

# *The Advocate Of Truth*

*Trust Not In Riches*

*Weak Christians*

*Pleasing God*

*God Exists*

*The True Sabbath*

*Jonah*



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# Trust Not In Riches Or Strength But In Almighty God

By Bibi Allicock

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct they paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones" (Proverbs 3:5-8).

In opposition to trusting in the Lord we find: "Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them" (Proverbs 39:6). "Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish" (Psalm 49:11-12). "For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him" (verse 17).

But, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness" (Psalm 41:1-3).

We see a blessing for him that considers the poor. Therefore, we must remember that whatsoever we possess or gain, all is the Lord's. "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). The Apostle Paul admonished us to, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (I Timothy 6:17).

Almighty God gives us all things to enjoy, but we must

be careful as to how we enjoy or have pleasure with the things that are given to us, because some of us claim it is I who worked for them, thus I can do whatever it pleases me to do with them. But we must remember the rich man who had a good harvest and thought within himself what he would do. "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:16-21).

David acknowledged that although God gives us power to get wealth, the wealth is still the Father's own because as he was exalting God, he asked himself a question saying, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? (I Chronicles 29:14, first part). Nevertheless, he realized who is in control and answered, "for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee" (last part). "Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all" (verse 12). "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above

all” (verse 11). “For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own” (verses 15-16).

Indeed, we saw that all things belong to God, even ourselves. Therefore we should always acknowledge Him in everything that we do and say. “For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath” (Ecclesiastes 9:1-2).

“This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun” (verses 3-6).

Indeed, a living dog is better than a dead lion because I have experienced something with a hawk (a bird of prey) whose wings were broken. It’s strength did faint because it couldn’t fly. We fed it with chickens’ feed, but it didn’t eat much. Thus, it perched in a corn bin until it died. This clearly shows that sometimes our strength fails us, but we must remember the words of the Psalmist who recorded, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power, not one faileth” (Isaiah 40:26). “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings

as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (verses 28-31).

We must understand that nothing can be hid from the Almighty. “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3). “Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?” (Isaiah 40:27) “Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings?” (Isaiah 41:2, first part) “Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he” (verse 4). “Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counselor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?” (Isaiah 40:12-14).

“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing” (verse 15). “The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved. Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity” (verses 19-23).

We saw that God will put to nought those who trust in images, as He had made known unto the world that He makes the judges of the earth as vanity. Thus, at the end of time, “Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young” (verses 10-11). Amen.

# Weak Christians

There are a number of causes for lack of power in the Christian's life.

## Neglect of Bible Study

"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, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2).

## Lack of Prayer

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

"And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation" (Luke 22:46).

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17).



"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more" (I Thessalonians 4:1).

Many are not pleasing God! Few are really pleasing Him. The most profitable thing a man can do is to please God!

"Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).

## No Public Testimony

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).

## Careless Living

"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" (I John 2:15).

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).

--From an old reference Bible

## Pleasing God Or Not Pleasing God

Bond Tennant

**Let us first consider those who do not please God.**

**Those who do not please God live for themselves.** Romans 15:1-3 tells us, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it

is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.” “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). The God that they worship is self. They find satisfaction in self! One cannot please God when he is wrapped up in himself.

**They that seek to please men are not pleasing to God.** “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10). “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

**They that are in the flesh cannot please God.** “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:8-9). “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3).

**They that have no faith cannot please God.** “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).

### **Let us now consider those who do please God.**

**Those who ask the right things from the Lord are pleasing to God.** Solomon asked of the Lord, “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?” (I Kings 3:9) Verses 10-12 tell us, “And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.”

**Those who are sanctified (set aside for God's purpose) are pleasing to God.**

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs

of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (II Timothy 2:4).

God wants us to be a sanctified and separated people. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (II Corinthians 6:14-17). Also see Titus 2:11-15.

### **Those wholly yielded are pleasing to God.**

“Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever...” (Hebrews 13:21).

“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” (Romans 12:1).

### **Those who walk with God are pleasing to Him.**

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).

### **Those who praise God please Him.**

“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs” (Psalm 69:30-31).

“While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being” (Psalm 146:2).

### **Promises are given to those who please God.**

#### **His enemies will be at peace with him.**

“When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7).

#### **His prayers shall be answered.**

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are

pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22).

To please God, we must follow the example of Jesus Christ. We should be very careful to keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Are we pleasing God?

## God Exists

The Bible says to have an answer for why you believe to those who ask you.

This is a good example of an answer to one of the most common reasons people give for ignoring God and His goodness.

A man went to a barber shop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He began to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

Suddenly, they touched on the subject of God.

The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, it's so easy, you just have to go out in the street



"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh

to realize that God does not exist. Oh, tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God exists, there would be no suffering or pain. I can't think of loving a God who permits all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but he didn't respond because he did not want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job, and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barber shop, he saw a man in the street with long hair and a beard. It was very long, and a long time since he had his hair cut. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer entered the barber shop again, and he said to the barber:

"You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say they don't exist?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. Why I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer explained. Barbers don't exist, because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beard like that man who is outside."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God does exist. What happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him."

--Selected by Bond Tennant

## A Look At The True Sabbath

(A reprinted and condensed article)

day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:2-3).

When the word "Sabbath" is used, it brings about a number of different definitions. To the majority of Protestants, it means "Sunday" or the first day of the week, to the Mohammedans, it means "Friday"; or the sixth day of the week. Some people say that "Saturday" is the Sabbath, but they keep "The Lord's day" on the first day of the week. Now a devout Roman Catholic still thinks differently when using the word "Sabbath". He has been taught: "The church has the power to institute festivals of precept. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her. She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day; a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." Pages 124, 125, Keenan's Catechism; by Priest Stephen Keenan. Protestantism Refuted and Catholicism Established.

Those who cling to the Sabbath, because of Moses the Law-giver, usually are of the people of Israel. Those that say in keeping of the first day of the week you are a sun-worshipper, may not know that Saturday comes from the Latin god Saturn, the god of agriculture. Actually history records that each of the days of the week has been designated as a holiday by various religions and nations. The Greeks kept Monday, the Persians kept Tuesday, the Assyrians Wednesday, the Egyptians Thursday. But there is a true Sabbath, and Jesus our Saviour testified of it when He said: "...*The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath*" (Mark 2:27-28). When was the Sabbath made for man, and when did Jesus become Lord of the Sabbath? These are two good questions. They deserve to be answered.

The cry of the Psalmist was for a living God, the God of life and love, the abiding comforter. "*My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*" (Psalm 42:2). We are not content to know that God is, nor are we satisfied with the knowledge that there is a God. What we crave is fellowship. Fellowship with One who knows us better than we know ourselves, and One who can do for us what no one else can do. Man needs some satisfying assurance of God and His permanence.

The first full assurance was given to men through Jesus Christ. One of His names was "Immanuel," which means,

"God with us." The Lord of the Sabbath was among men. The first thing He did when He began His ministry was to go into the house of the Lord, the tabernacle, or God's court. Jesus prepared Himself for His great ministry by going into the wilderness to meditate and be in the hands of the Spirit of God which led Him into the wilderness. Please read Luke 4:1. "*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read*" (Luke 4:14-16).

Jesus was Lord of the Sabbath. He did not go intermittently or on special occasions to the synagogue, but as his "custom was" to go each week. He was showing His people the love of a wise God, a God who was His Father as well as our Father. This faith was the constant source of His strength and the unfailing dynamic of His ministry. By going into His Father's house, he showed the value of a living God and creator of the seventh day of the week. "*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made*" (Genesis 2:1-3).

The last thing that God, the Creator, made was man. He made man late on Friday afternoon. Therefore Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, said: "*The Sabbath was made for man*". It was the first thing experienced by man of God's creation. The first Sabbath was a memorial of God's great work of creation. God set this day apart for a holy service. He sanctified this day and no other day. Does this not prove this point when we read the Fourth Commandment of God's Ten Commandments?

Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, came out of the grave on the end of that sanctified day. He vindicated this day by His redemptive work and sealed it by His resurrection. "*In the end of the Sabbath*" the stone was rolled away, and Jesus was gone from the tomb. It was empty as the

angels of the Lord confessed (see Matthew 28:1-6).

God's people became slaves and forgot His Ten Commandments. It took the Lord many years to make a united nation out of His chosen people. The first thing He did was speak to them His Laws. Later He wrote them on two tables of stone. Today the Lord wants His Ten Commandments to be inscribed on the two sides of our heart. To prepare Israel for the reception of the Ten Commandments, God spoke to Moses: "...tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine" (Exodus 19:3-5).

Note that one of the chief peculiarities making the Children of God as different from other nations was that they kept the seventh day of the week. They were to worship on God's Holy Day. They were to labor six days and then cease from labor on the seventh day. The Sabbath belongs to the Lord. How often did the Lord pronounce it as "MY HOLY DAY" in the Bible? Many times. "*My Sabbaths ye shall keep; (WHY) for it is a sign between me and... the children of Israel ...*" This same Sabbath also distinguished Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, as being peculiar from the Children of Israel. They failed to keep it properly and made the Sabbath a burden. The Sabbath is to be a joy. Good things should be done on the Sabbath to bring joy into the lives of people.

First Jesus preached to Israel to get back to the proper keeping of the Ten Commandments. He taught from the mountain side: "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:17-19).

Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, tried His best to teach Israel the way to keep God's Commandments. He said

to the rich young ruler: "...if thou wilt enter into (eternal) life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). In Luke 18:20, Jesus even names some of the Ten Commandments to prove that it is the keeping of the Ten Commandments that will be part of receiving eternal life. Then Jesus said to Israel that if they kept the Sabbath in the right way, it would be a joy and not a burden. "*And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath ... there was a woman ... of infirmity eighteen years.*" (Jesus healed her.) "*And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day ... The Lord then answered,...Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman ... bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? ... all his adversaries were ashamed...*" (Luke 13:10-17).

Jesus went into the home of one of the chief Pharisees on the Sabbath day. "*And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy*" And Jesus asked the lawyers present: "...Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go" (Luke 14:2-4).

Jesus failed to get the Children of Israel to see the meaning of the keeping of the Sabbath day. The people of the world are still rebelling against keeping the Laws of God and are polluting the sanctified day of the Lord.

The literal meaning of the word Sabbath is "REST." The epistle to the Hebrews finds in Christ the true Sabbath of Rest. It is specifically written to confirm the promises concerning the Lord of the Sabbath, and His rest. Christ is the true rest. He says, "*I will give you rest.*" This is another point why He is Lord of the Sabbath. Thus we should "...FEAR, LEST, A PROMISE BEING LEFT US OF ENTERING INTO HIS (Sabbath) REST, any of (us) should seem to come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1). This is exactly what so-called Christians are doing today. They are refusing to enter into the Sabbath day of rest. But what does the writer of Hebrews continue to say: "*For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished*

*from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works*" (Hebrews 4:3-4). When Creation was finished, the Sabbath was made and sanctified.

Many of the Children of Israel in Christ's time failed to keep the Sabbath day properly as well as the other nine commandments. Please read Matthew 15:1-8. They made the Commandment of God "of none effect" because

of their traditions. So then the writer of Hebrews warns us that Israel failed because of unbelief. They were blinded and set apart, and the Gentiles have been given the Ten Commandments. We are today to, "...labour therefore to enter into that rest (Sabbath)" (Hebrews 4:11). Yes, today is the day when God's Sabbath rest is again waiting for His people. If we enter it, we shall rest from our work just as God and His Son did rest from theirs.



# Jonah

By David DeLong

"Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me" (Jonah 1:1-2). Jonah had been a faithful servant of the Lord. We can see this from a passage in II Kings chapter 14. "In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher" (verses 23-25).

Now, however, Jonah was being tested of the Lord. As long as his ministry had been to the children of Israel, it seems, he had been faithful. God was now sending him to a Gentile people to give them a prophetic message.

The Assyrians, of which Nineveh was their capital city, were a very cruel and evil people. Their terrible conquests, which would one day include the northern kingdom of Israel, are well known to history. Their religion was full of idol worship and degradation. It appears that Jonah was full of hatred for them.

This city had been built under the influence of Nimrod. Genesis 10:8-12 informs us: "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city."

Some scholars believe that the reference to Asshur in the above text was Nimrod, himself. But even if Asshur was another person, he would have been, most likely, under the authority of Nimrod to build Nineveh. The

ungodly religion of both Babel (Babylon) and Assyria as influenced by Nimrod is spelled out in much detail by Alexander Hislop in "The Two Babylons". Notice how Nineveh is described, many years later, in the book of Nahum: "Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not" (Nahum 3:1). In any event, God was about to punish the Ninevites for their wickedness.

"But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken" (Jonah 1:3-4). We see from these verses that Jonah failed at this time to obey the Lord. Going aboard a ship at Joppa on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, he tried to go to Tarshish which is believed to be in present day Spain. However, the Lord had other plans for him.

"Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not" (verses 5-6). Who these mariners were we are not told. They may have been Phoenicians who were some of the best sailors in the ancient world. The city of Tyre was a principal city of the Phoenicians. Isaiah 23:1 tells us of a connection between Tyre and Tarshish: "The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them."

We do know that these mariners were idol worshipers as every one cried unto his god. Somehow they believed in a lot system to provide them an answer from their plight. "And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah" (verse 7). The verse implies that the Lord directed this lot to fall upon Jonah. We know from Proverbs 16:33 that the lot is directed by the Lord. As we shall see, these mariners were being guided one step closer to faith in the one true God.

Jonah testified of this God when the mariners asked questions of the Hebrew. "And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land. Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them" (verses 9-10).

Though they didn't want to, the mariners cast Jonah into the sea and the sea stopped its raging. Verse 16 informs us, "Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows." Whether these mariners became true believers in the Lord at this time we don't know. But we can see the mercy of the Lord in giving them the opportunity to come to repentance and to become His children. God's plan has always been that everyone, Jew or Gentile, be a part of His family.

"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights" (verse 17). Some liberal (and perverse) people doubt this part of the book of Jonah. However, Jesus Himself testified to its truthfulness. As a matter of fact, He said that the sign of the prophet Jonah was the sign of His Messiahship. In Matthew 12:38-41 we read: "Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here."

Now comes Jonah's turn to repent. Inside of the great fish which the Lord had specially prepared, Jonah prayed unto God. "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou hearest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me" (Jonah 2:1-3).

This fish, as the Scriptures have already told us, was prepared by the Lord to swallow Jonah. For instance,

had it been an ordinary fish, or in ordinary circumstances, the stomach acid of the fish would have digested Jonah within three days. Verse 10 tells us further of God's mercy for the repentant prophet. "And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land."

The Lord gave Jonah a second chance to fulfill his mission. "And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them" (Jonah 3:1-5).

We must realize that after the fish vomited out Jonah upon the dry land, he probably was on the sea shore of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The city of Nineveh was still many miles inland to which Jonah had to travel. Once he got to this great city he traveled into it a day's journey and gave his prophetic message to its inhabitants. All of Nineveh's inhabitants presently repented. Because of this repentance we are told in verse 10, "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."

This, I believe, is one of the greatest lessons we can learn from the book of Jonah. God does not want to destroy people, but rather He wants them to repent and live for Him. The message of Jesus was always one of repentance. Imagine the mercy of God. He will, at times, change His mind from doing judgment if one will only repent of his or her evil actions and thoughts. God spared the mariners, he forgave His rebellious prophet, and He spared a whole city at this time because of their change in heart attitude. It appears that according to chronology as depicted in the book of Nahum, the city of Nineveh was spared destruction for about one hundred and fifty years.

The Bible at this point is not yet finished with the story of Jonah. The repentant prophet still has some attitude adjustments to make. "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before

unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repitest thee of the evil. Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live" (Jonah 4:1-3).

Verse 2 of the above text brings forth Jonah's true feelings toward his enemies, the Ninevites. Quite frankly, it seems, Jonah did not want these people to come to repentance. Maybe Jonah despised these people, or maybe he would feel like a fool for telling them that they would be destroyed, only to see them spared. Certainly he had some lessons to learn. But let us not be too harsh on Jonah for we too could fit into this category. How do we feel towards people who are not our friends or brethren? Do we wish to see people come to repentance?

"Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry? So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city. And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live" (verses 4-8).

We can detect, perhaps, in verse 5 Jonah's wish for the Lord to still destroy Nineveh, for he sat in the shade of the booth he had made, "...till he might see what would become of the city." Jonah got into a "pity party" and even wished that he would die. But the Lord didn't allow that to happen.

"And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?" (verses 9-11).

The "more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand" are thought to have been the children of Nineveh. The Lord

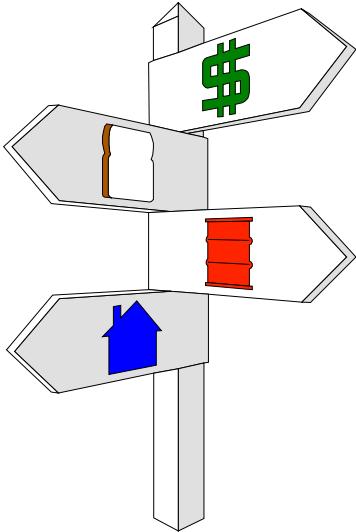
was concerned with the inhabitants of the whole city, including of course, the children as well as the cattle.

We have seen that Jonah is a type of Christ, being in the "grave" of the great fish for three days and three nights. He also appears to be a type of the Jewish remnant which will be a witness to the Gentiles during the Millennium. Isaiah 66:18-21 informs us: "For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD."



*Baptism and laying on of hands  
after baptism in Grenada.*





# 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.*

## **Ignorant Of Biblical Words**

Many people do not know the real meaning of certain words which are found in the Bible although they use them. Let us give one example. You possibly have heard many people, especially the media, use the word, "Armageddon." They give many different ideas when describing this word.

## **A Man-made Disaster?**

Some use the word, Armageddon, to describe the destruction and carnage which is caused by a man-made disaster. For instance, the arms race of years ago between the United States and Russia caused many to fear that an atomic war would result in what the media called "a thermonuclear Armageddon." The United States and Russia had atomic weapons pointed toward each other. Then a thermonuclear Armageddon did not happen!

More recently, there is the fear of the launchings of ballistic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads. Last April Pakistan launched an upgraded ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Just a few days before Pakistan launched their ballistic missile, India announced that it had launched successfully a new nuclear-capable, long-range missile. India and Pakistan are enemies, but each has promised not to be the first to use its weapons.

The nuclear program of Iran also is giving people the scary feeling. Iran says that their nuclear program is only for peaceable purposes like energy and medicine.

The United States and many other countries are skeptical of the truth of Iran's stated purpose, so they have imposed sanctions upon Iran.

Another thing that causes many people to believe will cause a disaster is pollution. We all have heard the term "global warming". Some believe that the many gases and pollutants from various sources that escape into the atmosphere will cause drastic changes in the weather on the earth.

However, Armageddon has nothing to do with a man-made disaster!

## **A Natural Disaster?**

Journalists and the media sometimes use the word "Armageddon" when speaking of natural disasters. For instance, the strong earthquake in Japan that happened last year caused much suffering, damage and loss of life.

The word "Armageddon" is not only applied by the media and filmmakers to events that have happened, but also to those events which they fear could happen. For instance, they have used the term to describe the effects of deadly disease.

However, Armageddon has nothing to do with a natural disaster!

## **The Correct Meaning**

We have stated that "Armageddon" is not a man-made disaster or a natural disaster. Now just what is "Armageddon" according to the Word of God from which

we understand its true meaning?

We know that after Jesus raptures His saints to the New Jerusalem, the seven last plagues, also called the wrath of God, are poured out upon the earth. The seventh plague speaks of time when the nations of the earth assemble to battle against our Lord when He appears in the air with the saints who have been resurrected and changed in the first resurrection which takes place before the seven last plagues are poured out. The reason the nations have assembled is to fight against Israel, which is hated at that time by all nations. This battle is commonly called "The battle of Armageddon."

Let us read Revelation 16:12-14, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Now, let us read verse 16: "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

The nation of Israel will suffer greatly during this tumultuous conflict. "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:2). "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, the LORD is my God" (Zechariah 13:8-9).

Romans 11:7, 25 tells us that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. At that time, God will take back Israel because they will completely recognize His Son Jesus Christ.

The Battle of Armageddon will bring to an end the "times of the Gentiles." And Armageddon will also end all Gentile rulership and influence over the nation of Israel. After the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus will establish His kingdom of righteousness upon the earth.

## The Weak And The Strong

When speaking of the nations preparing for war, Joel 3:10 records: "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong." Examples of the weak saying they are strong are countries such as Iran and North Korea. Consider the following article which appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* as an example.

### North Koreans boast they can defeat U. S. BLOOMBERG NEWS

SEOUL, South Korea – North Korea celebrated the 80th anniversary of its military two days after threatening to turn South Korea's capital into ashes, with a senior general claiming the totalitarian state's weapons can defeat the United States.

New leader Kim Jong Un, head of the 1.2 million strong military, attended a ceremony in Pyongyang to mark the milestone, the official Korean Central State News Agency reported Wednesday.

Vice Marshal Ri Yong Ho said the army has "powerful modern weapons" capable of defeating its enemies.

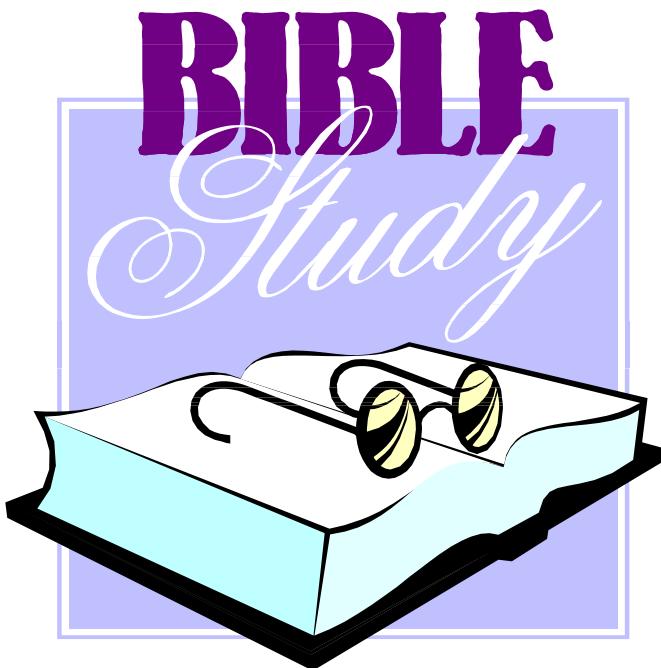
"We are able to continuously corner the U.S. and forcefully retaliate to the enemy's provocative schemes for war," Ri said.

The commemoration is the latest in a series of festivities surrounding the April 15 centennial of state founder Kim II Sung's birth.

North Korea unsuccessfully fired a rocket on April 13, prompting speculation that the government will detonate an atomic device to compensate for the failure.

A North Korean military squad threatened to "soon" turn South Korean President Lee Myungbak and his government to "ashes in three or four minutes," according to an April 23 KCNA statement.

Kim's regime has escalated its threats of aggression against the South in the past month.



# Bible Questions and Answers

**Question:** What difference would it make if the blood of Christ had not been shed?

**Answer:** Many people today call the doctrine of redemption by the shed blood of Christ a “gospel of gore.”

As we answer your question from God’s Word, we first learn that if the blood of Christ had not been shed there would be no possibility of the enjoyment of the remission of sins because Hebrews 9:22 declares, “**And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**” Sin is a terrible reality to every honest soul, and the fruit of that evil root is so evident in the life of every awakened person that he is ready to cry with Peter, “I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

The Scriptures further reveal that if the blood of Christ had not been shed there would be no atonement, no redemption because Leviticus 17:11, last part, tells us, “**for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**” If there is no possibility of redemption apart from the blood, and if the precious blood has not been shed, then man is still a slave in the slave market. He is still held secure by the devil: he is still powerless to live anything but a vain and fruitless life. He is the hopelessly shackled menial of the arch-enemy of God and man. He is a pitiable wretch! No blood - no redemption!

Again the Word assures us that if the blood of Christ had not been shed there would be no peace because Colossians 1:20 declares, “**And, having made peace**

**through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.**” If there is no peace, then there is perpetual hatred, strife, turmoil and war. What a wretched heritage for the human soul which was originally endowed with highest capabilities! No blood – no peace!

Again the Word makes it plain that if the blood of Christ had not been shed there would be no access to God, for liberty to enter the holiest is obtained only through “**the blood of Jesus**” (Hebrews 10:19, last part). How tragic is the sight of a soul which cannot approach God. His prayers are unheard and unanswered! That soul is forever severed from the source of light, life and love. The deepest yearnings of the spirit in man are mocked. No blood – no approach to God!

The Holy Word also reveals that if the blood of Christ had not been shed there would be no song of worship, no overflowing heart of gratitude and adoration. If the blood has not been shed, there is no possibility of singing. “**Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood**” (Revelation 1:5, last part). Where there is no song, worship is a travesty. No blood – no worship!

Finally it is apparent from the Word that if the blood of Christ had not been shed there would be no victory for the devil can be overcome only by “**the blood of the Lamb**” (Revelation 12:11, first part). A man deprived of the possibility of victory is a sad failure. He has been

defeated in life and will be defeated in death. He may imagine that he is a captain but in reality he is a captive; he may dream of success but he is a failure; he may talk of victory but he has experienced nothing but ignominious defeat. No blood – no victory!

Are we compelled to believe the Modernist, and be given over to black despair for time and eternity? We turn to the sure Word of God and read with delight that the blood has been shed. Harken to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself: **“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”** (Matthew 26:28).

Because the precious blood of Christ has been shed, atonement has been made – redemption has been accomplished. The great message is: **“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”** (I Peter 1:18-20). We also read, **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”** (Ephesians 1:7).

There is peace because of the blood that was shed: **“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed”** (Isaiah 53:5). **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Romans 5:1).

Is there liberty to approach God? Yes, we have it now. **“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus ... Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...”** (Hebrews 10:19-22). We need no longer remain far off. We were in the place of distance at one time. **“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ”** (Ephesians 2:13). On the basis of the blood we **“have access by one Spirit unto the Father”** (Ephesians 2:18, last part). This wonder-working blood cleanseth us. **“But if we walk in the light,...we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”** (I John 1:7). And it brings us nigh to God.

Is there a song for worshipers to sing? Yes, in Revelation 5:9-10 we read, **“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”**

Complete and final victory over the devil is possible through the blood, for the Word says, **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”** (Revelation 12:11). Thus, everything necessary for the believer in time and eternity is traced to the precious blood of Christ.

**Question:** Did Jesus quote from other books not found in the Old Testament canon?

**Answer:** Jesus may have known of many writings claiming to be inspired, but we cannot find where He quoted from any but the recognized writings.

**Question:** Do we find quotations in the New Testament from all the books now found in the Old Testament?

**Answer:** No, we do not find quotations from all of them, but we find quotations from many of them. We find quotations from Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Daniel, Jonah, etc. plus others which have been the objects of severe criticism. Our Lord and the apostolic writers gave special endorsement to these books.

**Question:** Is there a book in the Bible which does not mention God by name?

**Answer:** Yes, the book of Esther does not mention God by name. But in this book, God reveals Himself most clearly by His mighty acts and His watchfulness over His people.

**Question:** Who was Jerubbaal, and what does the name mean?

**Answer:** Jerubbaal was a symbolic name for Gideon. See Judges 8:35. The word means “Baal will contend,” and the word Gideon comes from a root meaning “to fell”, as felling a tree. The name Gideon means “feller,” that is, a warrior, one who cuts down, hews down, or destroys. And all this Gideon did as a faithful warrior of God.



# THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

A Baptism in Guyana.





*Brothers and Sisters being greeted in the church in Guyana by Apostle Septimus John.*



**LESSON I****SAUL ANOINTED KING****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 10:1-13.****Golden Text: I Samuel 10:1.**

**“Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?”**

**NOTE:** We studied in our last lesson how Saul was chosen to be king over Israel. He was sent to Samuel who had been instructed by God what to do when Saul came before him. Let us study about Saul actually becoming king, and how the Spirit of the Lord was upon him.

1. Who anointed Saul as king over Israel? I Samuel 10:1.
2. What did Samuel tell Saul would happen after he left him this day? I Samuel 10:2.
3. Then where was Saul to go? I Samuel 10:3-4.
4. When he would come to the hill of God, what was to happen? I Samuel 10:5-6.
5. Was God to be with Saul? I Samuel 10:7.
6. When he arrived at Gilgal, what was he instructed to do? I Samuel 10:8.
7. Did the prophecies come true as Saul left Samuel? I Samuel 10:9.
8. Saul then met a company of prophets, and then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. What did these people who knew Saul say about him? I Samuel 10:11-13.

**LESSON II****SAUL PROCLAIMED KING****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 10:14-27.****Golden Text: I Samuel 10:24.**

**“And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.”**

**NOTE:** In our last lesson, we saw that Saul was anointed king by Samuel. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied among the prophets. Let us see now if the people accept Saul as king.

1. What did Saul’s uncle ask him in I Samuel 10:14-16?
2. Where did Samuel call the people together? I Samuel 10:17.
3. What did Samuel say to the children of Israel? I Samuel 10:18-19.
4. When Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, what happened in I Samuel 10:20-22?
5. Were the people pleased with their king? I Samuel 10:23-24.
6. What did Samuel do in I Samuel 10:25?
7. Where did Saul go, and who went with him? I Samuel 10:26.
8. How did the children of Belial feel toward Saul? I Samuel 10:27.

**LESSON III****SAUL'S VICTORY OVER THE AMMONITES****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 11:1-15.****Golden Text: I Samuel 11:14.**

**“Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.”**

**NOTE:** In our last lesson, we learn how SAUL was made king over Israel. God permitted Israel to have a king over them for the first time. Up to this time they had not had a unifying force except for God. Now we shall see how King Saul began his reign over the Israelites.

1. The Ammonites came up against Jabesh-gilead, and what request did they make of Nahash? I Samuel 11:1.
2. What was Nahash’s answer to the Ammonites? I Samuel 11:2.
3. What did the elders of Jabesh say unto Nahash? I Samuel 11:3.
4. When the messengers come to Saul, what did he do? I Samuel 11:4-7.
5. How many children of Israel were there? I Samuel 11:8.
6. Read I Samuel 11:9-11, and tell in your own words what happened to the Ammonites.
7. Was the kingdom then renewed at Gilgal? I Samuel 11:14-15.

**“...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” Philippians 4:8.**

**LESSON IV****SAMUEL’S PROCLAMATION TO ALL ISRAEL****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 12:1-25.****Golden Text: I Samuel 12:6.**

**“And Samuel said unto the people, It is the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.”**

**NOTE:** We have learned that Israel now has a king, King Saul, and in our last lesson we studied about the defeat of the Ammonites by Saul and the Israelites. Let us now study the warning which Samuel gave to the nation of Israel to keep them from forgetting their God.

1. What did Samuel tell the people of Israel? I Samuel 12:1-3.
2. Did Samuel remind the people how their fathers had been brought out of the land of Egypt? I Samuel 12:6-8.
3. What had happened to their fathers in the land of Egypt when they forgot God? I Samuel 12:9-11.
4. What did Samuel further tell them in I Samuel 12:12-13?
5. If the people of Israel would fear the Lord and obey Him, what would the Lord do for them? I Samuel 12:14.
6. What would happen if they did not keep His Commandments? I Samuel 12:15.
7. What great thing did Samuel ask the Lord to do this day before the people, so that the people would keep the word? I Samuel 12:16-19.
8. What instruction did Samuel then give the children of Israel, and did he promise to help them himself? I Samuel 12:20-23.
9. What did he say would happen to them and their king if they continued to do wickedly? I Samuel 12:25.

## GOD THINKS ABOUT US

"But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God" (Psalm 40:17).

Often we little children ask our parents if God thinks about us. With so many people in the world, it is hard to imagine that He knows and cares about each and every one of us. Today, we want to look in our Bibles and learn some wonderful things about God's thoughts of us, and our thoughts of Him. The first to consider is what the text above tells us, that God thinks of us.

In Nehemiah 5:19 we read, "Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people." Nehemiah was building the wall at Jerusalem. His enemies were watching for a chance to destroy his work and possibly kill him. Nehemiah cried unto the Lord. The Lord did think upon him and watched over him. Nehemiah was saved from all harm.

At another time, when Jonah, one of God's ministers, was out in the sea, a great storm arose that threw the waves over the vessel. The shipmaster asked Jonah to call upon God so that He would think upon them so they would not perish (see Jonah 1:6).

It would be a beautiful prayer for many of us to say tonight. "Think upon me, O my God." It is always pleasant to have kind friends to say that they often think of us, but the best of all is to read from the Bible, "The Lord thinketh upon me." David thought it was wonderful that God who made all the stars and takes care of all the worlds should ever think about him. He sang with his beautiful harp: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:4)

Job thought it was strange that God should think of him. He said, "What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?" (Job 7:17)

In Jeremiah 29:11, God says this to the children of Israel, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Many of God's loving thoughts are written in the Bible. The sweetest of all God's thoughts toward us is that thought of the heart which we call love. One of the most precious messages in the Bible, and so short a thought that the smallest child can remember is, "God is Love."

We read in I John 4:19, "We love him, because he first loved us." If God first loved us, we ought to love Him. If He thinks loving thoughts of us, we ought not to think wicked thoughts of Him. We say God is everywhere, but a little boy once said: "There is one place where God is not" "Where?" "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts" (Psalm 10:4). If our hearts are full of wicked thoughts, God will not come in to dwell there as His temple. But God will know of our bad thoughts, for the Bible says, "Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off" (Psalm 139:2). When Solomon was about to have the crown put on his head to be a king, his dying father told him, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever" (I Chronicles 28:9).

Jesus knew some people were thinking wicked things about him. "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" (Matthew 9:4).

God wants us to give up all our wicked thoughts for loving ones about Him, such as He has about us. So He says: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

In Malachi 3:16 we read, "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."

Yes, God thinks about us. Let us, too, think on the

Lord with loving thoughts. "...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

### NAMES OF JESUS

Look up the verses below to find some different names Jesus was given.

Hebrews 6:19 I Peter 2:8 Revelation 5:5  
II Peter 1:19 John 10:9 Hosea 14:5  
Isaiah 4:2 Jeremiah 2:13  
John 1:29 John 9:5 Isaiah 53:2

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is  
LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS,  
FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE:  
against such there is no law."*



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*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2-3).*

