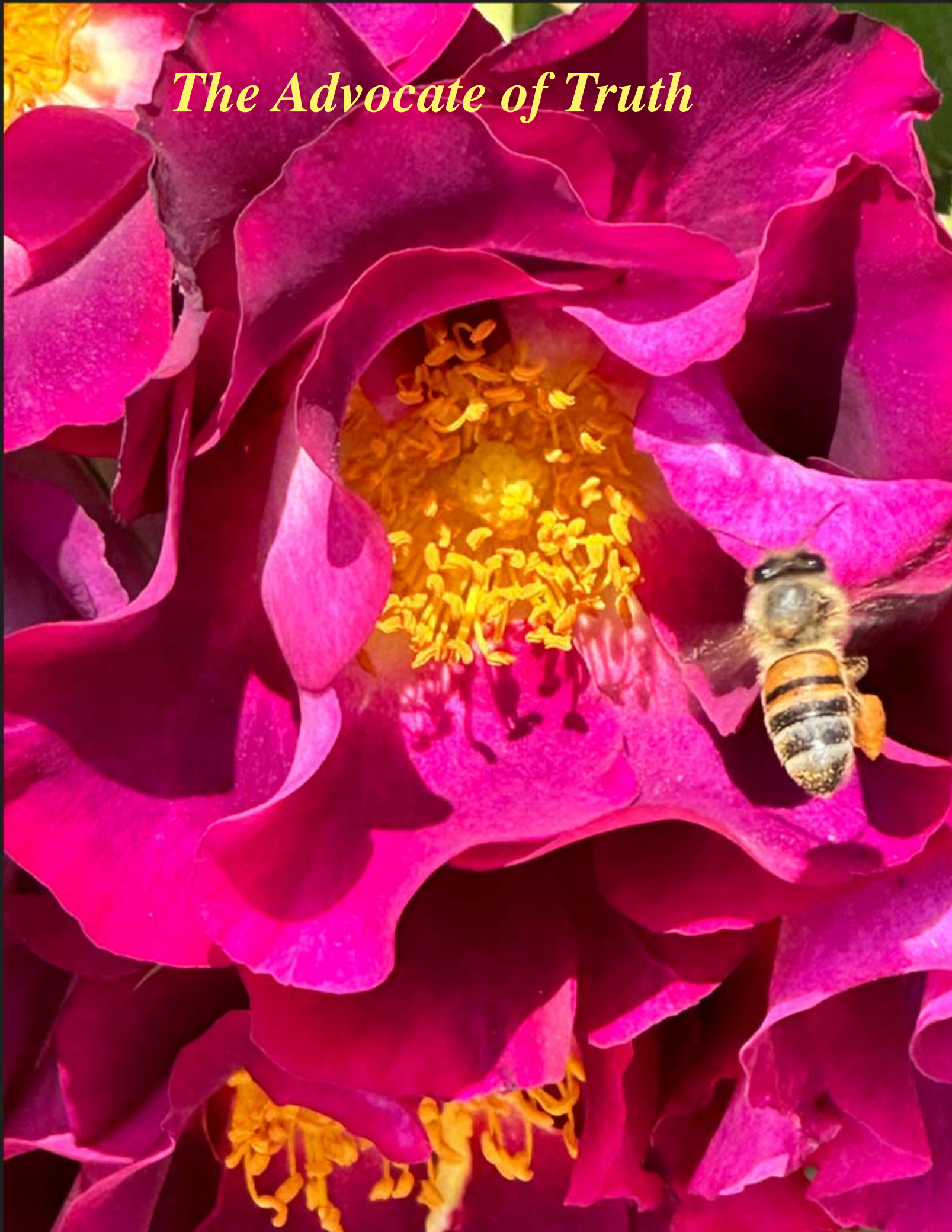


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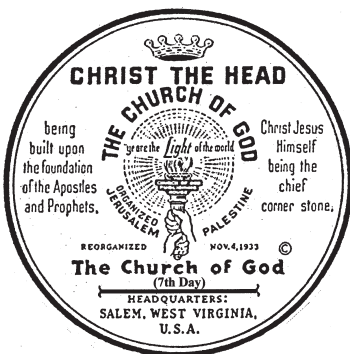


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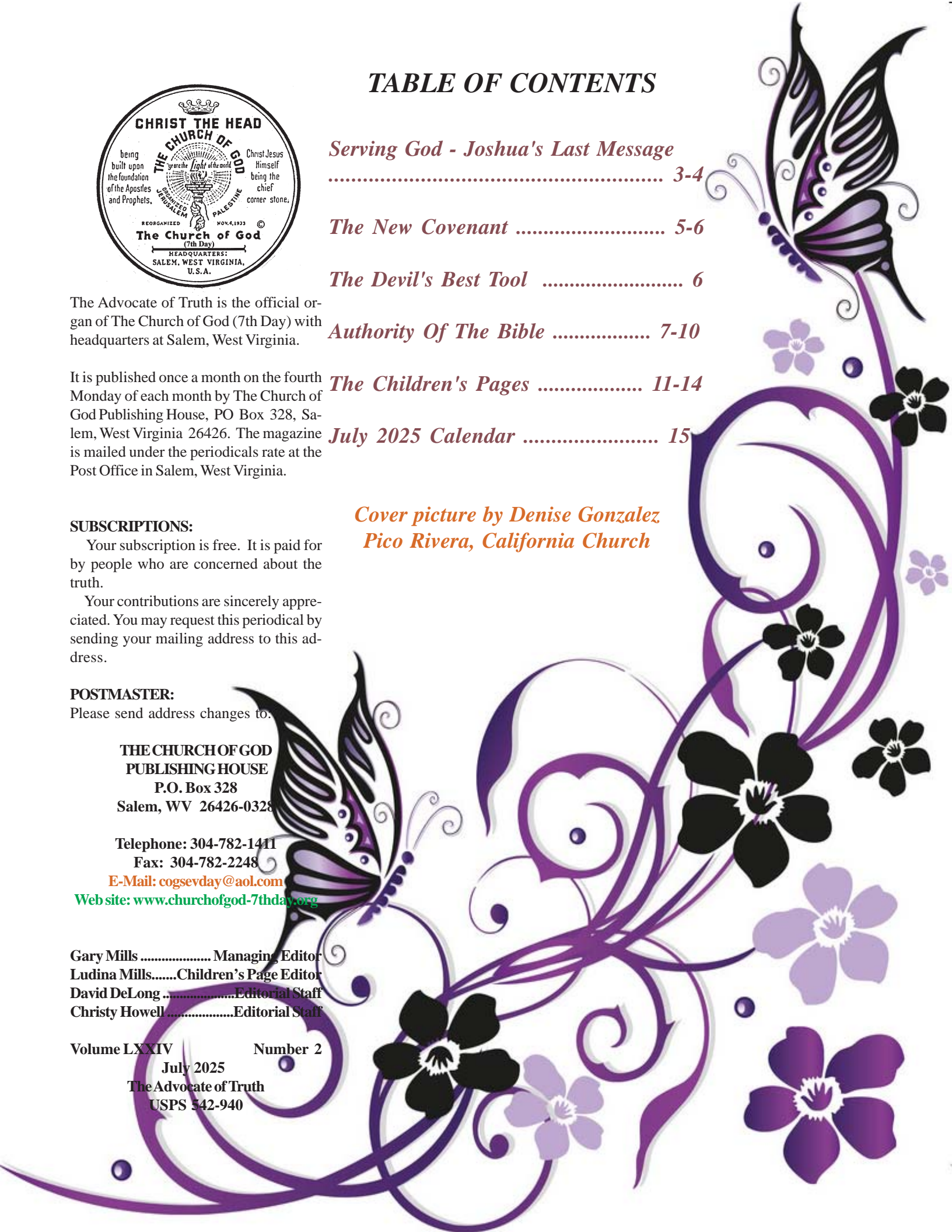
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*Cover picture by Denise Gonzalez
Pico Rivera, California Church*



**“As for me and my
house, we will serve
the LORD”**

Joshua 24:15

Serving God – Joshua’s Last Message

When I think of a leader of Israel in the Old Testament delivering a message to the people before he passed away, I think of Moses and the book of Deuteronomy. Joshua also delivered a final message to the children of Israel before he passed away. He gives a similar message that Moses did. He talks about serving God and keeping God’s commandments. We read this in Joshua 22:5 “But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

We see that this is the same as the message that Moses gave to the people in Deuteronomy 10: 12,13: “And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”

Joshua’s final message is given in Joshua chapter 24. Let’s look at some of the verses in this chapter.

First, he reminded the people of Israel of all that God has done for them.

Joshua 24: 2-6: “And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out. And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea.”

After reminding the people of everything God has done for them, Joshua then tells them:

Joshua 24: 13-15: “And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye

dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

The children of Israel then pledged themselves to serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:16 “And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods.”

Joshua wanted to emphasize to the people how important it was for them to stay true to God and the consequences if they fell away from what God wants us to do.

Joshua 24: 19-24 “And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the Lord. And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.”

Joshua was then able to die in peace, knowing that he had served the Lord well and explained God’s will to the people of Israel.

Joshua 24: 28-31: “So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance. And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in

Timnathserah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.”

Joshua was a great spokesman for God and the people of his generation did follow God and serve him. However as we know as time went on the children of Israel fell away from Joshua’s teachings and stopped following God. God sent many prophets to the people, all with the same message as seen in I Samuel 12:24 “Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”

God had planned for the children of Israel to be a shining example to all people and show everyone how to serve God and keep His commandments. They were never able to rise to this great task.

Eventually God sent his Son to be this shining example and to deliver this same message to all people.

Matthew 6:24, "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 22:37, And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

John 12:26, “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.”

God’s message to man in the Bible has been the same from the beginning. Serve God and keep his commandments. Then thru the grace of God and the sacrifice of his Son we have the right to eternal life.

I love what Joshua said to Israel, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua lived by these words and we should do the same.

Gary Mills

The New Covenant

By David DeLong

When God spoke of His covenant, He referred to the Ten Commandments. In Deuteronomy 4:13 we find written: "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." In the book of Jeremiah 31:33 we find: "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." Many people think that much of the gospels of Jesus Christ are actually not a part of the New Covenant. They may believe that the gospels were Jewish, and that Jesus, being a Jew, was addressing those Jews basically under the Old Covenant. Thus, His teachings about the Sabbath, they believe, were a part of the Old Covenant.

But listen to what is written in the book of Hebrews, chapter nine, verses 15-17: "And for this cause he (Jesus) is the mediator of the new testament (covenant), that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Did you get the full impact of these verses in Hebrews? A testament, or covenant, is only in force after the testator has died! Therefore, that means that Jesus set up the New Covenant while He was alive, which was in the gospels. But that covenant went into force when He died. Therefore, His teachings and example, in the gospels, became the basis for the New Covenant. The writings of Paul, Peter, and the other apostles and disciples did not supercede the teachings of Jesus, but only added some light to His teachings. We know, for instance, that Jesus' teachings about the Sabbath, therefore, could not have



been done away with and replaced with Sunday observance. Let us look at other teachings and example of Jesus in the gospels.

Concerning tithing, then, as being a part of the New Covenant, we read in Matthew 23:23 where Jesus taught: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." So we can plainly see that Jesus endorsed tithing under the New Covenant.

How about the doctrine of the clean and unclean? Jesus apparently had no direct teachings about this subject, but His testimony concerning unclean animals was very apparent. For instance, in Matthew 7:6 we read: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls

before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." Here Jesus is comparing evil people with unclean animals. He could have said, don't cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and come and head butt you. But He was obviously comparing unclean people to unclean animals. In another case, in Mark 5:11-14, we read about a great herd of swine feeding by some mountains. A man possessed by evil spirits, named Legion, was also there. Jesus cast the evil spirits out of the man. "And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the

swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done." Now the devils entering into the herd of swine did not make the animals unclean. They already were. But Jesus NEVER wasted food. Remember in Matthew 14 where Jesus had His disciples pick up 12 baskets full of the 5 loaves and 2 fishes that He had passed out to the multitude? If the swine were to be eaten, He wouldn't have wasted such a great amount of "food." Therefore, clean meats only are under the New Covenant.

From The Advocate of Truth June 27, 1994

The Devil's Best Tool

It was once announced that the Devil was going out of business and would offer all his tools for sale to whomsoever would pay the price. On the night of the sale they were all attractively displayed, and a bad looking lot they were; Malice, jealousy, envy, hatred, sensuality, deceit, and all the other implements of evil were spread out. Each was marked with a price. Apart from the rest of the tools lay a harmless looking wedge shaped tool, much worn and priced higher than any of the rest.

Someone asked the Devil what it was. "That is discouragement," was the reply. "Well why do you have it priced so high?" "Because" replied the Devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the other tools. I can pry open and get inside a man's consciousness with that when I could not get near him with any of the others, and once inside, I can use him in what ever way suits me best. It is so much worn because I use it with nearly everybody as very few people know it belongs to me."

It need hardly be added that the Devil's price for discouragement was so high that it was never sold. The Devil still owns it, and is still using it.



THE DEVIL'S BEST TOOL
DISCOURAGEMENT

AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

by Marie Rasnick Fetzer

Have you ever heard these questions before? What exactly is the Bible, and upon whose authority was it written?

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Christians believe that the Bible is a collection of sacred texts containing the inerrant Word of God, given to men who wrote them down as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is divided into two sections. The Hebrew Bible, which we call the Old Testament, covers from the time of Creation up until about 400 years prior to the appearance of Christ. It is a compilation of texts written in Hebrew and Aramaic, that includes history, genealogy, stories, poetry, laws and prophecy, and introduces God as the Creator of the universe. It reveals to us that, because of sin, Man was separated from God, and sentenced to death, and tells of God's mercy in His promise to send a Redeemer. The New Testament was written in Greek, because that was the dominant language in the days of the early Church. It tells us about Jesus of Nazareth and His mission to preach the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God. It reveals that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament, whose sacrifice is able to save Mankind from sin and death, and promises He will return to Earth soon to remove all evil and usher in the Kingdom of God. The Bible contains our history and our future. In essence, it is our instruction book for living and a guideline for salvation. It reveals our destiny and purpose as children of God.

AUTHORSHIP AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

Both Jews and early Christians accepted and revered the Hebrew texts because they understood that God was the ultimate Author. We find God's authorship and authority declared in the Old Testament hundreds of times when we read a verse beginning with the words, "*Thus saith the Lord*". Second Timothy 3:16 tells us, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*". Jesus acknowledged this in Matthew 22:29-32 when, speaking to the Pharisees, "*Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*" Jesus referenced the Hebrew Scriptures many times, even declaring that He was the one that Moses spoke to the children of Israel about, when he said, "*The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren,*

like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deuteronomy 18:15).

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

The concept of "oneness" is a recurring theme in the Bible; one God, one Spirit, one Redeemer, one Faith, one Baptism, one Mediator between God and Men, one Body of Christ, one Church. While the Apostle Paul was on a missionary journey in Asia Minor, he received a report that divisions and immorality had crept into the Church at Corinth, and found it necessary to address many serious issues that had infiltrated the Church. Among them were quarrels and lawsuits among the brethren, sexual immorality, matters of marriage and singleness, matters of eating and drinking, doctrinal issues, theological confusion and the order of worship. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 10, he wrote, *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* Ephesians 4:5-6 tells us that, there is *"One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all"*. From these verses we learn that, based on biblical Scripture, Christian believers should be part of a single body, believing and practicing the same things, but the very fact that, today, there are thousands of different denominations, testifies that all who call themselves Christians are definitely not of *"one faith"*. How did Christianity become so fractured?

For all to be unified, we must have proper understanding of God's Word. In Isaiah 55:8-9, God tells us, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Paul tells us in I Corinthians 2:10-16, *"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely*

given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." These verses show that carnal Man cannot fully understand the Word of God on his own; it is only possible with the help of the Holy Spirit. Divisions and confusion occur when men rely on their own understanding to "interpret" the Holy Scriptures. Without the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, men ultimately deviate from the instructions of the early Church by allowing false teachings to arise and take root, eventually causing factions to split away from the true Church as it was established by the Lord Jesus Christ.

HOW WERE THE BOOKS CHOSEN?

Who decided which texts to include in the Bible, and how was it done? Regarding the Hebrew Scriptures, the answer is, of course, that it was God who guided human authors and imparted holy men of old with wisdom to understand which texts were of divine origin. God assured their accuracy through a mandate He gave to the Jewish people (Romans 3:1-2), who have safeguarded the Hebrew Scriptures for thousands of years.

As Christianity began as a sect of Judaism (Acts 28:22), the early Church naturally referenced and built upon the Hebrew Scriptures, which are the basis of a shared tenant of both Judaism and Christianity. Not only the Bible, but contemporary, extra-biblical evidence exists that speaks to the content and integrity of the ancient Jewish texts. In A.D. 90, Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, felt compelled to counter attacks from critics regarding the age, origin, history and veracity of the Jews and their sacred Scriptures. In the following passage from "Against Apion", Book 1:8, Josephus described and defended the Hebrew Scriptures, and the utmost esteem the Jewish people held for them, even unto death: *"For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us....but only twenty-two books: which contain the records of all the past times: which are justly believed to be*

divine. And of them five belong to Moses: which contain his laws, and the traditions of the origin of mankind, till his death. This interval of time was little short of three thousand years. But as to the time from the death of Moses, till the reign of Artaxerxes, King of Persia, who reigned after Xerxes, the Prophets, who were after Moses, wrote down what was done in their times, in thirteen books. The remaining four books contain hymns to God; and precepts for the conduct of human life. 'Tis true, our history hath been written since Artaxerxes very particularly; but hath not been esteemed of the like authority with the former by our forefathers; because there hath not been an exact succession of Prophets since that time. And how firmly we have given credit to these books of our own nation, is evident by what we do. For during so many ages as have already passed, no one has been so bold, as either to add anything to them; to take anything from them; or to make any change in them. But it is become natural to all Jews, immediately, and from their very birth, to esteem these books to contain divine doctrines; and to persist in them: and, if occasion be, willingly to die for them. For 'tis no new thing for our captives, many of them in number, and frequently in time, to be seen to endure wracks, and deaths of all kinds, upon the theatres; that they may not be obliged to say one word against our laws, and the records that contain them...." While it is true that the writings of Josephus and others are not considered inspired by God, they do serve as an important window into Jewish and early Christian history, and as an eye-witness account to the Siege of Jerusalem and the Destruction of the Temple, and other historical events.

Some may ask, "If the Hebrew Bible and the Old Testament are the same, how can you account for the fact that, shortly after the death of Jesus, Josephus wrote that the Jewish Scriptures contained twenty-two books (later counted as twenty-four by rabbinical reckoning), and the Christian Old Testament numbers them at thirty-nine?" The difference comes from the way the Jews grouped and counted the books. They separated the Hebrew Scriptures into three categories: (1) the Law, the first five books of Moses, containing Genesis to Deuteronomy; (2) the Prophets, containing Joshua to Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Twelve, which we call the minor

prophets; (3) the Writings, consisting of a mix of poetic books, wisdom, and history, Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra to Nehemiah, and Chronicles. When you know the categories and the content of the Hebrew Bible, it becomes very clear, that when Jesus says, in Luke 24:44, "... *These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me*", that He is validating the Scriptures of the Hebrew Bible as being divinely inspired, and proclaims that He is the reason for, and the link between the Old and the New Testaments.

A common idea exists that the books of the New Testament were established by Constantine, the first Christian emperor of Rome. Many false texts and religious differences arose in the years after the death of Christ, which threatened the unity of the Church. For both religious and political reasons, Constantine called a council of bishops at Nicaea, Turkey in A.D. 325, to resolve important issues and standardize doctrine. The most serious conflict for the council to settle was that of "the Arian Controversy". Arius was a Christian theologian from Alexandria, Egypt, but had been ejected from the church because of his understanding of the nature of Christ. He contended that Jesus, being the Son of God, implied that He was begotten of God at some point, and had a different relationship with Him than other creatures who were merely just created by God. Arius insisted that there was a time when Jesus did not exist. This idea was in opposition to the "orthodox" bishops who held to the Trinitarian position, which stated that the Son shares fully in the deity of the Father and the Holy Spirit. That, while the Son might have willingly taken a subordinate role, He was in essence fully divine, and as such, was coexistent with the Father from eternity, uncreated, and without beginning or end. The debate became quite fierce and divided the bishops. The majority did not agree with Arius' views, and declared them as heresy, and the Trinitarians gained the major support. The council deemed an official statement necessary which would uphold their view, and could be used as a doctrinal standard for the "universal" Christian Church. The result was the creation of a profession of faith upholding the non-biblical doctrine of the Trinity, called the Nicene Creed, which has been

accepted, to their detriment, by Catholic, Orthodox and many Protestant churches ever since.

In doing a study on how books were chosen to be in the New Testament, one encounters a mind numbing trip down the rabbit hole of Catholicism; centuries filled with legalistic language, unfamiliar Latin words and terms, complex rules and regulations, and endless councils, synods and Popes, all proclaiming the spiritual and intellectual authority of the Roman Church to interfere in such decisions. All this confusion obscures the simple truth of how the texts of the New Testament were actually chosen. Here again, the answer is simple. It was accomplished through the Power of God, the Holy Spirit, who guided the early Christians in recognizing that God was the source of Scripture, enabling them to carefully discern which writings should and should not be part of the Bible, *“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”*, 2 Peter 1:21. This assures the infallibility of God, and removes Man’s fallible interpretations out of the decision making, ensuring that false teachings wouldn’t corrupt the Church, as occurred with the Council of Nicaea’s acceptance of the Trinitarian doctrine, which has produced incredible harm to Christianity for centuries.

ALL BIBLES ARE NOT THE SAME

Certain religious groups with differing interpretations of Scripture have resulted in the creation of a wide variety of editions of the Bible. The Catholic Bible, for example, contains seven extra books that Protestants do not recognize as being divinely inspired. Other denominations may choose a version that either adds, deletes or changes words or ideas, in ways that support their particular beliefs. Some groups sanction study only with their particular edition of the Bible, and others, such as the Mormons, require followers to accept additional books besides the Bible as sacred. True children of God believe that the Bible alone is sufficient in itself. It contains all God’s words that we need to live by in this life and discover the way to salvation. Second Timothy 3:15-17 tells us, *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in*

righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” The Church of God (7th Day) recommends the King James Version of the Bible, because we believe it to be the most accurate word-for-word English translation from the original Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic manuscripts.

PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE

Skeptics may say the Bible cannot be believed, and argue that it has been changed or corrupted over the centuries, and that we do not have the same Old Testament as in Jesus’ day. The Apostle Paul, however, tells us in Romans 3:1-2, that God entrusted the Jewish people to preserve the integrity of His holy Word. He asks, *“What advantage then hath the Jew?”* and answers, *“Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.”* Enemies of Christianity have sought to outlaw, repress and destroy the Holy Scriptures since the beginning. But Jesus said that His Word would stand forever. In Matthew 24:35 He says, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”* In Romans 10:10-11, Paul says, *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”* In John 17:3, Jesus says, *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”*. In John 14:6, Jesus tells his Disciples, *“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by Me”*. But in John 14:5, a confused Thomas asks, *“...Lord...how can we know the way?”* Romans 10:17 tells us, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”*, and we know that the Word of God is contained in the pages of the Bible. There is no other way to the Father except through faith in Jesus Christ, which He has revealed to us in Holy Scripture. When we open our Bible, we hold the very Word of God in our hands. The Bible is a precious gift from God and is the most important thing we will ever own. We can be confident that the same God who revealed Himself and His plan for salvation through Christ to the Holy Men of old, has also been able to accurately preserve it down through the ages, even unto us in this present age. Praise be to God.

LESSON I

THE SEARCH FOR A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:1-16.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:4.

"But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac."

1. When Abraham was getting old, what did he want his servant to do? Genesis 24:1-4.
2. What did the servant take when he started on his journey? Genesis 24:10.
3. When he arrived at the city, what did he do? Genesis 24:11.
4. What did the servant ask the Lord to do? Genesis 24:12-14.
5. When he had almost finished talking to the Lord, what happened? Genesis 24:15.
6. What did the maiden look like? Genesis 24:16.

LESSON II

REBEKAH GIVES THEM WATER

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:17-28.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:28.

"And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things."

1. What did she say when the servant asked Rebekah for a drink? Genesis 24:17-18.
2. What did she say and do after the servant had finished drinking? Genesis 24:19-20.
3. When the servant asked her who she was, what did she say? Genesis 24:23-25.

4. When he heard this, what did he do? Genesis 24:26.
5. What did the servant say? Genesis 24:27.
6. What did Rebekah do when she heard who he was? Genesis 24:28.

LESSON III

LABAN AND BETHUEL'S CONSENT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:29-52.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:51.

"Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken."

1. When Laban, Rebekah's brother, heard about the servant at the well, what did he do? Genesis 24:29-30.
2. What did Laban say to the servant? Genesis 24:31.
3. What did he do when he entered the city? Genesis 24:32-33.
4. For what did he say that he had come to them? Genesis 24:40.
5. When the servant told Laban and Bethuel that he wanted to take Rebekah home for Isaac's wife, what did they say? Genesis 24:51.
6. What did the servant do when he heard this? Genesis 24:52.

LESSON IV

REBEKAH'S DECISION

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:53-59.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:59.

"And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men."

1. What did the servant give to Rebekah and her family? Genesis 24:53.
2. What did Rebekah's mother and brother say when the servant was going to leave? Genesis 24:54-55.
3. What was the servant's answer? Genesis 24:56.
4. How did they decide to settle it? Genesis 24:57.
5. What was Rebekah's answer? Genesis 24:58.
6. Who went with Rebekah? Genesis 24:59.

ANSWERS - Where are they from? page 14

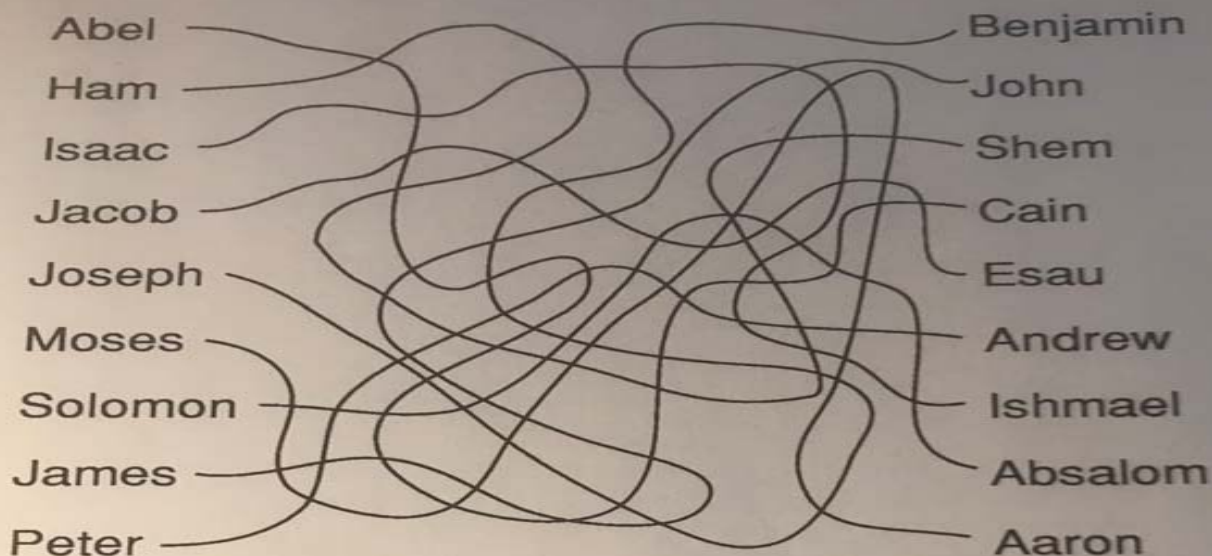
1. Derbe/Lystra, 2. Tekoa, 3. Joppa,
4. Babylon, 5. Caesarea, 6. Anathoth,
7. Ur, 8. Gilead, 9. Thyatira, 10. Bethlehem/Judah,
11. Bethsaida, 12. Joppa

ANSWERS - Peter's Occupation page 14

1. Fire 2. Spirit 3. Jews
4. Hearken 5. Joel 6. Pourout
7. Dream 8. Darkness 9. Moon

BROTHERS - IS JESUS YOUR BROTHER? READ MARK 3:35

Follow the line from the name on the left to find his brother.



Now fit the names in the second column in the crossword puzzle below.



"HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE"

"Mamma, let me read tonight," said seven-year-old Maxine as her mother took the Bible from the table for their evening devotions. "Very well," agreed the Mother, and Maxine got her own little Bible to read from. "Shall I read the twenty-third Psalm again?" she asked.

"Well," hesitated Mrs. Martin, "you read that pretty often; suppose you try another one tonight. I'll help you with the words. Let's try the ninety-first Psalm."

So little Maxine began. "He that d-w-e-l-l-e-t-h," "Dwelleth," prompted her mother. "-dwelleth in the s-e-c-r-e-t-," "Secret." "-secret place of the most High shall a-b-i-d-e-" "Abide." "abide under the shadow of the A-l-m-i-g-h-t-y."

Thus went the reading of the Psalm by the little girl, stumbling over the big words. So intent was Mother and daughter onto the reading that neither heard the faint rustle outside the window nor saw the dark face peering through the pane. It was summer and the window was partly raised so that the words spoken inside were clearly audible to that crouched, waiting figure so near.

"... 'He shall give his angels charge over thee.' What does that mean, Mama?" Maxine interrupted here to ask.

"It means, dear, that God sends His angels to take care of us so that harm will not come to us. They are watching over us all the time."

"Right now?" questioned the child. "Right now, when Daddy's gone, and it is dark outdoors? Are there angels here now?"

"Yes, right now" assured the mother. "God and his angels are watching right now." And they proceeded with the reading once more.

Could they have seen the figure outside their window, they would have noticed his quick look about him at the mother's words. She said God was watching. Where was God? Who was God? It was a name he habitually used vilely - and he had a vague notion that God was some terrible Being. "The wrath of God." Those words that he had once heard spoken by a preacher as he passed an open air service one night came suddenly to mind. Somewhere in the darkness, unseen by him, was their God who could see all. The woman had spoken so confidently of His watching eye. Then, if God were watching over this

mother and daughter, He could see him, too. The wrath of God! What would God do to him? Fear made him almost motionless and while he was crouching down to the ground, he heard a child's clear voice lifted in praying. "... Thank you, God, for having Your angels take care of Mommy and Daddy tonight, and help all the bad people tonight to stop being bad..."

The fear in the man's heart gave way to a new emotion. A lump rose in his throat and tears - strange unaccustomed tears - smarted his eyelids.

He had a little girl, too, just about her size. What was she doing now, while this little girl was saying her prayers and would soon be tucked in by loving hands? He could imagine her in the dingy little room they called home. Perhaps she had crept into bed by now, trying to get to sleep, or maybe crying again. He remembered one night recently when he had gone home to find her crying because she was hungry. There hadn't been anything in the room to eat. He had slapped her for being a baby and told her if she didn't like the way he fed her she could get somebody else to take care of her. Anyway, if she had any backbone she'd be going and steal something if she was hungry. The wife and mother had died two years before, and this was how he cared for the little girl. He thought of her now; poor, thin, hungry-looking and ragged. Scant attention had he given her, spending his days and nights in drinking, gambling, and petty thievery.

He thought of himself as a child. How different his life might have been had he been reared as this child that he had been watching read and pray. How different this child would be with proper teaching. Slowly he raised himself from the ground and stumbled away. He was going home - home to his own little daughter.

"Mamma, what was that noise outside?" asked Maxine. "I never heard anything," her mother answered. "I guess it must have been the angels' wings brushing against the lilac bushes," murmured the child sleepily, curling up in bed.

But the next day while outdoors Mrs. Martin noticed footprints under the window by the lilacs. They were the prints of a man's shoe. Her heart seemed almost to stop its beating for a moment. Had Maxine really heard something last night? Had danger been close to them?

The man who crouched beneath the window that night,

bent on mischief, went to his room to pray for the first time in his life. He didn't know how to pray but he wanted God, and God heard his cry. Life for the little daughter became a new thing. She could scarcely comprehend it all, even when the man explained that it was Jesus who had changed him. Daddy didn't gamble. He had a real job instead and brought home groceries and clothes to her. They moved out of the stuffy, little room into a nice, airy, sunny one with a carpet on the floor. Daddy took her to Sabbath School and church, and at night he read Bible stories to her and taught her to pray. Many times, he read to her from the ninety-first Psalm: "He shall give his angels charge over thee."

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?
Everyone has some place they call home. Can you name the cities that these biblical characters called home? Fill in the blank by each person's name with the city he came from. Use the Bible text if you need help.

- 1. Timothy (Acts 16:1) _____
- 2. Amos (Amos 1:1) _____
- 3. Dorcas (Acts 9:36) _____
- 4. Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 24:11) _____
- 5. Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10:1) _____
- 6. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1) _____
- 7. Abraham (Genesis 11:31) _____
- 8. Elijah (I Kings 17:1) _____
- 9. Lydia, seller of purple (Acts 16:14) _____
- 10. King David (I Samuel 17:12) _____
- 11. Philip the disciple (John 1:44) _____
- 12. Simon the Tanner (Acts 10:5-6) _____

Answers on page 12

IF YOU WERE ANOTHER PERSON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A FRIEND OF YOURSELF?

1.	— — — —
2.	— — — — —
3.	— — — —
4.	— — — — — —
5.	— — — —
6.	— — — — —
7.	— — — — —
8.	— — — — — — —
9.	— — — —

Peter's
Occupation

Answers
on page 12

The answers to these questions can be found in Acts 2:1-21. Put the answers in the correct boxes above. If your answers are correct, Peter's occupation will appear in the heavy squares.

- 1. What were the cloven tongues like?
- 2. What gave them utterance?
- 3. What men were dwelling in Jerusalem?
- 4. What did Peter say they should do to his words?
- 5. What prophet did Peter mention?
- 6. What will God do to His Spirit in the last days?
- 7. What will the old men do?
- 8. What will the sun be turned into?
- 9. What will be turned into blood?

Church of God 7th Day

JULY 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1

2

3

Sabbath Memory Verses

4

5

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Independence Day

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

“And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him” (Isaiah 30:18).

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Check out our website: churchofgod-7thday.org

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Revelation 3:5).

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

<-----Summer Youth Retreat Camp, San Antonio, Texas ----->
Contact Brother Tim Buechner for more information 210-622-3191

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe” (Galatians 3:22).

27

28

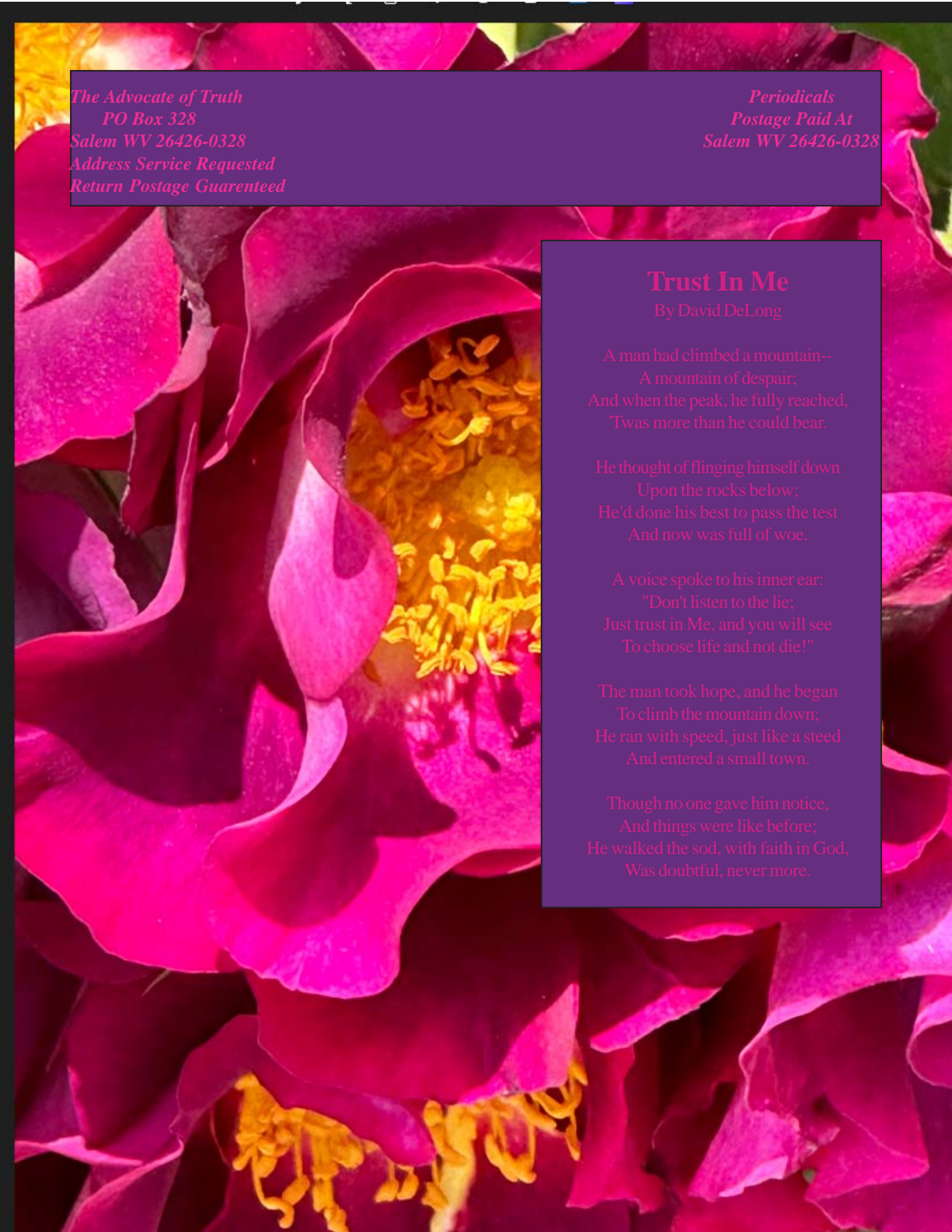
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Trust In Me

By David DeLong

A man had climbed a mountain--
A mountain of despair;
And when the peak, he fully reached,
'Twas more than he could bear.

He thought of flinging himself down
Upon the rocks below;
He'd done his best to pass the test
And now was full of woe.

A voice spoke to his inner ear:
"Don't listen to the lie;
Just trust in Me, and you will see
To choose life and not die!"

The man took hope, and he began
To climb the mountain down;
He ran with speed, just like a steed
And entered a small town.

Though no one gave him notice,
And things were like before;
He walked the sod, with faith in God,
Was doubtful, never more.