

The Advocate of Truth

TABLE OF CONTENTS



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PAGE

***New Year's Day* 3**

Why does man's New Year start on January 1?

***A Culture Of Clean Meats* 4**

Was God's law of the clean and unclean in force from the time of Adam?

***Yes, There Are Lackadaisical and Soft Believers* 5-6**

Let us not be counted as one of these believers.

***The Truth* 7-10**

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?"

***The Hedge* 10-12**

All of God's children can have this protection.

***The Signs Of The Times* 14-15**

We need to be aware of false prophets.

***Questions And Answers* 16-17**

What are the elements of the Lord's Prayer?

***The Church Around The World* 18-19**

This month we look at Kenya.

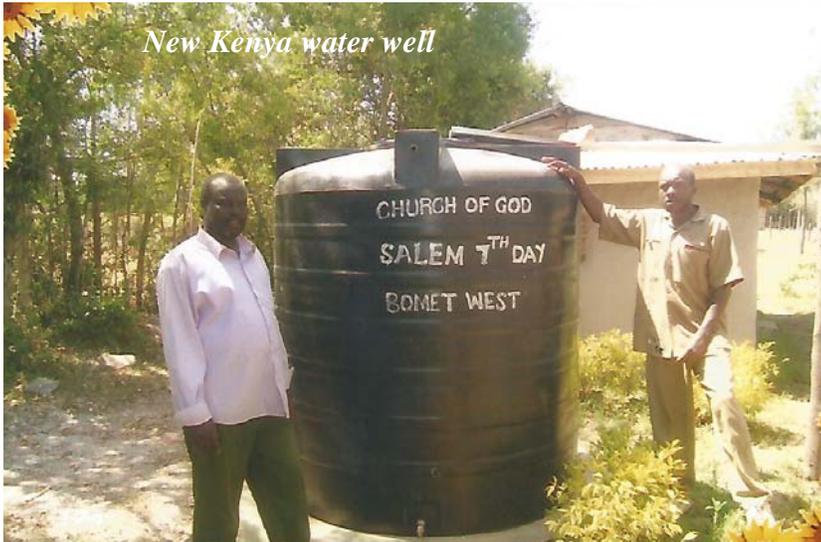
***The Children's Pages* 20-23**

Sabbath School Lessons

A Story - "Terry's New Puzzle"

Games and Puzzles

New Kenya water well



New Year's Day

By David DeLong

As members of the Church of God, 7th Day we do not keep certain holidays, that much of the world keeps, such as Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and St. Valentine's Day. This is because of the pagan origins and nature of such holidays. Concerning the keeping of New Year's Day, let us go into the history of this holiday. But, first, let's look into our Bibles about the beginning of the year which the Lord intended.

The Lord's New Year is recorded in Exodus 12, beginning with verse one. "And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:1-2).

What was this first month about which the Lord was speaking? Please notice Exodus 13:1-4: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Sanctify unto me all the first-born, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. This day came ye out in the month Abib."

So the Lord's first month of the year is Abib, and it corresponds basically to our months of March and April. The meaning of the Hebrew word "Abib" is "green ears", which referred to the ripening of grain.

When did the new year of men begin to be kept in the dead of Winter (northern latitudes)? A number of ancient peoples began their new year at harvest time. The ancient Romans gave gifts to each other of branches from their

"sacred trees". The Romans also honored their god, Janus (from which January was named). He was their god of gates, beginnings, and doors. The Romans adopted January first as their New Year's Day. Janus supposedly had two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backwards. This appears to be the tradition of Father Time and the baby in diapers. The Celts of Britain adopted many of the New Year's customs of the Romans. This is because the Romans invaded Britain in A.D. 43.

--World Book Encyclopedia, N/O, page 289.

Like many holidays from antiquity, most of the world has adopted the practices of the Romans and other pagan peoples. This is true of our modern practice of New Year's Day. January first has become a traditional day for the beginning of the new year. Personally, I like God's reckoning of the new year better, around March/April. On the 14th day of the first month, at evening (Bible time), we celebrate the Lord's Supper, which commemorates Christ, our passover, who was sacrificed for us.

While it is true that we keep January first as the beginning of the worldly new year, should we celebrate it as anything special? This is a personal matter that each one needs to decide for himself or herself.



A Culture of Clean Meats

By David DeLong



There are those who say there was no law given for the clean and unclean meats before the time of Moses. However, when we look at the circumstances, given in the Bible, from near the time of Creation to the time of Moses, we can discern that the Lord had this law in place from the beginning.

The most obvious text of Scripture, concerning the law of clean and unclean animals, is found in Genesis 7:1-3. Here the Lord is instructing Noah about the animals to be brought into the ark. "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth." Also we notice verses 8-9: "Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah."

After Noah, his family, and the animals went out of the ark we learn in Genesis 8:20: "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar." Since Noah knew what were the clean and unclean beasts and fowls, the Lord had to have instructed him in this difference. Therefore, we see the law of the clean and unclean animals being in operation at this time.

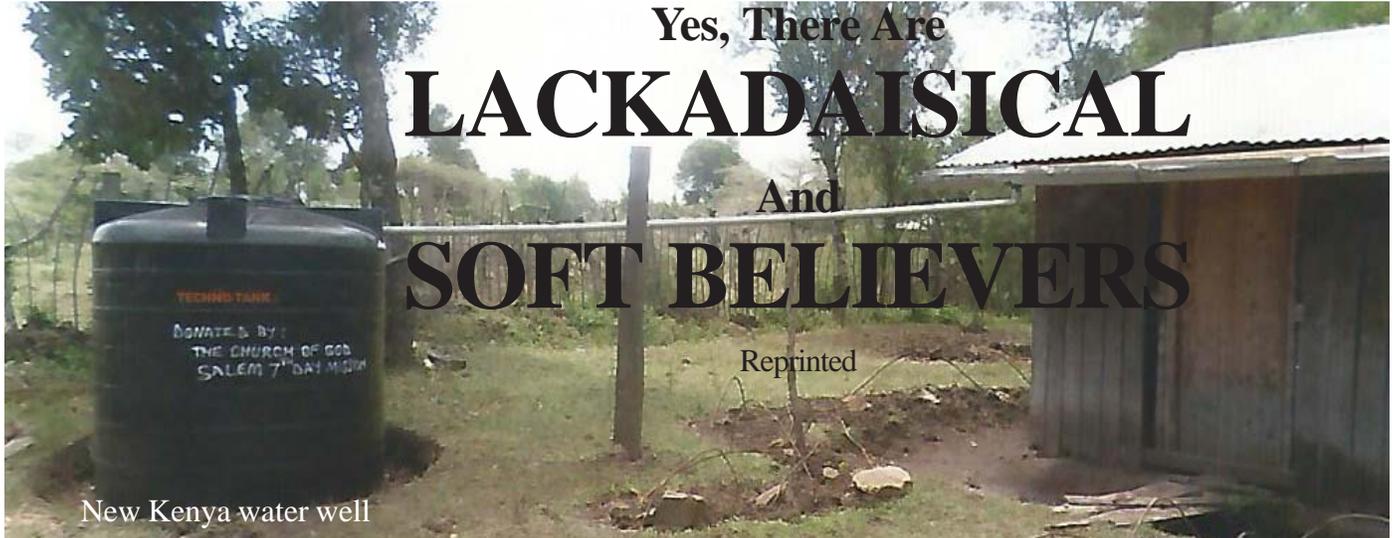
But, this law was in operation much before the time of Noah. When Cain and Abel offered their offerings to the Lord in Genesis, chapter 4, we learn of Abel's offering being from his flock of sheep. Verses 3-5 informs us: "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the

fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." The Lord had to have instructed them that sheep were clean animals and acceptable as sacrifices. Thus, we see His law of the clean and unclean being in operation.

When three men approached Abraham, he offered them some food from his herd. Genesis 18:7-8 records some of this story. "And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat." This shows that Abraham understood that calf meat was clean and that it was to be eaten.

In Genesis, chapter 27, verses 1-4, we learn of Isaac intending to bless his son Esau before he died. "And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die." Here we can see that Isaac knew that venison was clean meat, and he wanted some to eat and then bless Esau.

In all these cases presented, we see only a culture of clean meats, either as sacrifices or to be eaten. This was because God's law of the clean and unclean was known.



New Kenya water well

Yes, there are soft, self-indulging, and undisciplined believers. There are far too many of them. They are church members. They do not seem wicked. They are not committing open sin. They are satisfactorily orthodox. They are mildly active in the work of the Church of God.

But they are soft, flabby and lackadaisical. They are without toughness and sturdiness to stand the storms of life. They are mild in everything. They do not reject the fundamentals of the Holy Bible, but they do not believe in them passionately either. They are not burning with zeal toward their profession of faith, neither do they bring fruit or honor to it.

At times they are deeply stirred by religious zeal, and at others they are very unemotional about the faith delivered to the saints. They see no harm in a great many pleasant but questionable and borderline practices. Wide areas of their lives are not permeated with the truth and righteousness. They follow their own feelings and desires, along with the whims of the moment. They do not live by the principle of the Word. They do not make decisions on the basis of what the Bible says, whether it is right or wrong, or what must be done. They try to rationalize what should be done with a sin. Then when they find out who committed the sin, if it is a person they like, they overlook it, but if the same sin was committed by a person they do not like, the withering looks and haughty attitudes are dreadful.

But the most subtle and pervading cause of this softness is, after all – as usual – ourselves. We are just naturally self-indulgent. We are packed full of desires that are pleasant to satisfy. We find it, on the whole, considerably

easier to give reasons for being what we are than to change ourselves. And, as a matter of fact, we think there really is nothing too much that needs changing. Moreover, it is easier to satisfy a desire than to deny it. To indulge it is pleasant – is, after all, so harmless, so natural. A philosopher said that it is easier to get rid of a temptation than to yield to it. The natural, easy, pleasing way is self-indulgence and moral softness. The hard way is self-denial and self-discipline. No wonder that there are so many soft church members.

But however sweet to the mouth, softness is bitter to the stomach. Soft believers are dissatisfying, if not disastrous. These “nice” soft, passionless, fibreless people accomplish little. They may be good, but they are also good for little or nothing. They cannot be counted on in a time of crisis or storm. Let something in health or weather or news or minor circumstances affect him badly, and he is at once sunk beneath a river of gloom that drowns his usefulness in any good or courageous act. Or let him find a dollar and he is on the mountaintops. He is ready to found a mission and evangelize the neighborhood right now. Nothing is too hard for him – until the next cloudy morning. And yet, how many people indulge their feelings! How much more pleasant – yes, really – to sink into the gloom than to take courage. How much more fun to be hilarious and giddy than serious. But what sandy foundations these are!

Soft indulgence may bring real catastrophe. Many an indulgence in the thrill of fast driving has ended in what in the eyes of God may be sheer murder. Fierce insistence of one having one’s own desire and rights has often resulted

in an act of injustice, revenge, even hatred. Easygoing spending for oneself without reference to the rightness of such spending will surely develop a selfish, hard heart that cannot hear the cry of the widows and orphans. How dwelleth the love of God in such a person? He is a mass of soft self-indulgence.

Now in contrast to soft and lackadaisical believers, real children of God are tough and require self-control, self-discipline, self-denial. We read: **“...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”** (Said by Jesus in Luke 9:23) Here is a figure of speech built on the crucifixion. It calls for daily death by self-denial. It means that those desires that lead to evil must be so thoroughly denied – every day – that they are for each occasion made as good as dead. We cannot follow every passing fancy, yield to every impulse, continually do what we like, indulge every appetite and desire – and yet follow Jesus. Some desires must be controlled. Some impulses tamed. Some parts of ourselves must be denied. We must leave this softness, this moral flabbiness that acquiesces to all our desires. We must learn to say, "No!" Only thus can we follow in Jesus' footsteps.

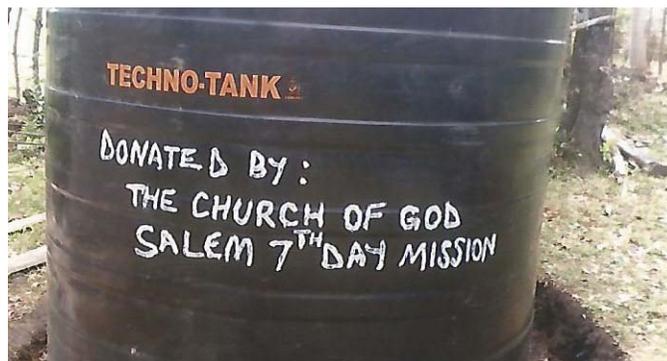
“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:13-15). These Bible texts can furnish a lengthy study of the entire subject of temptation that would throw much more light on this article of self-indulgence. But, briefly it is evident from the language that again a figure of speech is being used. It compares temptation to enticement to break the seventh commandment. Goodspeed's version words it this way: “when anyone is tempted, it is by his own desire that he is enticed and allured.” Who is the enticer, this soft, lovely thing that would allure us? Obviously these same pleasant desires soft members look tenderly upon. Who is enticed? He is not mentioned, but a little consideration will suggest he is our own will, our consent. When desire wins our will to its way, the union results in sin. Are all desires evil? God forbid. The desire for a family, for food, for truth are not in themselves evil. The sex drive is not evil. Notice the language: They are evil when they draw us away.

Away from what or whom? From God and His will. For example, if you go to a ballgame instead of to church, you are drawn away by your own lust to do your will instead of what the Bible says: **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”** (Hebrews 10:25).

Here then, is the test. This pleasant desire, this natural desire that would be so natural and pleasant to indulge – does it take away from God and His way? Surrender to this desire will mean sin. No matter if it is pleasant, or easy to indulge, or popular, or natural, it leads away from God. It must not softly be indulged. Every verse in the Bible that condemns sin thunders this warning, for obviously every sin, according to James, rises from indulgence of desires that lead away from God. Soft indulgence is thus always flabby and either potentially or actually sinful. We must learn to say, “NO.”

After all, is this requirement of self-denial so hard, so strange? In human love, we easily understand and acquiesce in it. If we love someone who detests gardenia perfume, farewell to such an odor. We deny ourselves for the sake of the one we love. Self-denial is simply the hard side of our love of God.

Consider what Jesus Christ denied Himself in coming to save us. Can we complain about our small self-denials? Paul said he counted all that he had given up but dung in comparison with what he gained. Can we feel less? We shall bear either the yoke of Jesus or the yoke of self-indulgence, which, though at first seems velvet-soft and feather-light, finally becomes the weight that sinks us out of the presence of God. But our Saviour said: **“...My yoke is easy, and my burden is light”** (Matthew 11:30). His love and grace can give us the strength to deny self, to say, **“NO”** to alluring desires, to be **TOUGH**, not **SOFT**.





PRINCIPLES AND REASONS

THE TRUTH

By Moises Torres M.

1. What really is Truth?

This is a famous question that Pontius Pilate once made to the Lord Jesus Christ:

“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** ...” (John 18:37-38).

Probably Pontius Pilate had already questioned himself about truth; or perhaps at that time he only made an indifferent reply, saying, “what is truth”? But the overwhelming response of the Lord Jesus Christ was “for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.”

I came into the world to be king and **bear witness unto the truth**. The word “king” is linked to “reality or truth”. In this case a king represents reality, represents law, truth, judgment, and the way or example for people to follow. Although they did not recognize him as such, the Lord Jesus Christ came to the earth to be a king and to place us in the reality of God--His truth; no one else in the world or within humanity can answer what truth is but the Son of God who descended from

heaven, from the “Father of lights”. (James 1:17).

Perhaps, in some moments of our life, we have also inquired about truth, and have tried to find answers in our minds to questions such as: What is really this life or system we live in? Or what about this environment, or Cosmos? Where do we come from or where are we really going? Poets at different times have come to a conclusion, saying: “This life is a dream, not a reality”. And so and so, this question has always been there in the air: **what is truth?** And when men get tired on this and get to a certain point of uncertainty and helplessness, it is when they start seeking answers in something that goes beyond human understanding; it is then when they finally come to the Son of God to find answers about the truth and existence around us on His words and teachings. Let us remember the Lord Himself declared: “...I am the way, the truth, and the life...” (John 14:6).

NOTE: From Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Truth means: the real facts about something: the things that are true: the quality or state of being true: a statement or idea that is true or accepted as true; FIDELITY, CONSTANCY: Sincerity in action, character, and utterance (1) The state of

being the case: (2) The body of real things, events, and facts: (3) A transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality.

There may be many definitions of many compiled dictionaries made by man; but based on the faith of the Son of God we get a categorical answer on what truth is. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "...I am the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). It is the Son of God, the only one who can place us in reality, because He is THE TRUTH, and the truth is in Him (Ephesians 4:21). When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior, then we walk in the light of His truth, and we are no longer in darkness or confusion about questions on life, or about this system or reality we are immersed in every day. The Lord said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Let us consider some facts that help to place us in reality.

2. How can we be set apart or placed in the truth?

One of the petitions of the Lord to His heavenly Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, was: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). It is necessary to accept the Word of God to enter into that state of reality and be no more confused. "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:23-24; I Timothy 2:4; II Thessalonians 2:13).

3. Why is it necessary to be in the truth?

We need to be in the truth to worship God and take part in eternal life. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to

worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24) "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (III John 1:4). If our minds are not set in the reality of God, then we are confused and we cannot worship God.

4. What are some inexcusable testimonies of God's truth around us?

Creation, the universe in general, the infinite galaxies, our solar system, the endless and far abyss before our eyes, time, distance, the billions of stars, light and darkness, our moon, our sun, our biodiversity on earth, our wonderful earth. All of this Creation-existence, is something which cannot be denied or overlooked. This is an inexcusable reality! It is something that bears witness of the TRUTH OF GOD!

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1).

5. Are birth and death part of our reality?

Yes, this is another reality or truth which cannot be denied. Our creation of the dust of the ground, the breath of life breathed into our nostrils, and the sentence of death for disobedience in Eden (Genesis 2:16-17), are some inexcusable events that prove the truth of the Word of God. Then, of course, the promise of redemption came also as a truth from God (Genesis 3:1-21; John 3:16).

6. Is eternal life an irrefutable desire of

man?

“For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life” (II Corinthians 5:4).

“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept” (I Corinthians 15:12-20).

NOTE: These strong statements defend the truth of the resurrection.

7. What inexcusable actions and events set our minds in the truth?

Energy, movement, gender, reproduction are real facts and events, which play an undeniable part of the truth around us. WE REPRODUCE OURSELVES! Since the very moment we are conceived we start having vitality and movement. Then we also suffer a physical and mental transformation as we grow until we reach a maximum capacity as human beings; this is amazing! We were created and formed as thinking beings, and we acknowledge everything around us, absolutely everything! We also have a conscience and a free will. We have a power

for learning, gifted enough to absorb as much information as possible from the outside, information which can be processed for use according to our will, for our benefit or for our detriment. All these events and evidences we daily live in and are surrounded by inexcusable place us in God’s truth.

8. What words does Apostle Paul use to put the truth before man?

Apostle Paul, poetically and philosophically wrote: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33).

In other words, he writes, saying:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

9. In a qualitative and a quantitative term, what does the Psalmist say about truth?

NOTE: In a qualitative term, the truth appears as judgment (Psalm 19:9); guide (Psalm 43:3); as a shield and buckler (Psalm 91:4); as law (Psalm 119:142); as a base or beginning of the Word (Psalm 119:160); is love (II Thessalonians 2:10).

In the quantitative term, it is mentioned as eternal, as long as the heavens, which reaches all generations: (Psalm 100:5); (108:4).

10. What does Paul say about the gospel?

“In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:

in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 2:5; Colossians 1:5).

11. Can anyone do anything against the truth?

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (II Corinthians 13: 8). We can do nothing against what is done and predestined by the Father and the Son. “If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:” (Ephesians 4:21).

NOTE: “The truth is in Jesus”. This verse only confirms that the Lord Jesus is the Truth.

12. Is truth a fruit of the Spirit and a part of our armor?

“(For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)” (Ephesians 5:9; 6:14).

13. Does truth give any place to a lie?

“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth” (I John 2:21). We know the father of lies and confusion is the devil, who sinned since the beginning. We

should be aware of this (John 8:44).

14. What Spirit is in the believers and what will He do for us?

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even the Spirit of truth;* whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. . . But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:16-17, 26).

15. Should we study to teach the truth correctly?

“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).

16. What is the Church to God?

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15).



New Kenya water well

The Hedge

By David DeLong

All of God's children have, or can have, a hedge of protection about them. As long as this hedge is not broken, they are safe from Satan's onslaughts. Notice the confrontation between the Lord and Satan over the Patriarch Job in the Book of Job, chapter 1, verses 6-12:

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up

and down in it. 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. 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."

Satan said, correctly, that God had placed a hedge of protection around Job. Satan could not get to Job, or his family, or his possessions as long as this hedge was in place. Only to the extent that God allowed that hedge to be opened was Satan able to get to the patriarch. At first, Satan could only get to Job's children and his possessions, but not Job himself. Later, Satan was allowed to get to Job's health, but not his life. In Job, chapter 2, verses 1-8, we find: "Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. 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. And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes."

In Isaiah, chapter 5, we read about a vineyard of the Lord, which represents the house of Israel. When Israel sinned against the Lord, He took the hedge away from

them, and they were punished. Verses 1-7 reads: "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry."

Psalm 80:8-13 gives us more information about this vine of the Lord. "Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land. The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars. She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river. Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her? The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it."

This, then, is a reason that the Lord removes the hedge from around His people: because of transgressing His laws, which constitutes sin. The Lord may remove our hedge as a test, such as was the case with Job, but I would say that He removes it more often because of sin in our lives. The same is with nations.

Notice how Ezekiel, chapter 22, verses 23-31, which described the land and people of Israel, sounds a lot like what is happening in America, and the world, today. "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. There is a con-

spiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD."

I believe that the Lord is looking for people to "make up the hedge", not only in America today, but all over the world. Every country on this planet, most likely, has bloodshed, falsehood, oppression, vexing the poor and needy, hurting the stranger, etc. on its list of guiltiness, and the Lord has removed many hedges of protection. Shouldn't we stand in the gap for the land that the Lord will someday destroy? In ancient Israel, the Lord couldn't find even one man to "make up the hedge" for the land.

Ecclesiastes 10, verse 8, is a very interesting one. It reads: "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him." There is a spiritual application to this verse besides a physical one. Satan, the Serpent, waits just on the other side of our hedge, and if we should break the hedge, he is ready to bite us.

Let us examine some of the ways that our hedge can be broken. We mentioned before that the Lord may remove our hedge as a testing, like He did with Job. However, the Lord will not allow Satan to tempt us more than we can bear. We also mentioned that transgressing God's laws can break our hedge, or a nation's hedge. Losing

faith will do the same, because "the just shall live by faith", and "without faith it is impossible to please him..." And, as we saw from Ecclesiastes 10:8, a person can break the hedge on his own. This is done, many times, when a person, who is curious, opens the hedge to see what is on the other side. This may lead one into the occult, or into a homosexual lifestyle, or anything that leads a person away from the Lord, including attending a church that doesn't teach the truth. What is on the other side of the hedge? A Serpent! And make no mistake about it. Satan will bite you!

In the November 24, 2003 Advocate of Truth, Apostle Jerry Womble had this to say about the hedge: "The hedge used by God was His angels. In II Kings 6, we read of Elisha and a young man with him that were about to be taken by a large army. But when God opened their eyes, they could see His protection. The mountain was filled with angels ready to fight for them." Hebrews 1:14 tells us one of the functions of angels: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Another way of showing a hedge protection, in the Scriptures, is having a shield protection. To Abram, the Lord informed that He was a shield to him. Genesis 15:1 records: "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." A shield protection does the same that a hedge protection does: it keeps a child of God from being harmed by the enemy.

What was said of ancient Israel is true for God's people today: "Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places" (Deuteronomy 33:29). The Psalmist reiterates this point in Psalm 33:18-22: "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."

There are several ways that the Lord is a shield to
(continued on page 19)

*The Unsung Hero –
A Pastor*

“Twas some days before Sabbath and at a pastor’s home
Not a creature was stirring – ‘cept he all alone;
And why is he up, when he should be asleep?
He’s pouring his heart out to God as he weeps.

“Oh, Lord, how I try to teach people the truth,
But so many won’t listen, they seem so aloof;
We had a good number when the church first began,
Now we’re down to the few I can count on my hands.

These few that we have are faithful and true,
It’s the others I’m concerned for and I know You are too;
I study and pray, Lord, my hours are long,
This I don’t mind tho, I just wonder what’s wrong?

I see divine guidance in all that I say,
Before every sermon, I constantly pray;
Lord, this is Your flock, let me lead not astray
One precious soul from the straight, narrow way.

I preach godly living like it says in the Word,
But it makes people angry, it’s as if they’ve not heard;
They get mad and leave with not so much as a Good-Bye,
So, I’m here on my knees, Lord, asking You, why?

The people I trust most and think are my friends
Are the ones who hurt deepest and leave in the end;
If this is the price I must pay to serve You,
I’ll not question again, but do all I can do
To keep the few faithful uplifted and strong,
Steady in faith, teach them right from the wrong.

It seems such a trifle to bother You so,
But a pastor has no other place he can go
To unload his Burdens and cry in despair,
You’re the only true friend, who I know really cares;
My heart feels much lighter since talking to You-
Thanks, Lord, for listening; and for loving me too.”

-Barb Lientz



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.

A FALSE PROPHET

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

I read an article by Allan Turner in the *Houston Chronicle* entitled ‘I’m full of God’. The article was about a man who says that he is a prophet. His name is Vernon Heslep, and he recently preached to an audience at the Cleveland Civic Center. Following are a few excerpts from that article:

“From California to Florida, in tents and public halls, the itinerant preacher is celebrated as “The Prophet.”

“I’m a prophet like Moses,” Heslep proclaims. “I’m full of God. I’m the real deal.”

Because of his prayers, he says, the lame walk, the mute speak and the desperately ill escape death.

‘The call to preach’

For the faithful, the appeal comes with lively music and energetic preaching that, while strikingly new and verbally creative, draws on bedrock church traditions. As a sermon peaks, worshippers may clap, rattle tambourines or exhort the churchman to greater heights. Often the evangelist, says Hunt, is “just a man with a Bible and the call to preach.”

Heslep is forthright about his religious training. He

claims to have received his knowledge directly from God.

“God doesn’t use the high and mighty,” Heslep says. He uses the old people, those who don’t amount to much. He fools people. He wants to use people he can teach, not those who think they know it all, ... I give what God gives me. I don’t preach my theory or my knowledge because I have none.”

Heslep says he was only 12, living at his grandparent’s cotton farm near Giddings, when he had his first encounter with the divine.

It was about 3 a.m. when he awoke to see a “supernatural” fire blazing on the old folks’ porch. Out of the flames, he says, stepped Jesus.

“He had long black hair, dark eyes, and he had a beard neatly cut, and his hair came down to his shoulders, and he was the color, maybe, of people in Hawaii,” Heslep says. Then the man told the boy he would be “independent.”

“I was not controlled by others,” says Heslep, “only by God.”

Earlier this year, Heslep, who lives in the tiny West Texas town of Colorado City, prophesied that Houston would experience severe flooding in April. Soon, he says, “bombs will fall on American cities.” Without offering specifics, he suggests that the Bayou City especially might be singled out for divine wrath.

Healings claimed

Even more dramatic than his prophecies, though, he says, are the healings achieved through prayer.

During his career, he says, his prayers have restored the ability to walk to the crippled, robust health to multiple individuals afflicted by cancer and life to the dead.

Tania Hamilton, among worshippers filling Cleveland’s

civic center for the recent two-day revival, says Heslep's prayers healed her of an illness that had left her unable to walk.

"My legs just gave out from under me," she says, adding that, prior to the evangelist's prayer, she had been using a wheelchair.

Soon after Heslep's prayer, Hamilton says, she again could walk. When she walked into the doctor's office for a follow-up appointment, the physician told her "You're not supposed to be walking," Hamilton says.

"It was a miracle – a walking miracle," she says. Prophet Heslep is a man of God.

Accused of fakes

Despite such testimonials, Heslep's holy feats can fuel doubt. On occasion, Heslep admits, established pastors in towns he's visited have united against him. Once in Arkansas, he says, he restored mobility to a paralyzed man through prayer, only to be accused of having brought a man from Texas and paid him to fake the miracle.

"Everybody in town, though, knew the man. They knew he was in a wheelchair," Heslep says.

Heslep claims no religious affiliation, saying God told him no denomination stands on a solid religious footing.

Most of his sermons consist of a recitation of signs and wonders, many achieved, he says, through his prayers.

Repelling witchery

Interspersing stories of the miraculous are vignettes of his decades on the road for Christ.

He tells of his refusal to eat chicken prepared in New Orleans because the city is a notorious center for witchcraft, and the meal might be a vehicle for malice.

Then he segues into a pledge to bring salt to a second night's service and bless it – a sure repellent to witchery. He won't charge for the service.

"Why am I here to warn people?" he asks. "Because I have power over the devil."

ZODIAC SIGNS

Over the internet, I saw that NASA has changed the Zodiac signs which confuses the many who follow astrology.

NORTH KOREA

I read that North Korea is banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions from launching ballistic missiles or carrying out nuclear tests, but it continues to do so.

This is just an example of the weak nations saying that they are strong!

VCR AND DVD

I am informed that both the VCR and DVD have been or are being replaced by new equipment made possible by new technology.

A REAL CRISIS

It seems that the world leaders cannot come to an agreement on a unified response on how to best aid the many refugees in the world. They also have to deal with the migrant situation. The difference between refugees and migrants is that refugees are people forced to leave their country due to armed conflict or persecution. Migrants are those who leave their country in order to seek a better life.

MADMEN AND NUKES

President Obama has warned world leaders not to be complacent in regard to those who may obtain a nuclear bomb. He spoke at a nuclear security summit.

Comment

The nuclear bomb threat was much in the news when I was much younger, and what they called "The Cold War" was in progress. People were very conscious of it.

I remember that there was a bomb shelter at the west-wing of our Post Office.

People are still living in the age of nuclear weapons and nuclear bombs, but they seem to have forgotten the seriousness of this threat.

DRUG PRICES

Drug prices have doubled over seven years. This means that on average twenty-four percent of Americans cannot afford their prescriptions

FUEL PRICES

At the time of this writing, fuel prices are still low, and United States retail sales are suffering.

COLLISION, THE START OF LIFE?

The following is an article by Brett Barrouquere entitled *Did life on Earth start with collision?* It appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**.

"It must have been one heck of an interplanetary fireworks show.

Rice University Earth Scientists say the Earth appears to have collided with an embryonic planet similar to Mercury about 4.4 billion years ago. That mashup, researchers say, gave the Earth nearly all the life-giving carbon on the planet.

(continued on page 19)

BIBLE

Study



Question: What are the elements in the Lord's prayer?

Answer: The Lord's prayer, which also could be called the disciple's prayer, is found in Matthew 6:9-13. It is also found in Luke 11:2-4 which gives slightly different wording of our Master's words. However, the words "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever" are not in the Luke 11:2-4 account. The following are the elements from the Matthew 6:9-13 account.

1. A personal relationship with God – "Our Father"
2. Faith – "which art in heaven"
3. Worship – "Hallowed be thy name"
4. Expectation – "Thy kingdom come"
5. Submission – "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"
6. Petition – "Give us this day our daily bread"
7. Confession – "And forgive us our debts"
8. Compassion – "as we forgive our debtors"
9. Dependence – "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"
10. Acknowledgment – "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever"

Question: What is the shortest book in the New Testament?

Answer: The shortest book in the New Testament is II John. It is comprised of 13 verses with a total of only 298 words. This makes it the shortest book in the Bible.

Questions and Answers

Question: How does the perception of Jesus differ in Christian and Muslim viewpoints?

Answer: I read the following in a reliable publication. I will quote a portion of it: "Christianity and Islam differ in the perception of Jesus. In Christianity, Jesus not only is the Son of God. He also suffered for the sins of all humanity and died on the cross to redeem those who would believe in Him.

Islam considers Jesus a divinely inspired prophet and messenger of God, not the Son of God. Islam considers Jesus a reformer who shook up the status quo. Islam teaches that He taught radical compassion. Islam believes that His love for God was expressed through His service to fellow humans." (END OF QUOTE)

One Muslim authority said that a true Muslim is a follower of Jesus, but a worshiper of God.

NOTE ABOUT THE QUESTION: How can Islam consider Jesus to be a divine prophet of God when it rejects Jesus' own words about Himself and His Father in heaven? It is impossible to half-way follow Jesus! Islam makes Jesus a liar!

Question: What does it mean to know Christ after the flesh which is mentioned in II Corinthians 5:16?

Answer: It is to know Him as the man "in the flesh," or the unregenerated man, knows Him. Dr. Scofield described it as "an intellectual belief in the historical Christ, which is distinct from 'believing on Him.' The latter implies trust and dependence. Intellectual belief does not bring

salvation, as belief with trust does to those who truly, with the heart as well as the mind, believe.

Question: What are your thoughts on John 9:4 when Jesus said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work”?

Answer: This is a good, strong Bible text. It is not related to the unconverted. Many believers do not like it; not because it is in the Bible but because it demands so much from them. It condemns carelessness. It curtails the personal ambition of a saint. It cuts into his selfish, personal desires. It calls for the best of surrender and abandonment to the cause of Christ. It compels the Child of God to be at his post of duty without fail. The text tells a follower of Christ what he is to do and sets forth an example for all saints to follow. There are three, clear things in this text:

A Sense of Obligation

“I must work,” but the average child of God is not inclined to work. Why are they not? They have the finest equipment; “they are in Christ,” to make them the best of workers. We “must work.” This obligation is augmented and constrained by the compelling force of an inward impulse. Paul said, “the love of Christ constraineth us”. Why do missionaries labor so hard, year in and year out? Many of them have done this for nearly one-half century because of this indwelling “love of Christ.” This inward force constrains and compels the saints of God to be their best in the Lord’s service.

Then we are obligated to work because of the continuous example of a tireless Saviour. He said, “I must be about my Father’s business.” He also said, “I must preach...to other cities also.” In our text He said: “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day.” He is the great example set before every believer in all their service for God. We must follow in His steps.

Then we find ourselves serving the Lord because of the constant need of a world in sin. They need to hear a clear testimony. They need to have their hearts moved by the Spirit of God. They need to know the transforming power of Christ. Their need moves us forward in service for God. Then we have the command of a loving Lord, who said, “**Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.**” That is binding upon every believer. Until He changes it or retracts it, we must work.

A Sense of Opportunity

“While it is day: the night cometh, when no man can

work.” This is the day of public witness. “How shall they hear without a preacher?” He told His early followers to tarry in Jerusalem and they would be empowered by the Spirit of God for effective witness. The Acts of the Apostles is a record of their testimony. This is the day of private testimony. It is our personal duty, and it should be our daily delight. There are millions yet, who have never been won to Christ, and they need our private testimony. This is the day of passing opportunities. So many saints promise to God, but they never do what they know they should. The path behind us is strewn with the dead leaves of unfulfilled promises. Time is short! Opportunities lie around us on every hand. Let us get to work. Remember, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

A Sense of Occupation

“The works of him that sent me.” We are sent forth for the same reason, with the same resources and with the same results as was the Lord Jesus. “**Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you**” (John 20:21). Why did the Father send His Son into this world? It was for two very clear, positive reasons. First, it was to reveal God to men. Men did not know what God was like. Had Jesus Christ not come into the world, we would have never known God. “**No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him**” (John 1:18). All we know about the grace of God, all we know about the power of God, the love of God and the kindness of God is seen in the person of Jesus Christ.

God not only sent His Son to reveal Himself to man but also to reconcile man to God. Jesus Christ came down from heaven to take poor sinners by the hand and lead them to God. He said, “**...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**” (John 14:6). “**Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God**” (II Corinthians 5:20). We are called upon to do one work. We have one task, and God has set before us the example in the person of Jesus Christ. The work which He did was to glorify His Father. Our work as children of God is to be the same. It is to “work the works of him that sent me.” May we enter into all the blessings.



Kenya

Newly developed water wells for the brethren in Kenya.

The brethren in Kenya wish to express their gratitude for the donations which were sent in to make these wells possible. Some, now, are receiving fresh water for the first time in their lives.



(continued from "Signs of the Times", page 15)

The findings came in a new study this week in Nature Geoscience. In the study, Rice petrologist Rajdeep Dasgupta sought to answer the question of how did carbon-based life develop on Earth? And how did it happen, given that most of the planet's carbon should have either boiled away early on or become locked in the Earth's core?

Yuan Li, a team member and now a staff scientist at Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, said researchers looked into the idea that the carbon was added after the Earth's core formed.

Dasgupta said one scenario explaining how that came about is the Earth colliding with and absorbing an embryonic planet like Mercury after the core was formed, leaving the carbon in Earth's mantle."

Comment

The thought that life on Earth was started by a collision is blasphemous to the Word of God. Genesis 1:26-27 tells us, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." There was no collision!

This is another example of those mentioned in II Timothy 3:7, those who are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."



(continued from "The Hedge", page 12)

us. He shields us with His salvation. Psalm 18:35 reads: "Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great." He shields us with His truth: "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler" (Psalm 91:4). Let us always be valiant to live God's truth. Trusting in the Lord is a shield to us: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him" (Proverbs 30:5). Ephesians 6:16 emphasizes this point: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

The hedge, or shield, is available to all of God's people. If we break the first, a Serpent will strike, and if we neglect the second, a fiery dart by the enemy will also strike. Neither one needs to be the case. The Lord has provided that a wonderful protection is available to everyone who has salvation, who lives God's truth, and who trusts in Him at all times.



New Kenya water well

LESSON I

TRIBULATION

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5; I Peter 4:12-19.

Golden Text: Romans 12:12.

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer".

1. What does the word tribulation mean to you? If we look in the dictionary, we find tribulation to mean a condition of affliction and distress; suffering; also, that which causes it. What kind of tribulation exists for a child of God?
2. Are we sorry for any tribulation we have? What are we to do? Hebrews 12:1-11.
3. In what spirit would we accept tribulation? Romans 12:12.
4. If we profit by tribulation, what fruit will it bring forth? Romans 4:3-4.
5. When we are chastised (to punish), of what is it a sign? Hebrews 12:6.
6. If we are without chastisement, are we worthy to be called sons? Hebrews 12:8.

LESSON II

BAPTISM

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1-8.

Golden Text: Acts 22:16.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

1. What did Christ urge the apostles to do in their ministry to others? Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:16.

2. When the Israelites were condemned in their hearts after Peter's sermon, what did he urge them to do? Acts 2:38.

3. In fulfillment of the ordinance of baptism, what is washed away and whom do we then put on? Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27.

4. Into what experience are those baptized who are baptized into Christ? Romans 6:3-4.

5. What question did the eunuch ask after Philip had preached Jesus unto him? Acts 8:36. What was the result? Acts 8:37-38.

6. When the people of Samaria were convinced of the truth of Philip's preaching, how did they witness the fact? Acts 8:12.

7. How perfect is the unity into which believers are brought by being baptized into Christ? I Corinthians 12:12-13.

NOTE: Baptism signifies a crucifixion of self, a burial with Christ, and a resurrection with Him as a new creature.

LESSON III

MEMBERS OF ONE BODY

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:4-16.

Golden Text: Romans 12:4.

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office".

NOTE: After we are baptized and become members of the Body, our lives should begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit which is essential to every member of the body.

1. What is the fruit we should possess? Galatians 5:22-23.

2. What should be each member's attitude toward: (A) Love, Romans 12:9; (B) Business, Verse 11; (C)

Tribulation and Persecution, Verses 12, 14; (D) Hospitality, Verse 13; (E) Helping Others, Verses 15-18.

3. In what manner should we regard the members of the body? I Corinthians 12:25-27. NOTE: What does the word "schism" mean? "Division in a church."

4. Is there a work for each member? I Corinthians 12:28. The Body has many members, and they have all a different service to perform.

5. As members of this Body, what are we to covet? I Corinthians 12:31. Everyone of us can have a share in glorifying the Lord Jesus.

LESSON IV

HOSPITALITY

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-21.

Golden Text: I Peter 4:9.

"Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

NOTE: Hospitality is defined as "being hospitable"; behaving in a kind and generous manner toward guests; fond of entertaining guests; affording or expressing welcome and generosity toward guests.

1. To whom, especially, is hospitality to be shown? Hebrews 13:2; Isaiah 58:7; Luke 14:13.

2. What is the reward of those who show such hospitality? Luke 14:14; Isaiah 58:8-11.

3. What are the requirements for a minister concerning hospitality? I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7-8.

4. One of the best examples in this respect was that of Abraham. Please read Genesis 18:1-8.

5. What special admonition are we given in Hebrews 13:2?

6. Throughout the Bible, we have many examples of hospitality besides that of Abraham. The following are a few such examples; Melchizedek - Genesis 14:17-20; Lot - Genesis 19:1-3; Samuel - I Samuel 9:22-24; Zacchaeus - Luke 19:5-7; Publius - Acts 28:7.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

Here is a review for Joshua 24:24. Unscramble, and write it.

HET RODL ROU DOG LIWL EW VERSE

DAN ISH ICOVE LILW EW BOYE

PUZZLE TIME

Israel was a chosen nation; Joshua was a chosen leader. See if you can fill in the words below.

FOOD RACES OF PEOPLE

C _____
H _____
O _____
S _____
E _____
N _____

JOB 10:10 EXODUS 33:2

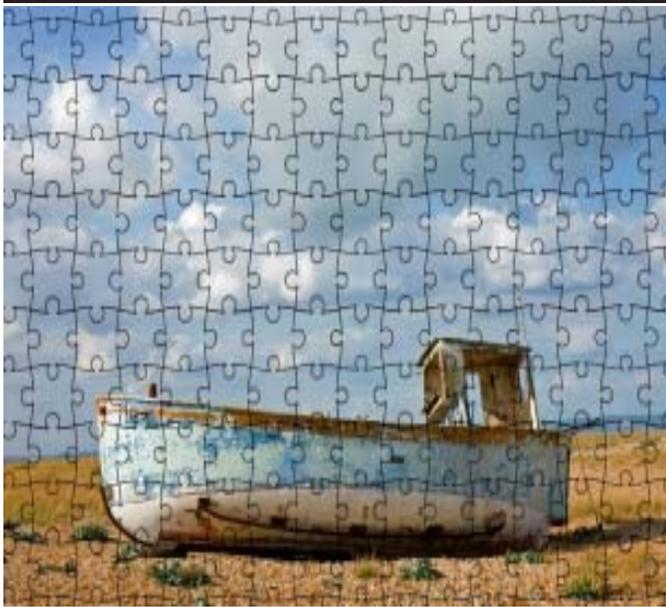
PSALM 19:10 EXODUS 13:5

NUMBERS 11:5 NUMBERS 26:16

GENESIS 37:25 NUMBERS 26:39

DEUTERONOMY 22:6 EXODUS 14:12

GENESIS 43:11 NUMBERS 26:40



TERRY'S NEW PUZZLE

"Mother," Terry called, "I can't find my new puzzle. Have you seen it? I can't remember what I did with it."

"No," Mother answered, "I don't remember seeing it at all."

The puzzle was one that Uncle Jim had given Terry for his birthday, and Terry liked to put it together. It made a beautiful, big picture of a ship when it was finished. Terry looked and looked, but he could not find his puzzle.

"Are you sure it isn't in your room?" Mother asked.

"I'm sure," said Terry. "But it was there yesterday. At least I'm quite sure it was. I wonder if Jimmy knows where it is." He went into little brother Jimmy's room. "Have you seen my puzzle, Jimmy?"

Jimmy was sitting on the floor playing with a wooden train. "Puzzle?" he asked.

"You know," said Terry, "the box with all the little pieces in it that makes a big boat when I put them together."

"Boat," said Jimmy. "Jimmy make boat." He went to his closet and opened the door. "Jimmy make boat," he said again.

Terry went to look. Parts of the puzzle were scattered here and there over the floor of the closet.

"Oh, no!" gasped Terry. "It's all over everywhere. I'll never find all of the pieces. Never." He looked down at the floor. The puzzle box was broken at the corners. "You

naughty boy," Terry yelled. "Just see what you did to my puzzle. What did you do to the box? Did you sit on it?"

Jimmy began to cry. "Jimmy make boat. Pretty boat for Terry."

Mother heard all the noise and came into the room. Terry showed her the puzzle and the broken box.

"What were you doing with Terry's new puzzled?" she asked Jimmy.

"Jimmy make boat," Jimmy repeated. "Make boat for Terry."

"Were you trying to put it together for me?" Terry asked.

Jimmy nodded. "Terry's boat. Jimmy make."

"Oh, Mother," said Terry. "Jimmy was trying to help me. And I scolded him and made him cry." He put his arm around Jimmy. "Help brother pick up the puzzle," he said.

Terry picked up the broken box. Mother said, "We can mend it with mending tape. I'll do that while you and Jimmy pick up the pieces."

Soon the box was mended. Terry and Jimmy picked up the puzzle. Terry put the puzzle together to see if any puzzle pieces were missing. At last he had found all of the pieces. Jimmy clapped his hands when he saw the picture of the beautiful ship. "Pretty boat," he said. "Pretty, pretty boat."

"Do you like the ship?" Terry asked. "We want you to see the picture. I'll put it together for you, but you mustn't get brother's things without asking."

"Jimmy be good," he promised. "Be good for Terry." And he was.

Answers to Bible Memory Time - "The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey."

Answers to Puzzle Time - Food--cheese, honey, onions, spicery, eggs, nuts; Races--Canaanite, Hittites, Oznites, Shuphamites, Egyptians, Naamites.

Answers to Missing Word - 2, 38, 50, 3, 3, 15, 12,2,2.

Answers to Alphabet Code - "A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger."

SUPPLY THE MISSING WORD

J.H. Greening

Write the correct numbers in the space provided. And when you have done all you can remember, check by looking up the Scripture references given.

1. A widow cast _____ mites into the treasury (Luke 21:2).
2. A man lay at the pool of Bethesda who had an infirmity for _____ years (John 5:5).
3. A year of jubilee came every _____ years (Leviticus 25:11).
4. The ark was in the house of Obed-edom for _____ months (I Chronicles 13:14).
5. We know of _____ friends of Jesus who lived at Bethany (John 11:5).
6. Bethany was about _____ furlongs from Jerusalem (John 11:18).
7. Jesus sent out the _____ to preach, by _____ and _____ (Mark 6:7).



ALPHABET CODE

To discover the secret message, write above each letter which comes before it in the alphabet. We've helped you get started.

A
B

S____
TPGU

BOTXFS

UVSOFUI

BXBZ

XSBUI

CVU

HSJFWPVT

XPSET

TUJS

VQ

BOHFS

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I AM WAITING

*I am nothing without You beside me,
I am nothing without You on board,
I am nothing unless You allow me,
I am nothing without You my Lord.*

*Please help me to do all the right things,
Please help me in everything I do,
Please help me to show that I'm Christian,
Please help me, my strength comes from You.*

*Forgive me for the sins I've committed,
Forgive me for the bad things I've done,
Forgive me for forgetting to thank You,
Forgive me for having worldly fun.*

*I am waiting to hear Your shout, Lord,
I am waiting for the trumpet to sound,
I am waiting to be on the Sea of Glass, Lord,
I am waiting to stand on holy ground.*

Pat Evans