with our Lord's return and reign.

QUESTION: Is the word "Selah," which is found over seventy times in the Psalms, an Old Testament equivalent to "Amen?"

ANSWER: No, it is not. The Hebrew word "Selah" seems to suggest a pause, or cessation. It may be indicating a moment of silence or an instrumental interlude. It is not spoken aloud as a part of the psalm or said in confirmation of the words which precede it.

QUESTION: Where can I find the proverb, "Spare the rod and spoil the child", in the Bible?

ANSWER: You cannot find it in the Bible. It comes from *Hudibras*, a seventeenth-century satire by Samuel Butler. However, there is a similar saying in the Book of Proverbs: "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24).

QUESTION: Is the Bible dependable?

ANSWER: Ever since the creation of mankind, Satan has been continually working to dominate him in many ways. One of Satan's efforts since Jesus was on the earth is to cause unbelief in the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures. One of the most used comments by God's adversary through people of the world is this: "Down through the centuries, much of the real truth of the original Holy Writings has been lost due to the translations and the changing of the languages." Many people believe this deceitful comment. It is mentioned many times today, and sometimes even from people in high offices. This makes the thought to appear more truthful. The whole concept of the unreliability of the Scriptures is completely false.

Over the centuries, the Scriptures, our Bible, has been proven beyond any shadow of doubt to be completely accurate in all its prophecies that have been fulfilled thus far – even down to some details which were foretold. We challenge any person to find one false idea or prophecy in the Scriptures.

For many years, following the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Scriptures used was what we call the Old Testament. This was the only Scriptures available at the time, and it was the Old Testament that Jesus admonished His disciples to read. "Search the scriptures;

for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). Today, these same words are repeated unto us in our Bibles through the letters we have available to us from the early brethren in the church. We are to study and search the complete Word of God which includes the Old Testament. The Old Testament foretells of what the New Testament fulfills. To study one without the other will give the reader an incomplete picture of what God has actually accomplished for mankind through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, we own unending thanks to God for using a select group of Israel to insure the continuing accuracy and reliability of the original Scriptures. This group of Israelites was called Masorites. Through the Masorites, we have today the Masoretic Text of the Old Testament. Masoretic is the most authentic of all Hebrew writings of the Scriptures. The Masorites took over the copying of the Old Testament manuscripts from the scribes of Israel. The work by the Masorites was continued from about 500 A.D. to 1000 A.D.. The Masorites worked with meticulous care. “For each book of the Old Testament they counted the number of verses, words, and even letters. They went so far as to identify the MIDDLE LETTER of EACH BOOK! By counting all the letters, they could make sure that not one had been added or left out. This meant that the text was now copied with greater accuracy than ever before. With the extreme care the Masorites gave to the copying of the Scriptures, this text has come down to us from the Middle Ages with little change. And since the fifteenth century it has been fixed solidly in print.” (Taken from "How We Got Our Bible", pages 46 and 47).

There can be no question about it, the Lord has preserved His Word for all generations that they may come to know Him and His will for mankind. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish,

but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

The Holy Scriptures are accurate with Truth expressed in every thought therein. We would do well to consider the diligence of the Masorites in their effort to maintain the accuracy of God’s Word for us. It would behoove us to place the same importance and diligence upon our personal studies into God’s Word. Therein we shall find God’s will and the living truth for all mankind of every age and generation.

QUESTION: Jesus said, “...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). What is the meaning of the word “suffer” that Jesus used when speaking of little children? Does it pertain to the pain or privation of little children?

ANSWER: When the multitudes flocked after Jesus in Judea, several parents brought with them children to be blessed. The disciples rebuked them or turned them away. That is when Jesus said the words found in Matthew 19:14.

In this context, the word “suffer” means “allow” or “do not hinder.” A good analogy of this word is “women’s suffrage” which means that women should be allowed to vote. Many English translations render Jesus’ words as “Permit the children to come to me,” or “Let the children come.”

QUESTION: What is involved in taking the Lord’s name in vain which is forbidden by the third commandment of the Ten Commandments?

ANSWER: To many people, taking the Lord’s name in vain is simply biblical language for swearing. Taking the Lord’s name in vain also means to invoke God’s blessing upon something that He condemns such as invoking a curse, uttering a false oath, or seeking His blessing in a magical rite or ceremony of divination.

NOTE: Would not the observance of the pagan holidays of Sunday, Christmas and Easter fall under the heading of invoking God’s blessing upon something that He condemns?



The Philippines

The brethren in Libas, Jabonga, Agusan Del Norte, Mindanao.



*Baptisms at Cabingtan, Ormoc City,
Leyte*



*Baptism at Bayugan Dam, San Miguel,
Bohol*



Baptisms at Bayugan Dam, San Miguel, Bohol



Youth and other brethren in Libas, Jabonga, Agusan Del Norte



LESSON I

DAVID FLEES THE COUNTRY

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 21:1-15.

Golden Text: I Samuel 21:10.

“And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.”

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson how Jonathan warned David with the arrows that Saul was still angry. Jonathan was heir to the throne, but he had learned that God had ordained David to be king. Now we shall see why David flees to Ahimelech.

1. David went to Ahimelech, the priest. What did he tell Ahimelech? I Samuel 21:1-3.
2. What was the priest's answer to David's request? I Samuel 21:4.
3. Did David receive the hallowed bread? I Samuel 21:6.
4. What servant of Saul was there that day? I Samuel 21:7.

NOTE: Doeg will play an important part in the story of David as we will learn in future lessons.

5. What did David ask Ahimelech to give him? I Samuel 21:8-9.
6. Why did David flee, and where did he go? I Samuel 21:10.
7. Was David afraid of Achish? I Samuel 21:11-12.
8. Why did David pretend to be insane? I Samuel 21:13-14.
9. Was Achish doubtful then about accepting David in his presence? I Samuel 21:15.

LESSON II

DAVID A FUGITIVE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 22:1-11.

Golden Text: I Samuel 22:1.

“David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.”

NOTE: We studied in our last lesson how David escaped to the Philistines and feigned insanity. It was at this time that he composed Psalm 34. David senses danger among the Philistines, so let us see where he goes now to get away from it.

1. To what place did David escape, and who gathered there with him? I Samuel 22:1.
2. How many men were with him? I Samuel 22:2.
3. Where did David then go? I Samuel 22:3-4.
4. Where did the prophet Gad advise David to go from there? I Samuel 22:5.
5. Did Saul discover where David was? I Samuel 22:6.
6. What did Saul say unto his servants in I Samuel 22:7-8?
7. Did Doeg, the Edomite, who saw David with Ahimelech, tell Saul what he had seen? I Samuel 22:9-10.
8. For whom did Saul then send? I Samuel 22:11.

LESSON III

SAUL SLAYS THE PRIESTS

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 22:11-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 22:21.

“And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.”

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that David hid from Saul in a cave. He now has about 400 men under his command. King Saul learns that the priest, Ahimelech, helped David by giving him food and the sword of Goliath. We will now study what King Saul does out of his anger towards David.

1. Saul called for Ahimelech and all his father's house to come before him. What did Saul say unto him? I Samuel 22:11-13.
2. What was Ahimelech's answer to Saul? I Samuel 22:14-15.
3. What did Saul then decide to do with Ahimelech and his family for helping David? I Samuel 22:16.
4. What did Saul instruct his footmen to do, and did they follow his command? I Samuel 22:17.
5. Who then did Saul order to kill the priests, and how many were slain that day? I Samuel 22:18-19.
6. Did anyone escape? I Samuel 22:20.
7. Did Abiathar tell David that Saul had slain the Lord's priests? I Samuel 22:21.
8. Did David know immediately who had told Saul? I Samuel 22:22.
9. What did David advise Abiathar to do in I Samuel 22:23?

LESSON IV

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE AT EN-GEDI

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 24:1-22.

Golden Text: I Samuel 24:12.

“The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.”

NOTE: We have been studying how David has had to flee from King Saul as he was trying to kill David. In chapter 23, you may read of David's flight to Keilah, Ziph and Maon. Now David is in the wilderness of En-gedi, and we are going to see how Saul is trapped, and David refuses to come to the throne by blood.

1. When Saul returned from following the Philistines and found that David was in the wilderness of En-gedi, what did he do? I Samuel 24:1-3.
2. What did David do to Saul in I Samuel 24:4?
3. Was David sorry he had done this to Saul? Did he have mercy on Saul? I Samuel 24:5-7.
4. David arose and went out after Saul. What did he say to him? I Samuel 24:8-11.
5. Tell what David said to Saul in I Samuel 24:12-15.
6. What was Saul's reaction in I Samuel 24:21?
7. What did Saul request David to do? I Samuel 24:21.
8. Did David promise to let Saul go home without harm? I Samuel 24:22.



It is seldom one finds a boy or girl who does not like his or her name. As a girl, I acquired many nick names -- some I did not like so well. As I grew older, I learned the thing that really counts is your heart; and your name, regardless of it, will grow charming if your heart keeps right.

Some foreign names sound strange to us but have a beautiful meaning. Indians name their children meaningful names, and the children are expected to live up to their names.

Do you know the meaning of your name?

A long time ago a good woman named Hannah was sad because she had no children. One day she told God that if He would give her a son, she would lend him to the Lord all the days of his life.

Finally God granted her request, and she named the boy Samuel. Samuel means, "asked of God." When he was old enough, his mother took him to the temple of the Lord where he served Eli, the minister. God talked to Samuel in the night and gave him messages for Eli.

Years ago, in the days of Herod, a man named Zacharias asked God for a son. An angel appeared to him and told him his prayer was heard, and that he would have a son, and that his name should be called John. John means, "The Lord is Gracious." He was great in the sight of the Lord, and he turned many people to God. He prepared them to meet Jesus. In those days, an angel also appeared to a young woman by the name of Mary. He told her she would have a son and that His name would be called Jesus. "Jesus" -- how sweet the name sounds.

His name means "Saviour." He came to save the people from their sins. Think of it, boys and girls, the only "Son of God" was sent down from heaven to save us. It is hard to understand, is it not, how Jesus was with the Father when the world began, how He came as a baby, grew up, and then returned to heaven again to be with the Father? We must accept this by faith, for by faith we are saved. Do you want to be saved and have your name written in the book of life? Of course you do. You will want to be on the New Earth, described in Revelation the 21st chapter, where there will be no sickness, sin or sorrow. You will not want to miss being in the great city, the holy Jerusalem that comes down from God out of Heaven (see Revelation 21:10). It is a place where you can eat of the tree of life, and live forever.

Read Revelation 22:14 to know how you may have a right to enter into the city, and to eat of the Tree of Life, and live forever.

You will also want to receive the white stone with your new name written on it, which no one will know, except the one who receives it.

Boys and girls, what is your aim? Jesus is coming soon. Are you preparing to meet Him, and to live on the New Earth? Be prepared. It is too wonderful to miss.

You can then rejoice and say, "This is my God. I have waited for Him."

TO LOVE IS TO OBEY

**When Mother has a job for me
I must not ask her why
Or say, "Some other time would be
Much better." I must try
To do my best so she can see
I love her more than I love me.
When God's voice whispers in my ear
I must not make believe
I am so deaf I cannot hear
For then my Lord would grieve.
No, I must show I love Him, too,
By doing what He wants me to.**

“FIND THE STORY”

Using the clues below, tell the rest of the story.

1. A dove. A raven. A boat. A rainbow.
2. A knife. A load of wood. A ram. A thicket.
3. A bow and arrows. A blind man. A boy who put on his brother's clothes.
4. A fine coat. A dry pit. Two dreams. A seventeen year old boy.
5. A food shortage. A long journey. Spies. Refunded money.
6. Flies. Lice. Frogs. Hail and other unpleasant things.
7. Some stalks of flax. Three days' hiding. A scarlet thread in a window.
8. Seven priests. Seven horns. Seven days. A great shout. A captive city.
9. Soldiers. Lamps. Trumpets. Broken pitchers.
10. A bee's nest. A wedding. A fight with a lion.
11. A royal visit. A camel train. Spices. Precious stones.
12. A sleepless king. A history book. The king's horse. The king's clothes. A triumphal procession.

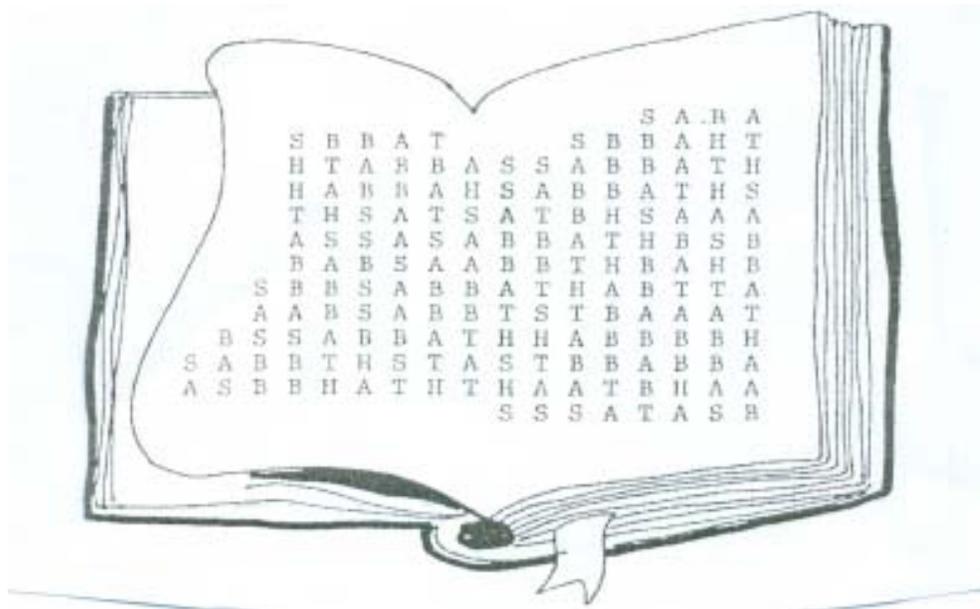
13. A tall tree. A tree stump. A dream. The king who ate grass.
14. A ship. A storm. A man asleep. A great calm.
15. Two fish. Five loaves of bread. Twelve baskets.
16. Two servant girls. A rooster. A man who snore.
17. Three women. Sunrise. Sweet spice. A great stone.
18. An upper room. Weeping woman. Many coats.

SCRAMBLED BIBLE CHARACTERS

Do you recognize the following Bible characters? Look hard, but here's a tip: each name begins with the letter "S."

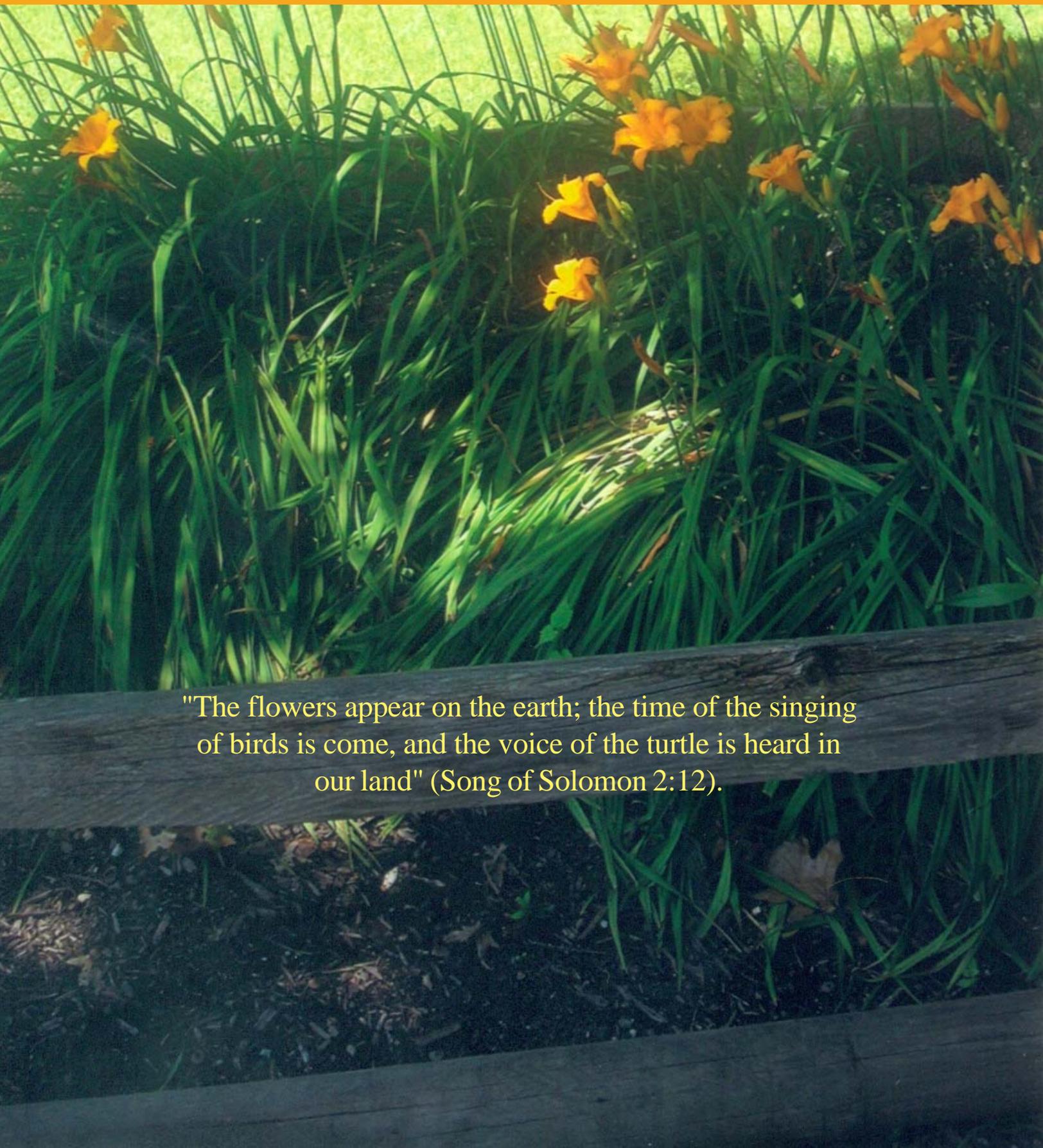
1. Olsema
2. Hasra
3. Lsis
4. Oolmsno
5. Asnasnu
6. Umslae
7. Laus
8. Isomn
9. Petnseh
10. Neosmi

FIND THE SABBATH - How many times can you find the word SABBATH on this page?



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"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land" (Song of Solomon 2:12).

