

A small stream flows through a rocky, grassy landscape. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment. Large, reddish-brown rocks are visible in the background, and the ground is covered with green grass and small stones.

A Mother's Influence

The Bread and the Wine

Watchman

The Advocate of Truth

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What is of Great Value?

Colombia

A Mother's Influence



Numerous factors are involved in the shaping of a person's life. I readily admit that my wife has had much to do with this, but I must also give another person credit. I had a godly mother--a mother who was a good example of putting God first in her life. Mother was always present in prayer meetings, Sabbath School and worship services. This example is of inestimable value and the pattern of the life of a child of God I must attribute to my mother. Having done this, I am ready to acknowledge my wife's part and the influence of many other people as well.

Of Ahaziah, that wicked king of Israel, it is said, "...his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly" (II Chronicles 22:3). Of another wicked king we read, "...he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD" (II Chronicles 21:6). In the lives of these two kings, we have the result of a mother's influence and also a wife's influence in shaping a man's future.

Men in the past who have exerted the greatest influence for good in the world had, as a rule, godly mothers. The mother of George Washington made a practice each morning of spending an hour in prayer, devotion and Bible reading before attempting to conduct morning worship with her family. The life of Abraham Lincoln was totally influenced by his mother. When he was nine years old, he stood over the bedside of his dying mother. She reached up her hands and embraced his face and whispered: "Abe, be somebody." Then she instructed him to be always obedient and law-abiding. He promised his mother that

he would never use alcohol or tobacco. She had observed the influence of these poisons upon other people. That promise was never broken. Had it not been for the life of Lincoln's mother, probably nothing would have ever been heard of the man the world reveres today.

Monuments to a Mother's Influence

The lives of John and Charles Wesley stand forth as monuments to a mother's influence. Although the mother of eighteen children, Mrs. Wesley found time for daily prayer and Bible reading. She was the teacher of her children. The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, speaking of John Wesley, states "He was the fifteenth child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley His mother's training laid the foundation of his character, and under her instruction the children made remarkable progress." The great work accomplished by this man is well known that no further comment is necessary. His mother's life was reproduced in the son. Charles, his brother, was the eighteenth child. He wrote, it is said, not less than 6,500 hymns. Many of them we still sing in church today. What a testimonial this is to the influence of a godly mother!

The Apostle Paul gives the secret of the faith of the young man Timothy, the gospel minister; "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (II Timothy 1:5). This unfeigned faith was transmitted from grandmother to mother and from mother to son.

Of John the Baptist, Jesus could say, “Verily, I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist...” (Matthew 11:11). Naturally we are led to inquire something about this man’s mother. We read: “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Luke 1:5-6). Of Elisabeth, it was said that she was “filled with the Holy Ghost.” It is not surprising that, from birth, the child John, like his mother, was “filled with the Holy Ghost.”

The Mother Of Samson

To the wife of Manoah, at a time when Israel needed delivered, the promise of a son was given. In answer to the question: “...How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?” the admonition was given: “Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing” (Judges 13:4, 12). Manoah and his wife’s concern was how to train the child after his birth. The angel gave instructions to the woman as to her habits before his birth. Self-control and temperance begin with the mother during pregnancy. “And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol” (verses 24-25). Marriage to the wrong kind of woman marred the future of this man for a little while. Before his death, however, he saw his folly and repented, and God brought deliverance to Israel through him.

The children of Israel went into bondage in Egypt. When the time came for their deliverance, God raised up a deliverer. Before it was possible to have such a deliverer as was Moses, God must first find a godly woman to whom He could entrust his training. The story is an interesting one. Pharaoh himself probably knew that the time for Israel’s deliverance had almost come. He gave command to the midwives: “...Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river...” (Exodus 1:22). It was at this time that Moses was born. When his mother “...saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of

bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink” (Exodus 2:2-3). Miriam, “his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him” (verse 4), while the mother was at home, doubtless on her knees, pleading with God in behalf of her helpless babe. We all know the story of his being found by Pharaoh’s daughter, and how his mother received him back again. For twelve years she had him as her pupil. After this, Moses became the son of Pharaoh’s daughter and the prospective heir to the throne of Egypt.

A Training That Was Never Effaced

When Moses had reached the age of forty years, after having been trained by the Egyptians for his future exalted position, “It came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.” That mother’s training was never effaced. “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward” (Hebrews 11:24-26). Had it not been for a godly mother and the early training of this son, deliverance would have had to come from some other source.

God’s answer to Hannah’s Prayer

In the prophet Samuel, we have another example of a godly mother’s life and influence. Hannah was childless, and she earnestly prayed for a son. God heard her heartfelt prayer and gave her the promise of a son. She, on her part, promises to dedicate him to the service of God forever. This promise she kept. During the early years of Samuel’s life, his mother taught him with this in view, and then she presented him to the Lord. In Eli’s household dwelt his wicked sons, who were “sons of Belial.” The boy Samuel was not influenced by the course pursued by these two young men and grew to become a man with whom God could communicate early in life. Later he became one of the most devout men of God upon whom God could bestow the prophetic gift. When God needed a Samuel, a prophet, He had first to go in search of a woman of prayer, a woman who would keep her word and integrity, a Hannah. Without a Hannah, there could have been no Samuel.

Of the Lord Jesus we read, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, *made of a woman, made under the law*” (Galatians 4:4). To make possible Jesus Christ, the Deliverer, God had first to go in search for a Mary. To this godly young girl were the words addressed by the angel: “...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS” (Luke 1:30-31). “And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her” (verse 38).

Later when Mary and her cousin, Elisabeth, came together, she said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: “And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord” (verse 45). Then Mary answered, “...My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my

Saviour” (verses 46-47). To this woman, Mary, the Lord Jesus Christ was born, and to this woman was entrusted the upbringing and early training of the Son of God. Just think, to a Mary, “God sent forth his Son, made of a woman.”

The Hand That Rules the World

There is a saying, “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.” The power of woman in shaping the destinies of men and of nations has always been greater than that of man. We have always expected women to live purer and better lives than men. As long as women are what they should be, even if men go wrong, there is hope for the future. But when the women go wrong, there is nothing to hope for. The world then will go from bad to worse, until, as in Noah’s day, conditions will become hopeless.

--Reprinted



NOTE: We know the Lord Jesus used bread and unfermented wine as emblems of His body and blood to introduce His new covenant, the night in which He was betrayed.

“Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is

my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives” (Matthew 26:25-30).

1. Why did the Lord use Bread and Unfermented Wine as Emblems of His body and blood?

THEY ARE EMBLEMS OF LIFE, JOY, AND PROSPERITY SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING.

Psalm 104:15: "And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make *his* face to shine, and bread *which* strengtheneth man's heart."

King Solomon also says: "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table... Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine *which* I have mingled." (Proverbs 9:1-2, 5). Wisdom – The Lord- has prepared a table before us with a good bread and wine, and He is inviting us to come to partake of His nourishment.

"Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works" (Ecclesiastes 9:7). The word "bread" is used by the Lord to mean the nourishment of man (Matthew 6:11).

2. What was the gift of the Lord at the marriage in Cana?

JOHN 2:7-10: "Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now."

NOTE: This is one of the greatest miracles of the Lord Jesus; and the phrase, "thou hast kept the good wine until now" enclose also a great meaning for us. The Good Wine

(Christ, our Lord) had been kept for us for redemption in the fullness of the times. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Galatians 4:4).

3. What did Melchizedek bring forth to Abram as refreshment after battle?

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all (Genesis 14:18-20).

NOTE: The phrase "Abram of the most high God" shows that Melchizedek knew Abram was a child of God, as well as Abram perfectly knew that Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God. That is why he gave him the tithes of all, otherwise he would not have given them. Bread and wine represent a nourishment from God to man; a refreshment.

4. What refreshment did the Lord offer to mankind?

HE OFFERED HIMSELF FOR US

JOHN 6:51-58: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world... Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that

eateth of this bread shall live for ever.” Here, the Lord speaks of His flesh and blood as true nourishment. This is the refreshment He offered to man, his own life.

5. What does it mean having bread and unfermented wine at the Lord’s Supper?

IT MEANS COMMUNION

I CORINTHIANS 10:15-17: “I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread (I Corinthians 10:15-17).

NOTE: It means communion, “the bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” Every little piece of the bread we break at the Lord’s Supper represents each and every one of us. Even we being many members, we all are incorporated into just one body –the body of Christ.

6. How does the Lord portray this communion?

JOHN 15:1-8: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

NOTE: In this passage the Lord introduces Himself as the VINE or source of the wine. Believers must be attached to the Vine always in a way to bear good fruit. “Abide in me, and I in you.”

7. What admonition is given to the church to partake of the bread and the wine?

I CORINTHIANS 11:27-30: “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”

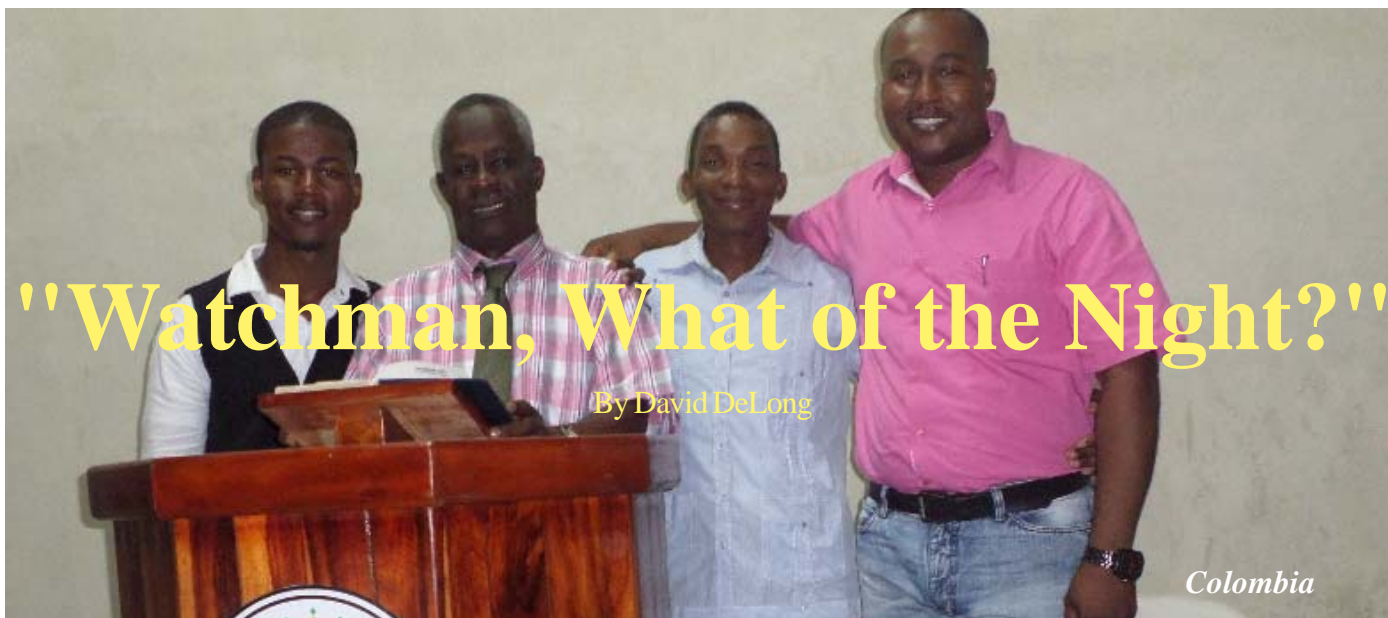
NOTE: Partaking of the bread and unfermented wine at the Lord’s table implies a great responsibility as they represent the body and blood of the Lord. We should prepare ourselves to receive with joy and thankfulness these emblems with a clean conscience, and not be found unworthy and guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

8. Who was found as guilty of the body and blood of the Lord?

“The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born” (Matthew 26:24).

9. What is the ultimate purpose to partake of the bread and the unfermented wine?

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come” (I Corinthians 11:26). The spirit of the bread and wine announces to the whole creation that SOMEONE –The Lord Jesus--died for the redemption of man.



"Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me" (Ezekiel 33:1-7).

Ezekiel was appointed by the Lord to be a watchman unto the house of Israel. His job was to warn the people concerning God's Word. Also, Isaiah appointed a person to be a watchman for the people. We read in Isaiah 21:5-12: "Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield. For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth. And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed: And he cried,

A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights: And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground. O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you. The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will inquire, inquire ye: return, come."

We will return to this passage shortly. But first let us recognize that we, as God's children, are also watchmen (and women) to the people around us. And we must hear the Word of the Lord and deliver that Word faithfully. Paul wrote to Titus concerning other believers: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that

cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:1-8). This means that not only are we to speak the Word of God to others, but we must live that Word as good examples to them.

A good watchman is prepared day and night to observe the conditions of the times, to listen to the Word of the Lord, and to sound the alarm to others. We are actually into the far watch of this world's night, just before the sunrise. The Apostle Paul wrote: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:11-14).

What the Prophet Isaiah wrote about the watchmen of Jerusalem is a good example for us. He penned: "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence. And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62:6-7). As watchmen, let us never hold our peace as we make mention of, or give testimony to, the Lord.

A good watchman also stands safely and securely upon the watch tower. What is this watch tower that we are to stand upon? The Psalmist, David, gives us the answer. In Psalm 18:2 we learn: "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." In Psalm 61:2-3 David, once again, calls the Lord a tower: "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy." And in the book of Proverbs, chapter 18 verse 10, we find: "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." The watchman, himself, must be firmly connected to the Lord before he can correctly give forth the Lord's message.

Now then, let us return to the passage in Isaiah 21.

Verse 9 told us: "And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground." The message in the Old Testament was that physical Babylon had fallen. This occurred when the Medes and Persians conquered the Babylonian empire. In the New Testament the message in Revelation is that spiritual Babylon has fallen. This message is found in chapter 14, verse 8, and is known as the second angel's message. "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

When we go to Revelation 17, we find a woman rider sitting "upon a scarlet coloured beast...having seven heads and ten horns." This woman has written upon her forehead a name which includes "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT..." (see verses 1-5). We also learn in verses 9 and 18: "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth...And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

Going on to chapter 18, verses 1-4, we read: "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

God's people, as true watchmen, must be faithful in declaring the message for folks to come out of all doctrines, practices, and traditions that originated in Babylon and have come down to us today through the many churches which teach these Babylonian-inspired doctrines, practices, and traditions. We know that these false teachings include worshipping upon Sunday instead of upon the Sabbath; observing Halloween, Christmas, and Easter; and the immortality of the soul. There are many oth-

ers, of course.

Besides warning about these false teachings, a watchman must be diligent in other areas of life, too. For one thing we must be ever vigilant against enemies harming our families and churches. We find in II Kings 11 a situation where young Joash, the heir to the throne, was protected from an evil woman named Athaliah. "And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal. But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land. And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the LORD, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son. And he commanded them, saying, This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you that enter in on the sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house; And a third part shall be at the gate of Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the guard: so shall ye keep the watch of the house, that it be not broken down. And two parts of all you that go forth on the sabbath, even they shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD about the king. And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand: and he that cometh within the ranges, let him be slain: and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in" (verses 1-8).

The Apostle Paul warned about "grievous wolves" who would come in to destroy the flock. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31). Paul was a good watchman, not wanting any of God's people hurt or deceived.

Earlier we learned from Paul's epistle to the Romans "that now it is high time to awake out of sleep". Jesus warned His disciples about this situation when He was in

Gethsemane with them. "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:36-41). Being spiritually asleep, or unaware, is probably the greatest way for a person to fall into temptation. A good watchman will never fall asleep on guard duty.

We also must watch the path that we take in life. Many times side roads seem attractive, and the lure is there to follow them. However, we find in Proverbs 4:26-27: "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." The NASB version reads: "Watch the path of your feet..." Attending other denominational churches, for instance, with many exciting programs may be enticing, but this comes with a heavy price tag such as compromising with truth. I Corinthians 16:13 reads: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

Our Lord warned us to watch for His coming in Matthew 24:42-44. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." As with all of the things that a watchman must watch for, this is a constant vigil.

Paul makes it clear that a child of God has a duty to watch for all the saints through prayer. He wrote: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18). This is perhaps the most effective way to be a watchman for others. Supplicating in prayer for believers gives them strength to over-

come temptation, gives them God's protection, and helps them in every area of their lives. Therefore, being a good watchman also involves being a prayer warrior. Even Jesus desired His disciples to watch with Him in His time of trials.

Sometimes we don't know just how much watching is needed for ourselves and others. The Lord counselled the church in Sardis: "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou

shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:1-3).

It is interesting that the Song of Solomon is sometimes used to compare the love that Christ has for His people. In chapter 3:1-3 we find Solomon's beloved asking the watchmen of the city if they have seen him. "By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?" Let us be faithful watchmen, looking for the coming of our Lord, and pointing others to Him when they ask us, "Watchman, what of the night?"



What Does God Require of Us?

By Martin Williams

In the Gospel according to Mark, after hearing Jesus reasoning with the Pharisees and Herodians on the topic of paying tribute to Caesar and the resurrection of the dead, one of the scribes asked Him this critical question: "Which is the first commandment of all?" This question is still relevant for us today. In answering this question our Savior quoted from Deuteronomy 6:4. "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31). Jesus used the word "all" in relation to our heart, our soul, our mind and our strength. This how Jesus wants us to love God, even as He loved Him, with His all.

Jesus even manifested this love He had for the Father in that He made the ultimate sacrifice in dying for us on the tree, as it is written: "We love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19), and that "...God commendeth his

love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). We cannot know Jesus if we do not keep His commandments for we are told, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:3-4).

One may ask the question, then, "how can we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength?" As it is written, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). These are the very words of our Lord and Savior. The Word of God clearly points out to us what "my commandments" means. About 30 years after the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul pointed out, "What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7). The very fact that Paul named the last of the Ten Commandments, about AD 57, indicates that that law was still in effect at that time, and as he points out: "...for where no law is, there is no transgression" (Romans 4:15), and: "...sin is not imputed when there is no

law" (Romans 5:13). Some 30 years after Paul, in AD 90, the Apostle John wrote: "All unrighteousness is sin..." (I John 5:17), and emphasizes in I John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

These verses by Paul and John clearly indicate that the Law of God is still the measure for sin today. Surely, if Jesus had abolished the Ten Commandment Law these men would have known it. Without the Law--the Ten Commandments which point out sin--there would be no sinner. No law would be broken. Without sin there is no need for a Savior, for what unrighteousness has been done? All who believe that the Ten Commandments have been abolished are therefore deceived. Christ's death and ultimate sacrifice has no effect for them, for according to the writings of Paul and Peter they are still in their sins.

We have examples in the Word of God of Abraham, the one called "the friend of God". The Almighty Father approved of him with these words: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Genesis 18:19). Also, "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Genesis 26:5). The Bible admonishes us that the words which we have heard by which we believe, we ought to "...teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Romans 12:1-2, an admonition of the Lord by Paul, reads: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." We should not glory in ourselves when God has used us to do His will or that He has shown His mercy on us and we have accomplished something, for it is only through His mercy that we can say, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

We are told that there must be a transformation in our lives, the putting away of the old man and his lust and the

putting on of the new man who is created after the nature of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We should not let "...sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:12-13).

The words of Colossians chapter 3:5-6 are instructive to our earthly life style. We should "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience". We are also told to put away "...anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (verses 8-10). Verses 16-17 teaches us that we must "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

As a living sacrifice we ought to eat according to the Bible way as pointed out in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. These passages point out the "...law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth: To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten" (Leviticus 11:46-47). The reason for this law of the clean and unclean is given in verses 44-45 which says: "For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." The word "sanctify" means in this context to "set apart for holy purposes".

Our manner of dress likewise should reflect modesty and soberness as members of the body of Christ, and

should not be that of the world. We are admonished to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:15-17). We are also warned by Peter in his epistles that our conversation should be holy, even as our Lord Jesus Christ is holy. The word "conversation" in this context refers to our daily life style, demonstrated among men.

We have to study the words of God, the "Thus saith the Lord". We should "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). We must understand that truth is conformity to facts, and the facts of the Word is seen each day by our eyes of the magnificent power of God, manifested by His wonderful creation and majesty. Timothy was told that he must "...give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:13-16).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in teaching His disciples to pray in Matthew chapter 6, spoke to them regarding forgiveness. He said, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (verses 14-15). God will not accept our offerings if we do not forgive or reconcile ourselves with our brethren, or our neighbors. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). Our Lord, speaking to His disciples, spoke of the forgiving master and the wicked servant who owed his master ten thousand talents, and was forgiven of his debt because he begged for mercy. The same went and showed no mercy to a fellow servant who owed him a hundred

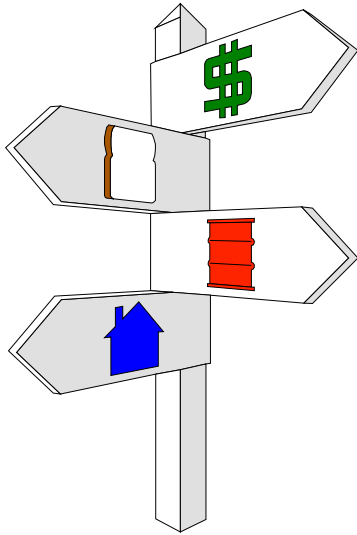
pence, and cast him into prison. When his master heard of this he sent him to jail until all of the ten thousand talents be paid. The Lord concluded, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" (Matthew 18:35).

Because we are children of the light we can't hate our brother. "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling" (I John 2:9-10). Again, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:7-8).

In the body of Christ the Bible is our guide to forgiveness, for in it we are told to "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4). We should be "...kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness is a manifestation of love. We are told in I John 4:7-11: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

In closing I would like to leave with two passages from the Word of God. Micah 6:8 reads: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" In Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 we find: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

May God have mercy upon us all!



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.

Changes And Inventions Brought About By The Increase Of Knowledge

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Daniel 12:4).

It is a fact that knowledge has been increased especially in the last one-hundred years. We may gather from Daniel 12:4 that the more and faster that knowledge increases, the nearer we are to the appearing of Jesus to take His own to the New Jerusalem and the end of the age.

Many of the changes brought about by the increase of knowledge are unbelievable and would not have been possible one-hundred years ago, let alone just a few years ago, as man’s knowledge was much less than what it is today. In the beginning, we really did not know, and we still do not know, the length of time that will transpire before Jesus, who then appears with the saints who were taken to the New Jerusalem in the first resurrection, comes to battle with the nations in the battle of Armageddon. Then He, with the saints who will be made kings and priests, will rule in the Kingdom of God which will be over the whole world and last for a thousand years.

Let us now consider some of the changes and inventions brought about by the increase of knowledge.

Changes In Warfare

For many years, battles were fought largely by soldiers who faced other soldiers across trenches at times. Other times, they fought in open fields. This kind of warfare is practiced less today. Many major military battles are now fought remotely by the use of computer technology. This

technology is able to pinpoint specific targets from far away, remotely launch rockets, and guide them to hit the targets precisely. This is done without a single soldier stepping foot on the “battlefield.”

For several decades after World War II, the biggest fear was the possibility of a full scale war using nuclear weapons. The two superpowers of that time fought a “cold war” of threats, propaganda, and rhetoric. Each power knew that they had enough nuclear weapons to destroy the population of the earth. However, when the “cold war” ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union nearly a quarter of a century ago, these fears ended. The biggest fears today with regard to nuclear weapons are not from those which remain in the hands of the superpowers, but from those rogue nations such as Iran and North Korea.

The threat of soldier to soldier fighting, nuclear holocaust, and technological warfare has given away, to some extent, by what we know as terrorism. We can see the horrors of terrorism with our own eyes. Weapons can still be used, but anything that causes widespread destruction or loss of life is also a weapon of choice, whether it be hijacked airplanes used as exploding bombs; booby-trapped automobiles; men, women and children acting as suicide bombers; or crudely made, but effective, improvised explosive devices.

Terrorism does not involve a military objective or even seek military targets. It targets innocent children, civilians. It can cause many deaths and injuries and disrupt society as much as possible. Terrorism strikes a great fear in people because those who perpetrate it have no regard for life. They do not regard of any value the lives of their enemies, nor do they have any regard for the lives of their own people, families, and even themselves.

The World Of Travel

One hundred years ago the world was in the horse and buggy days. So seldom was an automobile seen then, especially outside the city, that many accidents were caused by frightened horses going off the road to get away from these strange, new, and noisy contraptions.

Now, automobiles are the order of the day in much of the world. It is said that in 2010 the world surpassed one billion for the first time. It is no wonder that in many parts of the world streets and roads are so clogged with traffic that movement comes to a standstill on a daily basis for hours at a time. The resulting air pollution can be stifling. New super highways which are being built throughout the world, in some areas, cannot keep pace with the millions of new cars which are appearing each year.

Years ago, airplanes were used almost exclusively on reconnaissance missions as the eyes of the armies at war, but not in a commercial way, as there were no commercial airline companies then. Then railroads were the principal means of transportation of freight. These days airplanes and automobiles have greatly reduced the use of railroads so far as passenger travel is concerned. The transportation of goods by truck has taken away a large portion of freight revenue from the railroads.

Many years ago who could have envisioned that today there would be thousands of planes in the air at all times, night and day, traveling from city to city, and from country to country at over 600 miles an hour? According to the Bureau of Transportation statistics, commercial airline passengers totaled many people worldwide in 2012, on a total of 9.8 million flights. The total is over 2.2 million passengers per day. This would take 26,800 separate flights per day.

Communication In 2014

In 2014, we find that technology communications has far surpassed that of even fifty years ago. Men, women, and children, living in even the remotest areas, have the ability to communicate with any other part of the world literally in the palm of their hands by means of cell phones, smart phones, and a host of other forms of portable communication devices. Some have estimated that 2014 will be the first time in history when the number of mobile phones in the world will surpass the world's population. Also in 2014, 91 percent of the earth's population (this percentage includes children) owns at least one mobile phone of some kind.

About The Subject At Hand

The above are just some of my rambling thoughts about the changes that the "increase of knowledge" has made in the world over just recent time. Remember that the "time of the end" consists of the time between Jesus' ascension from the earth into heaven and His second coming.

What has been the result of the "increase of knowledge" spoken of by Daniel? Science, invention and technology have produced marvelous creations. It would seem that this world should be better than it is! However, we must know that greed and selfishness have such a powerful influence in human affairs that the enjoyment of the good things which are created by the "increase of knowledge" is often spoiled by the realization and thought that the progress of this day of science and invention might lead to the destruction of the human race itself. This thought comes to those who are not familiar with the prophetic meaning of the times in which we live. Children of God are not moved by this thought because Jesus said in Matthew 24:21-22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Let us also note that while marvelous progress has been made, which leads people to believe that they are making the world a better place, there is a considerable loss in man's ability to rule himself. Within nations and internationally, law and order have crumbled on every hand. In every nation, crime is rampant. In the world, there are distressing situations for which even the most brilliant minds in the political world are unable to find solutions. The elements of peace, security, righteousness, and a proper respect for fellow men are lacking in the world. These are essential for the people in any world society to be really happy. As a rule, there is a mad rush for pleasure and riches on one hand, and riotous demands for freedom from inequality and oppression on the other.

What can we say about the things that will transpire in the remaining time before Jesus returns? No doubt, man will continue his attempts to solve or "patch up" the many problems of the world. History points out that his efforts may simply create more and perhaps greater challenges.

During the time in which knowledge is increasing in the world, we must "wait on the Lord" in faith and know that He has all matters in hand, and that often repeated prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10) will be answered in its due time!



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Christians believe that Christ ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives and will return to that location at His second coming when He returns to earth. The Muslims believe that Mohammed ascended to heaven from Jerusalem. How can Christians be so sure that Christ ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives and deny that Mohammed ascended to heaven from Jerusalem? Remember, there are more than a billion Muslims who believe in Mohammed's ascension!

ANSWER: Whether a statement is true or not does not depend upon the number of people who, out of loyalty to a religion, confess it as an article of faith. It depends upon evidence! Let us remember that when faith is not based upon evidence, but under the fear of death, as in the case of Islam, the belief becomes even more suspect.

QUESTION: Why do you think it is necessary for Christ to destroy all the armies who come to destroy Israel at the battle of Armageddon?

ANSWER: Such destruction is not God's desire. He says, "...I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live..." (Ezekiel 33:11). However, at that time, there will be no way to stop the destruction of Israel except to destroy the armies

which are attacking her.

QUESTION: What does the word "inspiration" really mean?

ANSWER: The word itself means "God Breathed." God "breathed into" the writers of the Bible. This supernaturally qualified them to receive and impart the Divine message. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

GOD SPOKE: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1).

GOD SPOKE TO MEN: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

Let us look further into the word "inspiration." A poet is said to be inspired when he has an idea and writes a poem. An artist is said to be inspired when he paints a picture. A preacher is said to be inspired when he preaches a good sermon. But, Bible inspiration goes much deeper than any of the three illustrations given. Bible inspiration involves actual contact with the Father in heaven. Notice

again the definition of the word “Inspiration.” The word means “Breathing In.” It is that connection which God qualifies Old and New Testament writers to write without error. This usage of the word inspiration then shows the Bible inspiration to be more than what is said of the poet, the artist, or the preacher.

How can it be proved that Bible inspiration is far more than some human emotion? While the Bible does not set out to prove that it is the inspired Word of God, it does state the fact. We believe it by faith.

QUESTION: From a theological sense, what are dispensations?

ANSWER: Dispensations are the systems of rules, promises, and principles laid down at various times by God for His people. There may be said to be three of them--the Patriarchal, the Jewish, and the Christian.

QUESTION: What is the meaning of “Dust” when used in Scripture?

ANSWER: Very often, dust is used in Scripture as a symbol for things that are low, humble, impure, contemptuous. It is also used to show the origin of man and the fact that after death man’s body must return to the elements of the earth.

QUESTION: How is a fool described in the Bible?

ANSWER: The Bible uses the word “fool” to describe a person lacking in moral qualifications rather than intellectual ones. In other words, the biblical fool is not an idiot or a person of a weak mind. He or she is a person who reasons wrong or whose conduct is actuated by other things than right or religion, or a person who does and says foolish things.

QUESTION: I have a Roman Catholic friend who says that Christ established the church before the New Testament was complete. Therefore, the authority of their church is to be accepted.

ANSWER: The early Christians always had the Old Testament Scriptures, which constitute over three-fourths of the Bible. These Scriptures were readily available in

the synagogues and often used in discussion with the Jews. The early Christians needed no additional instructions.

QUESTION: Will you name three things that the Holy Spirit (Comforter) does?

ANSWER: Yes, we will. The Holy Spirit carries on the principles which Christ established. For instance, Christ made salvation possible, and the Holy Spirit makes it an actual reality.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ. “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. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:13-14). “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me” (John 15:26).

The Holy Spirit imparts new life. In our conversion, Christ becomes within us by the Holy Spirit. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

QUESTION: What can we gather from the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-29?

ANSWER: We will quote the Scripture: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

These two verses record invitations. First, “Come unto me” is an invitation to come to Jesus, not a preacher, not to a church, not to religion, not just to reform, but to Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Second, “Learn of me” is an invitation to discipleship. This invitation is given only to those who heed the call to come. The prerequisite to “Learn of me” is the command “Take my yoke.” No one can learn of Him who does not take His yoke. The word yoke has the meaning of submission, service, and union with another.



Colombia

A church service being conducted in Colombia





LESSON I

LESSON II

THE REIGN OF HEZEKIAH

HEZEKIAH CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 29:1-19.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 29:2.

“And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.”

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that king Ahaz was a wicked ruler. After his death, his son Hezekiah begins to reign at the age of twenty-five years. Let us see if he follows his father or if he tries to build up the kingdom again and cleanse the house of God.

1. How long does Hezekiah reign in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 29:1.
2. Did he please the Lord, and what did he do during the first year of his reign? II Chronicles 29:2-3.
3. Hezekiah brought the priests and Levites into the east street. What did he say to them? II Chronicles 29:4-5.
4. How had the fathers trespassed against the Lord, and what had the Lord caused to come upon them? II Chronicles 29:6-9.
5. What desire did Hezekiah have in his heart at this time? What did he advise the priests and Levites to do? II Chronicles 29:10-11.
6. Did they obey Hezekiah? II Chronicles 29:12-15.
7. What did the priests do first in II Chronicles 29:16?
8. How long did it take them to cleanse the house of the Lord? What did they tell Hezekiah they had done? II Chronicles 29:17-19.

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 29:20-36.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 29:29.

“And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.”

NOTE: Hezekiah is now king of Judah. He reigned from 726-697 B.C. He inherited a disorganized realm and began his reign with a great reformation. He broke down the idols and is now ready to cleanse the temple.

1. For what purpose did Hezekiah gather the rulers of the city? II Chronicles 29:20.
2. What was offered for a sin offering on the altar? II Chronicles 29:21.
3. Read II Chronicles 29:22-24, and then tell how the priests made the offering for all Israel.
4. What service did the Levites render in the house of the Lord? II Chronicles 29:25-26.
5. Describe the service in II Chronicles 29:27-30.
6. How many burnt offerings did the congregation bring? II Chronicles 29:31-33.
7. Were there many burnt offerings? Who helped in this service? II Chronicles 29:34-35.
8. The service of the house of the Lord was now still in order. Did all the people rejoice? II Chronicles 29:36.

LESSON III

HEZEKIAH PROCLAIMS A PASSOVER

(PART 1)

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 30:1-12.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 30:1 (last part).

“...that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.”

NOTE: Hezekiah is still king of Judah. He has reopened and cleansed the temple of God so that the people may once more worship God. Now we will study about how Hezekiah sends a proclamation to all Israel to keep the Passover.

1. To whom did Hezekiah send a letter, and for what purpose? II Chronicles 30:1.
2. Why were they keeping the Passover in the second month? II Chronicles 30:2-3.
3. Was the decree sent to all Israel or just a portion of it? II Chronicles 30:5.
4. What message did the letters carry to the people of Israel and Judah? II Chronicles 30:6-9.
5. What did some of the messengers do? II Chronicles 30:10.
6. Did any of the people humble themselves and come to Jerusalem for the service? II Chronicles 30:11-12.

LESSON IV

HEZEKIAH PROCLAIMS A PASSOVER (PART II)

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 30:13-27.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 30:21 (first part).

“And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness...”

NOTE: We last learned how Hezekiah proclaimed throughout Israel that they should come to Jerusalem to keep the Passover unto the Lord. We will now see if Israel

keeps the Passover.

1. Did many assemble in Jerusalem for the feast of unleavened bread in the second month? II Chronicles 30:13.
2. What did they do with the altars that were in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 30:14.
3. They killed the Passover on the 14th day of the second month. Did the priests and Levites sanctify themselves and the people of the congregation? II Chronicles 30:15-18.

NOTE: (A custom for Israel only).

4. Did the children of Israel keep the feast of unleavened bread? II Chronicles 30:21-23.
5. What did King Hezekiah give to the congregation? II Chronicles 30:24.
6. Was there great joy in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 30:25-26.
7. Did the priests and Levites rejoice? II Chronicles 30:27.

A LOVE CAKE FOR MOTHER - RECIPE

- 1 can of “obedience”
- Several pounds of “Affection”
- 1 pint of “Neatness”
- Some holiday, birthday, and everyday “Surprises”
- 1 can of “Running Errands” (Willing Brand)
- 1 box of powdered “Get up when I should”
- 1 bottle of “Keep sunny all day long”
- 1 can of pure “Thoughtfulness”

DIRECTIONS - Mix well, bake in a hearty, warm oven, and serve to “Mother” every day. She ought to have it in “Big Slices.” --Jean Beadle



DO YOU REALLY LOVE MOTHER?

By Mary Railton

School was over, and Martha and Mark were in the living room at home. The weather outside made them very happy to have a home where they could play inside and have fun.

Suddenly, from another room they heard a familiar voice calling. "It is supper time," said Mother. "Time to pick up your toys and get cleaned up for supper."

After exchanging glances, Martha and Mark went right on playing. Father came up from the basement workshop, and he and Mother talked for a little while. Then Mother called again. "Martha and Mark, get out here and get cleaned up. Supper is on the table."

They dropped everything on the floor and ran to the kitchen to make ready for supper. As they sat down to the table, Mark turned to Mother, and said, "Oh, I love you, Mother. You fixed 'skettie' and meatballs, my favorite supper."

Mother stole a glance in to the living room and turning to Mark, said, "Do you really love me, Mark?"

"I love you, too, Mother," spoke up Martha. "I would do anything for you."

Turning to Martha, Mother repeated her question. "Do you really love, me, Martha, enough to do anything I ask?"

Martha and Mark exchanged puzzled glances, wondering what Mother meant by her odd questions.

After supper, the twins scampered back to the living room to play while Mother put away the food and did the dishes. Soon it was time for a bedtime story. It was Mother's turn tonight to tell the story, and she had thought, while doing the dishes, of an appropriate story.

Gathered all on the couch, the children climbed upon Mother and Dad, and Mother began her story.

"A long time ago there was a wealthy man named Abraham. He had all the comforts of life and he and his wife, Sarah, were very happy together."

"One day God spoke to Abraham. I want you to pack up your goods and take your family to a far away country

that you have never seen. I will protect you all the way and show you how to reach that country. I want to begin a new nation, and I want you and your wife, Sarah, to be the founders of that nation."

"Well, Abraham knew that when God told him to do something he should obey God. And so he said, "All right, I will be ready to travel as soon as I can gather everything together."

"They traveled for many, many days; and always God protected them from harm. When they reached their new country, Abraham looked in all directions. To himself Abraham said, 'My, how happy I am that I obeyed God. For this country has wonderful grass for all my cattle and sheep and there is plenty of room for them to graze, My, think what I would have missed if I had not done what God asked me to do!'

"Soon they had a little baby boy in their happy home. Abraham became more wealthy than he had been in his homeland. Yes, Abraham was certainly glad that he had obeyed God although at the time he could not understand why God would ask him to leave his country. Why, he was much happier here than ever before. Yes, he would always do as God commanded, for he knew that it was much better to obey."

Martha and Mark listened quietly, often looking at each other. Mark stole a glance at his father who was watching all those toys still on the floor. And Martha noticed Mother looking sadly at the toys while she was telling about Abraham.

Again they exchanged glances and quickly slid off the couch to the floor. Mother and Dad said nothing while the toys quickly disappeared in their box. But when Mother tucked them tenderly into bed she whispered in each of their ears, "Thank you for doing as I said," and kissed them good night. They had learned a lesson in obedience.

--The Restitution Herald.

“FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS”

Faith of our mothers, living yet
In cradle song and bedtime prayer,
In nursery love and fireside lore,
Thy presence still pervades the air.
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, living faith,
The fount of childhood’s trust and grace,
O may thy consecration prove
The wellspring of a nobler race.
Faith of our mothers, lavish faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longings-youthful doubts,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without.
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
In truth beyond our man-made creeds,
Still serve the home and save the church,
And breathe the spirit through our deeds.
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

--Arthur B. Patten, 1920

Find these foods you might like to eat that are
found in the Bible. Look up the verses.

- _____ Judges 6:19
- _____ Luke 4:4
- _____ Numbers 11:5

- _____ Luke 15:23
- _____ Luke 24:42
- _____ & _____ Numbers 11:5
- _____ Ezekiel 4:9
- _____ Isaiah 28:4
- _____ I Kings 17:13
- _____ Isaiah 7:15
- _____ OR _____ Isaiah 55:1

Use the clues below to help you find the missing word.
The 1st letter is in SCARF but not in SCARED 1.

_____ The 2nd letter is in LACE but not in CELL 2. _____

The 3rd letter is in RATE but not in BARE 3. _____

The 4th letter is in HOUR but not in FLOUR 4. _____

The 5th letter is in FOREST but not in FROST 5.

_____ The 6th letter is in RAT but not in BAT 6. _____

ANSWER: _____

“The Ten Rules For Human Relations”

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. the sweetest music to everyone’s ear is their own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like everybody if you try!
7. Be generous with praise. Cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of and with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a controversy--yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

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A MOTHER

By Betty Whetstone

In my many poems about blessings,
It seems I've left an important one out;
So I'm setting forth now to correct myself,
For this one is worth telling about.
I'll tell about this one special person,
Who has been there, right from the start;
She has been with you thru every moment,
And we've always been close to her heart.
She cherished each of you when we were babies,
And as we grew, remained always the same;
Her love for us never once faltered,
It always burned, bright as a flame.
She was with us on up thru adulthood,
Sharing all of our worries and pain;
She offered up prayers for our comfort,
Never speaking one word of blame.
What words can thank God for this blessing,
For someone who has always been there;
This special one we call our Mother,
We say "Thank you to God, is our prayer."

