



*The Advocate of Truth*



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# Knowing Danger Signals

Bond Tennant

Myanmar

There are several danger signals that each child of God must know. Knowing and avoiding these danger signals is necessary in order to avoid an impending fall.

One of these danger signals is the spirit of pride. It is fairly easy for the spirit of pride to enter into one's heart. Proverbs 16:18 tells us, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." The spirit of pride causes one to be haughty and feel self-important. The spirit of humility brings forth meekness, gentleness, teachableness, patience, and forbearance. It is important that one does not think of himself "...more highly than he ought to think" (Romans 12:3).

Another danger signal is indifference toward the truth. The truth is God's voice speaking to His people. By listening and being attentive to the truth, one maintains his standing before God. It is by the truth that one is sanctified. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

Another danger signal is the spirit of bitterness and hatred which must be readily discerned by one who is properly taking heed. These unholy manifestations of evil are in opposition to the spirit of love, which is the Spirit of God! The Child of God must not permit their entrance into his heart, and harbor them. This will sooner or later result in the complete fall of his being a new creature (creation) in Christ. Let the child of God pray and root out quickly and diligently every thought of bitterness from his heart and seek to be filled with the spirit of love.

The child of God must not let the spirit of the world control his heart and life. The spirit of the world is the spirit of self-seeking, of the ambition to be above and control others. It also manifests vainglory. "Let us not be

desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:26). "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3). The spirit of the world also genders selfishness which is of the devil.

Let every child of God endeavor to be filled with the Spirit of the Lord. Being filled with the Spirit of the Lord leaves no time or place for the spirit of the world to gain entrance into their lives.

## GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT

By Moises Torres M.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:6-8).

Practicing godliness and being happy with what we have is great gain for the soul.

In I Timothy 6:1-9, the Apostle Paul mentions two types of gain: the one of the men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness, and the faithful ones who practice godliness with contentment, not greedy of filthy lucre.

"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous" (I Timothy 3:3).

What should be the conversation (manner of living) for members of the church? “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be CONTENT with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

The Apostle Paul was an example of how to practice godliness with contentment: “... for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do

all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:11-13).

Jesus Christ taught that we must not be focused on filthy lucre or having great gain. “...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

We should practice godliness with contentment and not covet filthy lucre or great gain.



Exodus 16:1-31 tells the story of how the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness after coming out from the land of Egypt. This murmuring about food started because the people of Israel were hungry.

It is not uncommon that sometimes food becomes a reason for murmuring or discord, and this is not something new. The same thing happened in the time of Moses, and it still happens in these days. There could be many factors. Sometimes it seems that they don't make any sense, and they could vary depending on each person's point of view. For example, some could think and say that there is not enough food. Some others could say that there is too much food, or there are only vegetables but no meat. It could be because of taste, or because some of them don't cooperate, and some of them do, etc. There are so many reasons for murmuring, but in Moses' case it was because the people of Israel didn't eat to the full like they once did in Egypt.

When God saw this situation, He said unto Moses, “...Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the

people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no” (Exodus 16:4).

With this action, God would prove His people and would know whether or not they would walk in His law. But what does food have to do with walking in the law of God? It is well known that God has a law for clean and unclean food, but He wasn't talking about this law. He was talking of the Ten Commandment law.

Moses told the people that the Lord would give them in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full, and let them know that the Lord heard their murmurings, and that their murmurings were not against Moses and Aaron, but against God. The story continues: “And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was.

And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat” (Exodus 16:13-15). This was God fulfilling His promise to feed the people to the full, and every man gathered according to his eating.

Moses told them not to save any of it for the next day, but the people disobeyed him, and it bred worms and stank. Moses was wroth with them.

God also said to them, “And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily” (Exodus 16:5). The people obeyed and did so. They **GATHERED TWICE AS MUCH ON FRIDAY**. The rulers of the congregation came to tell Moses, “And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning” (Exodus 16:23). Moses said these words on a Friday in which they should gather twice as much, cook and keep the food until **SABBATH** (Saturday). The bread didn’t stink, neither was there any worm therein. Moses said on the Sabbath, “...Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none” (Exodus 16:25-26).

God is very clear in His words, and in Exodus 16:4 He said unto Moses that he would do that to **PROVE**

**THEM, WHETHER THEY WILL WALK IN HIS LAW OR NOT**. The story mentions that some of the people went out to gather on the seventh day but didn’t find anything. When God saw this, He was angry with the people and said unto Moses, “...How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the **BREAD OF TWO DAYS**; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day” (Exodus 16:28-30).

There is no doubt that God still proves His people to see who is walking in His law and who is not. In these days, we do not have to gather food from the field like they did in the passage we just read, but if we go out to work to earn our daily bread, those who went out to gather on the Sabbath found none. If the one who works on the Sabbath would be able to find food to eat, would his labor be profitable?

Today we find stores on almost every corner and street. They have almost everything we need. This includes bread, soda, pre-cooked food, etc. Would it be OK to go out and buy even the smallest particle of food on Sabbath (Saturday)? Or should we buy enough food on Friday for our eating on Sabbath (Saturday)? “See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the **BREAD OF TWO DAYS**.”



# God’s Voice

By Israel Martinez

God has spoken to men many years and in many different ways throughout history, as we read in Hebrews 1:1-2: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

God’s voice and His thoughts are embodied in the Bible. Hebrews 3:7-8 tells us, “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.” Who tells us not to harden our hearts? It is the Holy Ghost (Spirit) that dwells in us. In other words, the Holy Ghost (Spirit) is God’s voice in our hearts.

John 14:18 declares, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." This promise came true at the day of Pentecost. Not leaving us comfortless means that the place of our Master was going to be occupied by the Holy Spirit. The Lord said in John 16:13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." In other words, there are things that are not embodied in the Scriptures, but the Holy Spirit will let us know them. Our Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven with His promise of coming back to earth. We know that the church is His body, and He is the head of the body which rules through the Holy Spirit that dwells in us.

As the head of the church, our Lord Jesus Christ established a government in it through which the Holy Spirit speaks God's voice. All who respect the sovereignty of God's government must be aware of God's voice which comes to it from the Holy Spirit.

The Church of God is described in the holy Scriptures even to the smallest details. There are not two churches,

and His church is not fragmented. The church is one, and it is indestructible because "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

The crown of twelve stars described in Revelation 12:1 has always been a symbol of the church government that, by His direction and prevalence, continues throughout the ages. The Apostolic Council meets yearly to guide the Church of God by obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit. We conclude that the consensus of the twelve is also God's voice through the Holy Spirit that dwells in the temple of God which is us. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Corinthians 3:16-17). Also see Ephesians 2:20-22.

The body of Christ is His church. Christ, as the head, sustains it with His teachings and thoughts. His direction and His power come to dwell in His church through the Holy Spirit. If Christ is in us, we are sure that the body and the head will be united at His coming.

## Being Poor

Most of the time we think that a poor man is someone with too little or almost no possessions. However, in reality, to be poor is to desire more than what is needed. Most of the time, humanity becomes a slave of what it possesses. We should never let our hearts and minds become slaves of wanting to possess. We shouldn't get overly attached to anything material that doesn't last, nor put our hearts on the material things we already possess because we won't be able to keep any of this.

Something that is more truly important is not to be valued for what you have or how you look, but what is important in this life is to be and not to have. We should recognize that.

Everything we have is given to us by God, and it is all

gone when we die.

It is important to thank God for our life, health, friendship, forgiveness, mercy and love. It is truly ideal to be happy with and for what we have.

Being successful doesn't consist of being rich nor having material possessions, but to be kind, comprehensive, generous, honest, forgiving. We should have noble ideals and be tolerant. We should seek harmony and peace toward God and everyone.

Jesus said, "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

# Wars And Rumours Of Wars

By Gonzalo Hernandez



As children of God, I think we all know what Jesus told the disciples about wars and rumours of wars when they asked Him for the sign of His coming. Matthew 24:1-8 tells us, “And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily, I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

One of the signs He talked about was that there would be wars and rumours of wars, which have been going on for many years. There have been two World Wars and countless regional wars in the last century. The sign of wars and rumours of wars along with the other signs caused some to think that our Lord’s return would happen just within a relative short time of a few months or years. Our

Lord has not returned for His church yet, as He said that these signs are just the beginning of sorrows.

During these days, there are many wars and rumours of wars in the world, especially in the Middle East. The nation of Israel, and God’s dealings with it, is a vital signpost pointing to our Lord’s second coming. There are many actual conflicts that involve the Israelites.

Israel has had so many enemies throughout history, and one of them is Iran, which in old times was Persia. The actual president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahamdinejad, had declared openly that the objective of his country is the destruction of Israel. Beside all of this, Iran is in the eye of the whole world due to its controversial nuclear program. Iran says that it is only for peaceful purposes, but no one believes them. It is believed that Iran is enriching uranium in ideal ratios to develop the atomic bomb. Therefore, it would be able to attack and destroy the nation of Israel.

Even though there has been many countless international sanctions, Iran has not stopped its nuclear program. Unfortunately, their sanctions have not been sufficiently strong to make Iran withdraw its malicious nuclear program. Iran has powerful allies, the same that are mentioned in the Scriptures. This is one of the reasons why neither the West nor the European countries have been able to plan or approve any military intervention through the United Nations to this country. Time is running

out. As the days go by, Iran is becoming a powerful threat, and Israel cannot allow a nuclear Iran.

Israel has the United States as an ally. However, the president of the United States, Barak Obama, has no plans on attacking Iran to stop their nuclear plan. It seems as though he has postponed this matter to be taken into account after the presidential election on November 2012. For this and many other reasons, Israel authorities declared that if they decide to attack Iran, they would not notify the United States. According to some commentators, not even the high military commanders, or the president of Israel, support a solo attack.

Around this matter, there are so many rumours of war. One of them is that Israel is planning to attack Iran. The prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the defense minister, Ehud Barak, agreed to the attack against the nuclear installations of Iran. It was mentioned that such action from Netanyahu and Barak would drag the United States to war against Iran even against their own will. We know that God has always helped His people. As students of the Bible, we know how this episode is going to end.

On August 12, 2012, the government of Israel broadened the powers of Netanyahu. In its weekly meetings, the government passed a protocol with unprecedented broad powers of the prime minister. Some of the powers are: He will now have fewer constraints to push their agenda, he will have complete control on the agenda for the cabinet meetings, his proposals will have priority, and he will be able to schedule continuous debates of the same proposals, he and his successors will be able to make decisions about a possible attack to the nuclear installations of Iran, which seems Netanyahu is more in favor than his ministers.

A day after the news of Netanyahu's broad powers, some newspapers published, "Is Israel getting ready for a war against Iran?" The newspaper mentioned that the defense army of Israel is testing a mobile alert system for civilians to be warned that a missile is going to fall. Ammunitions and food rationing is reported. Other newspapers published that there could be a war within weeks or months, and that is why the preparation of military equipment. The anti-missile systems of short and long range are operating.

Just this one sign, WARS AND RUMOURS OF WARS, prove that we are living in the days of which Jesus

spoke in Matthew 24, pointing to the event of His return. **EDITORIAL COMMENT:** Since this episode occurred, there are many new wars and rumours of wars in the world. Brother Hernandez's article reinforces the truthfulness of Jesus' words about the present perilous times in which we live.



## THE FATHER

By Betty Whetstone

**At the head of each home there should be one  
To guide and protect us each day;  
To set before our eyes an example,  
Never telling us; "Just do as I say."  
We knew he could always be trusted,  
For He lived every day by this creed;  
His life always set an example,  
And he labored to furnish our need.  
"You should stand up for what you believe in",  
Many times he was known to say;  
"If you don't then your word will be worthless,  
And no good will you see, come what may".  
His life was for an example,  
And we always knew what he'd say;  
When you're called on for "What you believe in,  
Don't falter, and don't turn away".  
So we thank God for our earthly father,  
And all of his teachings we've had;  
For someone who's been brave and honest,  
The one who will always be DAD!!**





# The Whole Armour of God

Myanmar

By David DeLong

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:10-19).

The reason given above why every child of God must put on the whole armour of God is so that he or she "may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The Greek word for "wiles" is "methodeia" which is related to the English word "method", and involves trickery and to lie in wait. In I Peter 5:8 we are admonished to, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom

resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." James also warns us to, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

First, we must remember that putting on the whole armour of God is so that one "may be able" to stand against the wiles of the devil. In other words there is not the least chance of resisting Satan's wiles without this armour. Second, putting on the whole armour of God involves submitting ourselves to God, and this must be done "in the faith". Without an attitude of submission to the will of God, the armour of God cannot be properly applied to our lives. Putting on the armour of God is actually cooperating with the Lord to have that armour put on us. He, in effect, is dressing us for battle. Imagine a parent trying to dress a child who stubbornly refuses to be dressed. Soon the shoes and other garb are kicked off by the child. So too, as children of God, we must submit to His plans for our lives, including the whole armour of God for our protection against the wiles of the devil. Let us pray, and do our part, that we will be completely covered with this armour.

We also must recognize that the devil doesn't fight fairly. He never has, and he never will, even to the point of his destruction. Satan will just as readily throw his darts at one's back as at one's front. The only thing that he is concerned with is defeating a saint in the battle. Jesus said in John 10:10: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to

kill, and to destroy:..." Therefore, it is imperative that we be protected every day from these darts, no matter where they come from. This is how we become "strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

### Loins girt about with truth

We must be valiant for the truth. We must seek for it, love it, and rejoice in it. I Corinthians 13:6 informs us that charity (love): "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth". Sometimes the Bible uses the word "light" for truth. We find in John 3:17-21: "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."



There are many reactions by people to the truth. Some know the truth but are ashamed of it and try to hide it. Others are annoyed by the truth because they are convicted of its rightness and know they must change. Many hate the truth because it exposes who they really are. Tragically, we find this last situation among God's people in the Old Testament. II Chronicles 24:2,17-22 tells us: "And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest...Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance

to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass. Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear. And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it."

A similar situation will occur during the time of the seven last plagues. The two witnesses, by their testimony, will torment the inhabitants of the earth to the point that they are murdered. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw

them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them" (Revelation 11:3-12).

Furthermore, II Thessalonians 2:10-12 teaches us that one must have a love for the truth in order not to be deceived. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." It is not enough to have a mild interest in the truth. It is not enough to be curious about the truth, nor to have a liking for it. One must have a love for the truth and rejoice in it.

May we be ever like the Bereans of the Apostle Paul's day who had a genuine love for the truth. "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:10-11).

### **The breastplate of righteousness**

We must always remember that righteousness does not, and cannot, come from ourselves. Isaiah 64:6 tells 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." Even David acknowledged that the Lord was his righteousness. He exclaimed in Psalm 4:1: "Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer." Furthermore, he knew that God would lead him in the paths of righteousness (see Psalm 23:3).

We see in Isaiah 59:17 some of the attributes of the Lord which we saw in Ephesians 6. "For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak." We learn more about these attributes which will be in the Lord's coming kingdom. "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment...Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be

peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 32:1,16-17).

Abraham was acquainted with God's righteousness when the Lord promised him a multitude of descendants. "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:5-6; see also Romans 4:1-3). Believing in the Lord for righteousness involves cooperation upon our part. Romans 6:19 instructs us: "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness" (see also James 2:21-23).



A part of cooperating with God in receiving His righteousness is the keeping of God's law. This is actually yielding "your members servants to righteousness". We read in Psalm 119:142: "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth." This, of course, involves the keeping of God's holy Sabbath day. Isaiah 56:1-2 informs us: "Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil."

May we be among those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (see Matthew 5:6). And may we be ever ready to share this righteousness with others. Psalm 40:10

reads: "I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation." The Lord's righteousness is not hard to find or understand. But it must be diligently studied out in the pages of Scripture. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

### **Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**

As we read in Psalm 40:10, we must be ready to share God's Word with others. Feet being shod implies that we take God's message as we travel. The preparation of the gospel of peace reminds us that we are to be prepared with the message of the gospel. Are we familiar enough with Bible texts to readily share the gospel story? Only by accepting the gospel of peace can people have the peace of God in their lives.

### **The shield of faith**

It is interesting to realize that faith is the shield which protects the entire body from Satan's fiery darts. Concerning the Lord we learn: "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). This faith is for the individual believer as well as for the body of Christ, the church. Faith moves the protective hand of God in every area of our lives. Therefore, this protection from the Lord becomes a shield to us.

Concerning Abram, we read what the Lord said to him in Genesis 15:1: "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." David knew this truth when he said, "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head" (Psalm 3:3). The relationship between faith in the Lord and His protection is clearly seen in Proverbs 30:5: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." In Psalm 28:7, the psalmist testifies of that faith in the Lord. "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

### **The helmet of salvation**

The decision to turn from sin and to live for the Lord is sometimes an emotional experience. Whereas emotions play a part in the salvation process, the decision to give one's life to the Lord should be based upon a definite choice. Jesus said that one should count the cost in serving Him. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27-33).

The decision to follow Christ must come from the head as well as the heart. As we know, a helmet protects the head from injury. Satan tries to influence our thoughts so that we may doubt the Lord and His goodness. Therefore, we need protection from the Lord in this area of our lives as well. As an example, sometimes people doubt their salvation experience because Satan may tell them it wasn't genuine. If a decision to follow the Lord was a purely emotional one, this doubt may even be intensified. The person may doubt that his or her sins were cleansed in baptism, even if that baptism was done properly in Jesus' name. Doubt in any form turns a person away from trusting the Lord. Satan's dart has done its work. To prevent this situation, we need our head well protected from the fiery darts of doubt. Let the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation, be a double protection from these darts.

### **The sword of the Spirit**

We are told that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Most of the armour of God is for defensive purposes. The sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) is also an offensive weapon. With it, we can not only be protected from Satan's fiery darts, but it can also make him flee from us. We can read about Jesus using the Word of

God in this fashion. In Matthew 4:1-11 we find: "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

The Word of God is quick (living) and powerful as we learn from Hebrews 4:12. Jesus, Himself, is the living Word of God. Every passage in the Bible must be interpreted through the teaching of Jesus (see Hebrews 1:1-2). When, for instance, Jesus taught that the the Sabbath was made for man (see Mark 2:27-28), we can know with absolute authority that the Sabbath is to be kept by all people for all time.

### Praying always

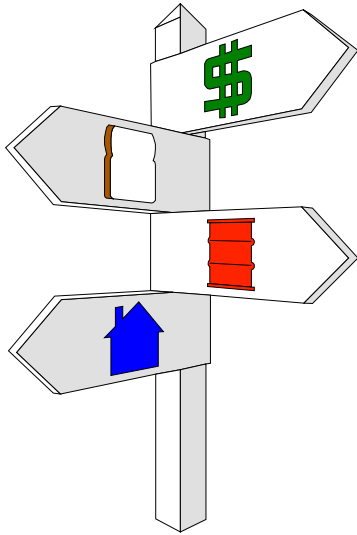
Prayer involves petitioning the Lord to operate in our lives. It has been said that prayer moves the hand of God which moves the universe. Therefore, we need to ask the Lord to dress us in His armour as we cooperate with Him in this endeavor. Ephesians 6:18 informs us: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints". This verse implies that not only is it our responsibility to be covered with the whole armour of God, but we need to pray for all the saints so they will be covered with that armour as well.

Verses 19-20 tells us that even the Apostle Paul needed prayer for boldness in his life. "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Now, if Paul needed such prayer support, we can be sure that we need it as well. These verses make it plain that prayer for the saints is to be done on a continual basis with a watchful eye for them.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians Paul wrote: "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus taught us the same principle in Luke 18:1-8: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

The whole armour of God, and nothing less, is what is needed to get us victoriously through the many wiles of the devil. Without this armour we can know for a fact that we will not be able to conquer these wiles. Let us be sure that we are conquerors through God's great provision.





# 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.*

## Hunger In Greece

I read an article that reported that there is much hunger in Greece, and it is increasing. It gave two or three examples of school age children who had very little to eat. There are no hot lunches served at schools, and the children must either buy their food at the school canteen or bring it from home. The economy is in a free-fall because of their austerity program, and the children's parents have very little with which to purchase food for their children.

The article read that Greece has now fallen to the level of some African countries when it comes to food security.

## Health Threats

You know, it seems like there are many things in the air and on the earth which experts say are threats to our health. One would not consider coastal mists to be among them.

The following is an article which appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*.

### **Threat to human health in coastal mists unveiled**

--SCIENCENOW

In horror movies, fog often provides creepy atmospherics, hiding threats from hideous creatures, bandits, ax murderers, and the like. Now, a new study suggests that fog can harbor real-life horrors. Researchers have found that coastal mists may carry toxic mercury that can harm ecosystems and human health.

Mercury pours into the atmosphere from coal-fired power plants and various industrial processes, including some used in refining ores and paper manufacturing. It's

a neurotoxin that isn't easily excreted by organisms that ingest them, so it becomes increasingly concentrated in animals at higher levels of a food chain. A well-absorbed form is monomethyl mercury, a positively charged iron that really binds with proteins and can be transported throughout the body, even across the blood-brain barrier into the brain and through the placenta into a developing fetus. Monomethyl mercury can impair neurological development in fetuses and young children, reducing memory, attention, and language and motor skills. In adults, exposure can impair peripheral vision, trigger a "pins and needles" feeling in the hands and feet, and lead to muscle weakness and a lack of coordination.

Most scientists presumed mercury deposited from the atmosphere came either from raindrops that had absorbed the element from the air or via "dry deposition," in which the vaporized atoms stick to or chemically react with an exposed surface, says Peter Weiss-Penzias, an atmospheric chemist at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Now, field experiments conducted by Weiss-Penzias and his colleagues have identified another atmospheric source of mercury that's likely to be substantial in some areas, especially along some coasts.

At four locations in and around Monterey Bay, Calif., the researchers, using equipment that slurps up large quantities of air and retains any suspended particles, collected large volumes of fog droplets from June through August 2011. In the 25 samples they analyzed, concentrations of all forms of mercury averaged 10.7 nanograms per liter, and levels of monomethyl mercury averaged 3-4 nanograms per liter, they reported last month in *Geophysical Research Letters*. The latter concentration,

the first such measurement ever reported from fog water, “is about five times the highest concentration ever seen in rainwater,” Weiss-Penzias notes. Using data from previous studies, the researchers estimated that between 61 percent and 99 percent of the monomethyl mercury deposited in coastal ecosystems around Monterey Bay over the course of a year comes from fog.

The new findings don’t offer any ideas for minimizing mercury exposures in coastal environments. (end of article)

### **Superbug Threat**

Consider the seriousness of the superbug threat in U.S. hospitals put forth in the following article that appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*.

#### **Officials warn of rising threat from superbugs**

--ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Health officials are reporting an alarming increase in some dangerous superbugs at U. S. hospitals.

These superbugs from a common germ family have become extremely resistant to treatment with antibiotics. Only ten years ago, such resistance was hardly ever seen in this group.

Infections from these superbugs are still uncommon. But in the first six months of last year, nearly 200 U.S. hospitals--about 4 percent--saw at least one case, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday.

“I would call them a major threat emerging in our hospitals,” said Dr. Arjun Spinivasan, an infectious disease expert at the CDC.

#### **‘Nightmare bacteria’**

Health officials call them “nightmare bacteria” that have been seen in 42 states and threaten to spread their resistance to more and more of their bacterial brethren.

“We only have a limited window of opportunity to stop spread of these superbugs,” said CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. At a press conference Tuesday, he said he was “sounding an alarm.” The CDC urged hospital workers to watch for the infections and take steps to prevent passing the germs to other patients.

The report did not include better-known superbugs like the staph infection MRSA or the intestinal bug known as C-diff, which have plagued hospitals.

It focused on the superbugs that have emerged from

one specific bacteria group. At least five of the 70 kinds in that family have developed resistance to a class of antibiotic called carbapenems--considered one of the last lines of defense against hard-to-treat bugs.

### **Terrifying potential**

Some of these bacteria seem to have terrifying potential. Among them: *Klebsiella pneumonias*, a bug that killed at least seven patients at a federal research hospital in Bethesda, Md., and those made resistant by a gene called NDM-1, named for New Delhi.

The bacteria usually live harmlessly in the gut but can cause pneumonia and urinary tract and bloodstream infections if they get into other parts of the bodies of patients with weakened immune systems. As many as half the patients who get the bloodstream infections die, Spinivasan said.

However, CDC did not provide figures on deaths attributed to these superbugs.

In 2001, U.S. hospitals reported only 1 percent of samples from the bacterial family were resistant to the antibiotic carbapenems. By 2011, it had risen to 4 percent.

### **Comment**

Some time ago, I had a conversation with a man who had great confidence in the ability of man to rid the world of all diseases and threat of diseases. Man will never find cures for all the diseases and their causes in the world. The cure will only be realized in the Kingdom of God.

“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity” (Isaiah 33:24).

### **Drug Use**

It was reported in a newspaper that drug use by teenagers in Houston and nationwide is on the increase. There are many new types of drugs that they use. There is what is called synthetic marijuana. It goes by the name “Kush.” It is sold in disguise as potpourri or incense. One spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Houston said, “This is a new frontier for drugs and drug traffickers. I want to shout it from the roof tops: This is nasty stuff.”

In spite of pressure from law enforcement, the users don’t have to go to underground dealers to score. They can just visit smoke shops and convenience stores that sell the products.



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** Why is it important and necessary to let our light shine within?

**ANSWER:** As we read the Bible, we find where we are reminded to be a light unto the world and to let our light shine. Jesus tells us to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify the Father in heaven. Jesus said also that we should not hide the light, but rather let it shine forth so others may see Christ in us the hope of glory (see Matthew 5:15-16). At another time Jesus again said, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning" (Luke 12:35). It is at this very point that many of us need to examine and re-examine ourselves and to be certain our Light within is burning.

Some may ask the question, just how do I let my light shine? Some may feel that they know the truth of the Scriptures and keep the commandments of God. They may know completely each and every doctrine and follow them. This is well and good and of necessity because Jesus did all of them also. Nevertheless, how many of us are doing these outward deeds of light and are neglecting the Light from within, which is hardly glowing at all? How many have spent countless hours thus gaining much detailed knowledge from the Bible, but have failed to allow the growth of the Kingdom of God within themselves? The outward knowledge is useless should we lack that inward Light which will provide us with the wisdom and

understanding to effectively use this knowledge. Herein is the "key" to letting our light shine. There are some who do not fully understand what this Light really is. I am speaking of the indwelling Spirit that lights up God's people from within themselves. It is that portion of God's power (also called eternal life) that God places inside the heart and mind of all who are sincere in seeking Him. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians calls it "the operation of God" (Colossians 2:12).

The Holy Spirit within us is also called the "kingdom of God" within us. If we do not have this indwelling Kingdom in our hearts, we will not enter the new Kingdom on earth when Jesus comes again. Jesus was full of the Kingdom of God from within as John testified when he said in Matthew 3:2, "...Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus reminds us to "...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). The child of God must have this part in his spiritual foundation or it will be as a building built of many stones without the concrete to keep the stones together. All of these just mentioned: the Holy Spirit, the Light and the Kingdom of Heaven are used interchangeably in various places in Scripture to represent that which dwells within the heart of the true believer. This truth was foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament and is called a mystery by the Apostle Paul in his writings. Through Paul's writings, we



can understand this mystery today which has been revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, we have today "...Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). No greater treasure can a person possess than that which God places within him.

There are visible results within a person who has the indwelling Holy Spirit. These are known in Scripture as fruits, or fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is found in Galatians 5:22-23. It is only from these "fruits" that true light will shine forth in the dark world. What greater light is there than the brilliant display of these godly fruits coming from the soft heart of a saint? There can be no greater light, for this is that Light which is given by the Father of Lights, from Whom comes all light.

A good example of one radiating this true Light would be an old familiar lighthouse on the rocky seashore. Have you ever noticed how strong and firm that lighthouse appears to be? It is exactly as its appearance because the foundation was built to last forever from the ravages of the furious seas. The walls are very strong and thick, for nothing must be able to erode them away and allow the light within to fall and go out. And yet with all this extra strong well planned construction, what do we find as its main purpose? It is to remain there steadfast and solidly anchored on the rocks with its continuously strong, but silent beams of light protruding through the darkness to help guide the ships away from the reefs and rocks of certain death. This beam of light is not noisome and full of commotion as it lights the way, but rather a quiet light with a beam of strong silent warning coming forth over the troubled sea.

One could say that this light comes from the eye of the lighthouse. Just as the light comes from the eye of the lighthouse, so does the Light of God come from the heart through the eyes of God's people. Jesus said, "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light" (Matthew 6:22). Are our eyes single and full of that Light? Do the beams of love, joy and peace radiate from within? Does longsuffering, gentleness and goodness fill our every desire as we daily run that race for the crown? Are we shining our light in complete full power which can only be generated through a balanced and complete working faith from within the heart? Do we exercise meekness and feel the desire to be temperate in all? These are questions that only we ourselves can answer with a sincere heart.

It is the nature of a Spirit-filled believer to desire salvation to those around who are in darkness. This would be true because it is the same feeling God has toward the world. There, the one filled with Light will do his best to help others and warn them of what is to come should they not repent. Many times the efforts appear fruitless and can bring forth discouragement. We know this to be one of Satan's tools which he uses well. Nevertheless, Jesus told His disciples that He would make them fishers of men. The Bible tells us of the time when certain of His brethren were fishing for a whole night and "caught nothing" (John 21:2-6). Jesus told them to "...Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find..." Upon following this command, their net was filled to overflowing. This is a good illustration for us today. We cannot fish from the right side of the ship until we have that Light burning from within us. Jesus may have been trying to tell His brethren something here. The Holy Spirit had not come upon them yet.

Once we have the Light of God within us, we must do our part to maintain that Light so it will become stronger as we grow in grace. A daily portion of time set aside for meditation and prayer will do just that. Each of us has our own schedule that he or she can plan out to include this necessity. It is the only way to keep our Light from becoming dim and going out. God will bless you beyond measure when you shine for Him. "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).

**QUESTION:** I have been told by some that before the rapture there will come an unprecedented religious revival. Is this so?

**ANSWER:** We can expect the various opposite in these last days. The Bible spells it out for us: false prophets, apostasy, and much deception so bad that it could deceive the very elect if possible (Matthew 24:24).

Many Christian leaders have promoted an optimism of a revival to happen in the past, but it did not happen. We know that according to the Bible, it will not occur before the rapture.



## Myanmar

**An outdoor service of some of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.**





## LESSON I

## THE INVASION OF JUDAH

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 32:1-33.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 32:21 (first part).**

**“And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria.”**

NOTE: Hezekiah is now king of Judah as you have learned in the last several lessons. He began his reign with a great reformation. He cleansed the temple, and the people have once more kept the feast of Passover. That had not been kept since the days of Solomon. Now let us study about the invasion of Judah by the Assyrians.

1. Who was ready to come against Judah? II Chronicles 32:1.
2. What did Hezekiah do when he saw the king of Assyria had come? II Chronicles 32:2-5.
3. What did he tell the people after they had been gathered together? II Chronicles 32:6-8.
4. King Sennacherib of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem. Read II Chronicles 32:9-16, and then tell some of the blasphemous things he said against Hezekiah and God.
5. What else did he do against King Hezekiah and the God of heaven? II Chronicles 32:17-19.
6. Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah prayed to the Lord for help. Did they receive an answer to their prayer? II Chronicles 32:20-23.
7. What happened to Hezekiah, and what did he do concerning this? II Chronicles 32:24-26.
8. Read II Chronicles 32:27-30, and tell about Hezekiah's wealth and power.

9. Where was Hezekiah buried, and who reigned after his death? II Chronicles 32:33.

## LESSON II

## MANASSEH, KING OF JUDAH

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 33:1-25.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 33:9.**

**“So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.”**

NOTE: We have just finished studying about Hezekiah who was king of Judah from 726-697 B.C. He reigned 29 years and was a righteous king. Now Manasseh, his son, is beginning to reign in his place. Let us see if his son will continue to rule as well as his father has done.

1. How old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and how long did he reign in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 33:1.
2. Did he do good in the sight of the Lord? Read II Chronicles 33:2-6, and tell some of the things he did to provoke the Lord to anger.
3. What further did he do in II Chronicles 33:7-9?
4. Did the Lord speak to Manasseh and the people? Did they hearken to Him? What did the Lord cause to happen to Manasseh? II Chronicles 33:10-11.
5. Did Manasseh seek the Lord while he was in affliction? Did the Lord hear his supplication? II Chronicles 33:12-13.
6. After this, what did the king build? Did he command Judah to serve the Lord again? II Chronicles 33:14-17.
7. Where was Manasseh buried when he died, and who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 33:20.

8. Amon was twenty two years old when he began to reign. How long did he reign, and did he do good in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 33:21-23.

9. How did Amon die, and who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 33:24-25.

### LESSON III

#### JOSIAH'S GOOD REIGN

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 34:1-14.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 34:3 (first part).**

**“For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father:...”**

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned that Amon was king of Judah. He reigned two years. He was a wicked king and was finally slain by servants. Josiah is now ready to succeed Amon at the age of eight.

1. How old was Josiah when he began to reign, and how long did he reign in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 34:1.
2. Did he walk uprightly before the Lord? II Chronicles 34:2.
3. What good thing did he do at the age of 12? II Chronicles 34:3-4.
4. In what other cities did he do away with idolatry? II Chronicles 34:6-7.
5. Whom did he send to repair the house of the Lord during the eighteenth year of his reign? II Chronicles 34:8.
6. What did these men give to Hilkiyah, the high priest in II Chronicles 34:9-11?
7. Did the men work faithfully? Who were the overseers?

II Chronicles 34:12-13.

### LESSON IV

#### HILKIAH FINDS A BOOK OF THE LAW

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 34:14-33.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 34:30 (last part).**

**“...and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord.”**

NOTE: Josiah began to reign in Judah when he was eight years old. At the age of twelve he began to make reforms. He destroyed idolatry and has just begun to repair the temple of the Lord. Let us study further about his reign now.

1. What did Hilkiyah, the priest, find in II Chronicles 34:14?
2. To whom did Hilkiyah give the book? Then to whom was the book delivered? II Chronicles 34:15-16.
3. Shaphan read the book before the king in verse 18. What did the king do when he read the words of the law? II Chronicles 34:19.
4. What did the king command his servants to do? II Chronicles 34:20-21.
5. To whom did Hilkiyah and those who had been appointed by the king go? II Chronicles 34:22.
6. What did the Lord say He would bring upon this place? II Chronicles 34:23-25.
7. What were they to tell the king of Judah? II Chronicles 34:26-29.

**MY DAD**

When I see my father smile,  
 I'm happy as can be  
 To know he is a gift from God  
 Sent down to earth for me.  
 When I see his big, strong hands  
 So rough from honest toil,  
 I know my heart to will be  
 Always true and loyal.  
 When I hear his tender voice,  
 With words so wise and kind,  
 In my heart I give deep thanks  
 To God, that Dad is mine!  
 -Grayce Krough Boller

**THE LIGHT THAT HELPED**

By Katherine Blake

"Are we almost there, Daddy?" Billy asked. "Will it be much longer until we get to Aunt Susan's?"

"I don't know," said Daddy. "I thought we were almost there, but I'm not sure. I can't find any sign that tells where we are."

"Don't you know where we are, Daddy?" Alice asked. "Are we lost?"

Daddy kept on driving down the road. "No," he said. "We're not exactly lost. But I don't know for sure where we are, either."

"I'll get out the flashlight," said Mother, "and look at Aunt Susan's letter again. Maybe it will help us."

She turned the flashlight on the letter. "We're all right so far," she said. "We passed the old store and the big red bridge. Then we turned at the next corner."

"How far past the corner are we to go?" Daddy asked.

"Until we come to a white gate," said Mother.

"But we can't see the gate," said Billy. "It's too foggy to see anything much."

"It can't be far from here," said Daddy. "Everybody watch and maybe we'll find it soon."

Daddy had to watch the road carefully so that he

wouldn't drive off the road, so he couldn't watch for the gate. Mother looked and looked, but the fog swirled closer and whiter until the headlights would hardly shine through it at all. The children helped Mother look. But no one could see the white gate. "I'll drive a little farther," Daddy said. "If we don't find it we'll have to look for a house and ask where we are."

"If we can't find the gate, we can't find a house, either, Daddy," said Billy.

"Perhaps you're right, son," Daddy said. "We'll see."

Finally the fog got so thick that Daddy had to roll his window down and stick his head out before he could see the white line down the middle of the road. "If we don't get there pretty soon, we aren't going to be able to travel at all," he said.

Suddenly Billy saw something. "Daddy! Daddy!" He said. "There's a light."

"Where?" Daddy asked.

"Right there," said Billy. He pointed ahead and to one side.

At first Daddy could not see the light. Then as they turned around a corner, he could see a faint glow through the fog. "A house!" he exclaimed. "I'll stop and ask where we are."

But it was not a house. As they went closer, they could see that the light was right by the road. Closer and closer they crept through the fog. At last they reached it.

"It's a lantern," Mother exclaimed. "It's hanging on the gate. Aunt Susan must have hung it there so we could find our way. Now we know where we are."

"That reminds me of a Bible verse," said Daddy. "Can you guess what it is, Billy? Something about a lamp?"

Billy thought for a moment. "Is it my memory verse?" he asked. "That verse that says, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path?'"

"That's the one," Daddy answered, "God's Word, the Bible, helps us find His way just as the lantern is helping us to find Aunt Susan's house."

"A helping light," said Billy softly. "Its light shines for us, and we can let it shine for others. I'm glad for helping lights, aren't you?"

Everyone agreed.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Use the missing word to do the crossword puzzle.

If you need help look up the verse given.

But grow in (6 down) and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be (15 across) both now and forever! II Peter 3:18.

Fight the good fight of (8 down), lay hold on eternal (16 down), whereunto thou art also called. I Timothy 6:12.

Jesus Christ himself being the chief (12 across)...In whom ye also are (4 across) together. Ephesians 2:20-22.

This (1 down) of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. Psalm 118:20.

By me if any man enter in, he shall be (17 across). John 10:9.

Thy word is a (2 across) unto my feet, and a light unto my (3 down). Psalm 119:105.

Wherefore take unto you the whole (10 down) of God, that ye may be able to with - (17 down) in the evil day. Ephesians 6:13.

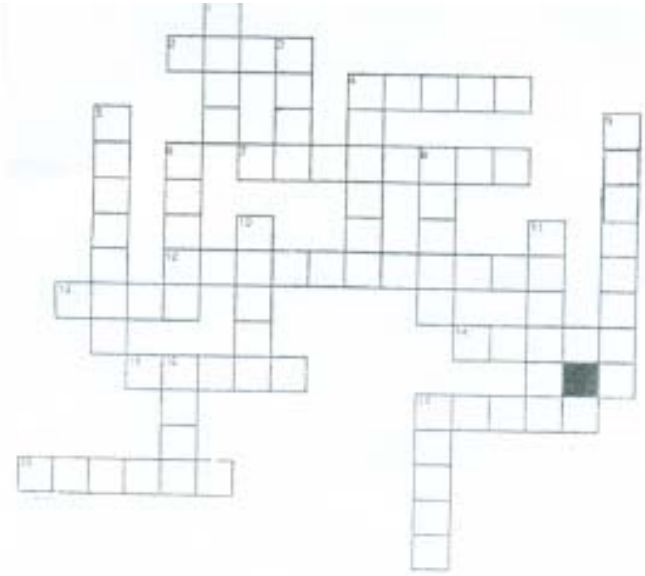
(9 down) in (18 across), and watch in the same with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2.

His (4 down) over me was (13 across). Song of Solomon 2:4.

He is my (11 down) and my fortress: my God; in him will I (14 across). Psalm 91:2.

Wherefore we receiving a (5 down) which cannot be moved. Hebrews 12:28.

Be (7 across) unto him, and bless his name. Psalm 100:4.



**TO SHOW MY THANKS**

Father often takes the time  
 To pitch a ball with me,  
 To make a kite, or fishing go,  
 Or hike beside the sea.  
 I know my Father works so hard  
 To give me things I need,  
 Clothes and shelter, food and books;  
 He is my friend, indeed.  
 To show my thanks to my fine Dad  
 I try with all my might  
 To think and say and do the things  
 He's taught me to be right.  
 -Mary Howard Poole

**PRAYER TIME**

All over the world many children are homeless today. Even though the orphanages they live in are nice, they are not like home. Pray for all the orphan children everywhere. Thank God for your own home.

To find out what God did on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day, cross out all the following letters: A-H-L-N-W. Write the remaining letters \_\_\_\_\_

HARLLENASHTWEWD

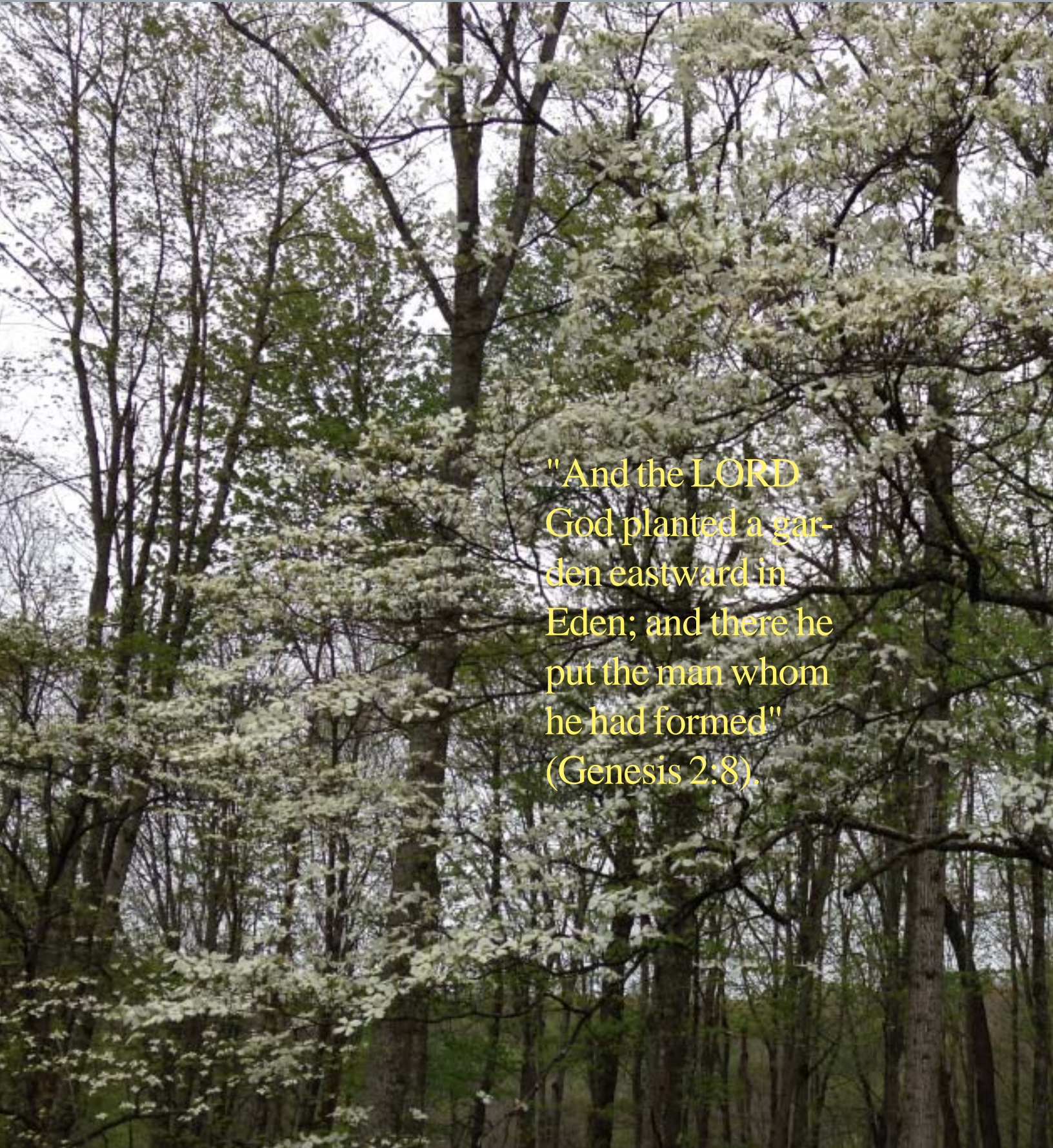
**FIGURE -IT-OUT PUZZLE**

How old was Joseph when his brothers sold him? Start with the number of years Moses led the Hebrews in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33). Subtract the number of chapters in the book of Jude. Divide by the number of crosses on the hill where Jesus died. Add the number of chapters in the book of Ruth. Now, how old was Joseph when his brothers put him in the pit?

(Answer found also in Genesis 37:2).

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"And the LORD  
God planted a gar-  
den eastward in  
Eden; and there he  
put the man whom  
he had formed"  
(Genesis 2:8).



