



The Advocate of Truth



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Happy Father's Day

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8).



*Cover and this picture
by Denise Gonzalez
Pico Rivera, California*

The Seven Seals

By David DeLong

The seven seals of Revelation, chapters 6 and 8 seem to parallel events about which Jesus told His disciples in Matthew, chapter 24. But before we go into these seven seals, let's first get some background information concerning them. Let us begin with Revelation, chapter 5, verses 1-10. "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 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."

Now, we are ready to see events that come to pass when Jesus opens the seven seals from the "book", one seal at a time. "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth con-

quering, and to conquer" (Revelation 6:1-2). It appears that a number of people, falsely, believe that this is a picture of Christ, riding upon a white horse, bringing the gospel to the world. However, let us see a real picture of Christ, riding upon a white horse, when He returns to fight those who have come against Him. Revelation 19:11-16 shows us this picture: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

So, when the Lord Jesus opens the first seal, we see a picture, apparently, not of true Christianity going forth, but of false Christs taking a false Christianity to the world. Notice that the one riding upon the white horse in Revelation 6 has a bow with which to conquer. The message of Christ never conquers others; it lovingly invites them. In chapter 19, the Lord Jesus has a sword which goes out of His mouth. This symbolizes the Word of God (see Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17) with which He smites the nations for their iniquities.

When we go to Matthew 24, we see the Lord Jesus making comments about false Christs. Let's begin with verse 3: "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;

and shall deceive many" (verses 3-5).

When the second seal is opened, in Revelation 6:3-4, we find: "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." Notice what Jesus has to say about wars, just after He comments about false Christs. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..." (Matthew 24:6-7).

Revelation 6:5-6 shows us the opening of the third seal. "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." When the third seal is opened, there comes about a time of great famine. We see here that the wheat, barley, oil, and wine are apparently in short supply and are very costly. A penny represents a day's pay as we can discern from the parable of the laborers in the vineyard that Jesus gave (see Matthew 20, verse 2). Also, in Matthew 24:7, Jesus explained that famines would occur: "...and there shall be famines..."

The opening of the fourth seal brings about pestilential and other types of death. "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:7-8). Jesus comments about deadly conditions in Matthew 24:7-8: "...and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

A time of martyrdom is introduced with the opening of the fifth seal. "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes

were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled" (Revelation 6:9-11). The Lord also taught about a time of martyrdom in Matthew 24:9-14, with a "great tribulation" in verses 21-22. "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." After Jesus referred to the "abomination of desolation", He stated: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." This seems to fit, somewhat, with conditions during the fifth seal.

The opening of the sixth seal brings signs in the heavens. "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-17). Jesus gives signs in the heavens after the "great tribulation". "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth

mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:29-31). In both cases, Revelation 6:12-17 and Matthew 24:29-31, Jesus, presumably, makes His appearance after these heavenly signs are manifested.

After the seventh seal is opened in Revelation 8:1-6, seven trumpet judgments (we believe the seven last plagues) are poured upon the earth. "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound." There appears to be no equivalent to the seventh seal in Matthew 24. However, let us recap these passages of Scripture:

Revelation 6,8	Matthew 24
First seal: rider on white horse	False Christs
Second seal: red horse (great sword)	Wars
Third seal: black horse (famine)	Famines
Fourth seal: pale horse (pestilences, etc.)	Pestilences, etc.
Fifth seal: martyrdom	Martyrdom
Sixth seal: signs in the heavens	Signs/heavens
Seventh seal: silence; seven trumpets	No equivalent?

Food Corner

Some of today's healthiest known foods were part of the biblical diet. These include olive oil, pomegranates, raw honey and bitter herbs. Many of these ingredients in this recipe are foods found in the Bible, such as honey and olive oil which contains disease-fighting and energy-boosting nutrients, allergy defense builders, and probiotic support.

*Honey-Genesis 43:11; Exodus 33:3; Judges 14:8-9
Olive oil- Ezra 6:9; Deuteronomy 8:8*

Chicken with Pomegranate Glaze

- 1 teaspoon cornstarch*
- 2 teaspoons honey*
- 1 cup pomegranate juice*
- 4 to 6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (1 1/2 to 1 3/4 pounds)*
- Salt and pepper*
- 1 tablespoon olive oil*
- 1/3 cup water or chicken broth*
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds*

Stir cornstarch and honey into pomegranate juice; set aside. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Brown on both sides in hot oil in a skillet over medium high heat 5 minutes. Add water or broth; reduce heat. Cover; cook 5 to 6 minutes. Add water or broth; reduce heat. Cover: cook 5 to 6 minutes more, until chicken is no longer pink in center. Transfer chicken to a platter; cover. Drain fat from pan.

Stir pomegranate juice mixture; add to skillet. Bring to a boil; simmer 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon sauce over chicken and sprinkle pomegranate seeds on top. Serve with rice and steamed vegetables, if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



Recipe submission by Jonathan Pomrey of Wyncote PA.

If you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share please submit to cogsevday@aol.com

The Mercies Of God

By Bibi Shimon Allicock

The mercies of God that greet us in the morning could never be numbered. They may be more than the stars in heaven or the sand on the seashore. They follow us day by day and keep us throughout the night. That is why when there was only one set of footprints on the sand, a certain individual supposedly asked Jesus, why He left him when he was in dire need and could not walk. Jesus told him that was when He was carrying him in His arms. In the Scriptures are recorded many miracles performed by Jesus, through His Father; and the disciples did the same when Jesus was not there. Even today many miracles are still being performed when necessary. By the mercies of God the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them (see Matthew 11:5). How all these things were done in Jesus' days can be done today because The Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. Many of us were healed from different ailments.

The mercies of God are so infinite that we cannot fathom how lovingly He helps us to maneuver situations and crises that befall us. At times we can simply stand back and say, "Wow!" only Almighty God can do such and such things. When we look at the children of Israel when they were by the Red Sea, the wilderness was on one side, the Philistines on another, the Red Sea on another side, and the Egyptians were pursuing, so God chose to part the Red Sea miraculously so that many might see and honour His wonderful name. Although the land of the Philistines was closer, God didn't want the Israelites to be in battle because the people might repent and return to Egypt, although He can make them win battles anywhere and in any situation. Crossing over the Red Sea on dry ground would seem impossible to man, but God made it remarkably possible. "And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid:

and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD...And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:10,13-14).

Almighty God's mercies and compassions are overwhelming towards His people. Those people are the apple of His eye as mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy. "For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him..." "When anyone touches the apple of God's eye, as Jesus said, when someone offends a child of God, it were better that a millstone be hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. So here we see that the Egyptians were drowned in the depth of the sea, because they wanted to bring back the children of Israel to labour with rigour for them, but God said, No! not ever again. "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen...And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea" (Deuteronomy 32:9-12, first part; Exodus 14:21-23,27).

Also God showed great mercy upon the children of Israel when the Egyptians pursued after them, and they were left stranded by the Red Sea. He sent an angel to guard them so that it was total darkness to the Egyptians, but it was light in the night for the children of Israel. "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night" (Exodus 14:19-20).

After Paul did much evil to the people of God and had gotten letters from the high priest to bound all that call on the name of Jesus who worshipped in the right and true way, God's mercies were upon him and the Lord rebuked him for doing such. Thus, after he was converted and was preaching and teaching the true doctrine of Christ, many Pharisees and Sadducees were against him, but as he continued reasoning with them we find, "And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle. And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome" (Acts 23:10-11).

As the Lord told him how great things he must suffer for His name, yet through the great mercies of God he was delivered from them all. He went through perils everywhere he went but came out of them miraculously. "And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul...And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul...Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me? And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly. But do not thou yield unto them:" We see here the young man was able to speak unto the chief captain without an appointment. We know that without an appointment one cannot go into those in authority, but

only when God's mercies be upon them then certain things can be accomplished. When we look at the entourage that had to accompany Paul to the Governor, we can only conclude that it was the hand of Almighty God that was leading such a company. "So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me. And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen three-score and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night; And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor" (Acts 23:12,16,19-21, first part,22-24).

We see here when God is for us no man can be against us, because despite the situation, although it may seem impossible with men, it will always be remarkably possible with God. In the book of Samuel we can see that "...the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men." The Psalmist declared: The mercies of God endure for ever. But as children of God we have to be obedient for God's mercies to be upon us. Paul had to get an entourage to accompany him because of that situation. But when Sennacherib, king of Assyria, sent a letter to Hezekiah, king of Judah, claiming he was coming to war against him, and that no god can save him, because no gods could deliver the other kingdoms from his hand, that Hezekiah should not deceive the Israelites that the God of heaven could and would deliver them. But definitely the God of heaven can and will deliver when the time is right. And so He did fight the battle for Israel with one single angel. "And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God. Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, And have cast their Gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the

kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only...Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword:" (I Samuel 2:26; II Kings 19:14-19,32-37, first part).

Here we see the mercies of God were granted as spoken by the Psalmist, declaring: "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever...To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 136:1,4). Let us all thank God for His mercies. Amen.

Interesting Facts About Fathers By David Royer

I compiled this list from an article written by Karen Lehnardt September 2, 2019 for Fact Retriever. <https://www.factretriever.com/father-facts>. Approved for retrieval and accessed April 10, 2024.

- Sonora Dodd (1882-1978) from Spokane, Washington, first suggested a "Father's Day" in 1909 after listening to a Mother's Day sermon. She hoped to establish a day to similarly honor her father, William Smart, who was a widowed Civil War veteran with 6 children and a farm. Finally, in 1972, President Nixon signed the holiday into law.

- Father's Day is celebrated at different times around the world. Spain and Belgium celebrate fathers on March 19; Australia and New Zealand honor fathers on the first Sunday in September; and in Britain, Canada, and the U.S., Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

- Over 87 million cards are sent each year on Father's Day, making it the 4th most popular day for sending cards.
- There are about 152 million males in the United States. Of these, 70.1 million (46%) are fathers.FE54F0B3-B3C2-4BCA-B616-273E6779788A.png
- The world's oldest father is believed to be Ramajit Raghav from India. He was 96 years old when his 52-year-old wife gave birth to a baby boy in 2010. Raghav was single until he was in his 80s.
- When fathers are involved in their child's education, the children perform better in school, learn more, and exhibit healthier behavior.
- The world's oldest "Father's Day card" is a 4,000-year-old Babylonian tablet that a young boy named Elmesu carved to wish his father a long life and good health.
- The father with the most children from one woman is Feodor Vassilyev. He and his wife had 69 children in the 1700s. Reportedly, 67 of the 69 children survived infancy.
- Chromosomes from the father determine the sex of their offspring. Mothers always pass on an X chromosome to their children; in contrast, a father passes on either an X or Y chromosome.
- A male who has many brothers is more likely to have sons. In contrast, a man who has many sisters is more likely to have daughters.
- Fathers over the age of 40 are significantly less likely to have sons.
- Wrestling and roughhousing with a father helps shape a child's brain to help them manage emotion and develop a balance between thinking and physical action.
- Patri is Latin for "father" and is the root of many words, including patriarch, patrician, patrilineal, patriot, Patrick, patron, and patronize.
- Fewer Americans are celebrating Father's Day, because more kids are growing up without fathers.



Isaiah 40:31 – “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Proverbs 3:6-8 – “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”

I believe that all of us want the best, and we plan how our lives will be and how we want them to unfold over the course of a year or even just a few months. We set goals in our minds for how we want to live or what outcomes we want in our lives. I’m sure everyone here has done this—thinking about the plan you have in mind.

And when we get close to our vision or just thinking about the plan we had, and for some reason, it doesn’t work out, sometimes we get upset or just don’t like the result because we already imagined what it was supposed to be. You might think, “Why didn’t this work out if I was so close, or it would have been perfect if God had given it to me?” And you ask why, but only God knows the answer.

Maybe you saw your path going well, but in the end, God had something else in mind for you, and only God's timing will help you understand that. The truth is, sometimes we ask why things didn’t work out, but that’s when we have to trust God and have faith that everything will work out well in His hands. It can happen many times—perhaps

God wants to protect you from something you can’t see at the moment, or simply because it wasn’t your time yet. Many people might get discouraged when things don’t go as planned, but this is where the growth stage with the Lord comes in. If you trust in Him, you will be okay in both the good and the bad times. That’s why it’s important to analyze the situation before you judge why something didn’t happen. Before I was as close to God as I am more today, I would often leave God out of the picture, or didn’t really acknowledge him for certain moments in my life, also not understanding the situation.

And if we aren’t close to God, how can we understand what He is doing in our lives? And yes, things happened, and I didn’t understand why, and I didn’t like it. That’s why God’s timing is perfect; He gives us wisdom to understand, but only if we let Him. That’s why we must trust God, His Word and not question Him.

When we ask “why,” we’re showing we lack the faith needed to be at peace. I think we all know that everything great in life comes at a cost. I’m not referring to the price, but to the sacrifice and effort we must put in to reach that new level of life, and also in our spiritual lives. God can place obstacles in our lives, but that’s just for growth and for us to learn how to overcome them and reach the next level. If He just gave us everything so easily, no one would know the effort it takes to get to the next stages of our lives. If you are patient, have faith, confidence, and understanding of what God is doing in a difficult situation, you’re telling God, “I know I didn’t plan for this, but I know You know what You’re doing, so I leave it in Your

hands.” And then, you’ll see that God gives you something far better.

What happens if we are not strong in spirit and something happens to us? It can also happen that someone is going through a difficult situation, and their spirit is weak, and they associate with people who are the complete opposite of what they are as a believer who's starting on the path, or could happen to anyone honestly, and they can easily contaminate the little faith they had. That’s why it’s really important to stay strong because there are people who make you think negatively, but they could be influenced by the enemy trying to make you fall, and in the end, you lose the battle.

Isaiah 43:2 – “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”

Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

It’s also important to guard our emotions and actions, which can affect us later, and we don’t always realize it. We can feel one way in the moment, but later we might feel the effects or regret what we did. Quick decisions in a stressful or difficult situation can turn something small into something much bigger, and there was no real reason to act that way, and sometimes, there’s no turning back.

That’s why it’s necessary to act and think the way Jesus teaches us. When we act on our own emotions without analyzing, what happens? Everything gets turned upside down. God is not disorder; He has everything written in steps in the Bible. If we follow the Lord's Word, and commit to the Lord, everything will work out well and be easier in our lives. The Lord never abandons us, even though it may feel like it in some moments in our lives, but he is working with us in the moment making a better path for us; it doesn’t mean he has left us.

1 Peter 4:12-14 – “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though

some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part, He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified.”

Philippians 4:5-7 – “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Of course, we all go through different situations and tribulations in our lives. The truth is, I think we all would want a life without any stains, so to speak. But surely, these challenges are part of spiritual growth, to bring us closer to that spiritual advancement with the Lord.

That’s why it’s so important to stay close to Him to receive the wisdom we need. If we aren’t connected to Him, how will we receive what we need? For example, an electric car without charging or maintenance is useless because it isn’t receiving the energy necessary to keep going. Without God, we are unable to move forward. We must maintain our spirit with Him to continue living a prosperous life with the Lord.

And we know that the opposite happens if we get off course from God—Satan takes hold of us. It’s important to analyze where we are in life to correct certain steps to move forward. As they say, you should worry when the devil is not bothering you or ignoring you. You know that means you’re doing something wrong. But when he comes at you, trying to steer you off course, that’s when you’re doing right and want to change for better.



MIRACLES OF JESUS

ANGEL APPEARS BLIND CLEANSED CURED DEAD DEAF DEVILS DROPSY

DUMB EAR FED FEVER FISH FOUND FREED GIFT HEALED JAIRUS



JESUS LAME LEPERS LOST MALTA MAN MEN MOUTH PALSY PATMOS

RA

RAISED RISES SAUL SCEVA SHEKEL SICK STILLED STORM SWINE

TONGUES UNSEEN VIPER VISION WATER WINE WOMAN

LESSON I

ABRAHAM AND HIS FAMILY

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15:1-18.

Golden Text: Genesis 15:6.

"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

1. How many children did Abram have at the time of our Scripture reading? Genesis 15:2.
2. What did the Lord show to Abram? Genesis 15:5.
3. Did Abram believe everything the Lord told him? Genesis 15:6.
4. What did God promise Abram? Genesis 15:18; 17:4-8.

NOTE: The word covenant means a mutual agreement between two or more parties.

5. What is the name of Abram's first son? Genesis 16:15.
6. What is the name of Abram's second son? Genesis 21:3.
7. What does the Apostle Paul say of Abram's family? Galatians 4:22-23.
8. Who were some of Abram's descendants? Matthew 1:1-2.

LESSON II

SODOM AND GOMORRAH (PART 1)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-8;16-33.

Golden Text: Genesis 18:22.

"And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD."

1. How many men came to visit Abram one hot day? Genesis 18:1-3.
2. Was Abram a good host? Genesis 18:4-6.
3. What did Abram set before the Lord to eat? Genesis 18:7-8.
4. After eating the sumptuous meal, what did Abram's guests do? Genesis 18:16.
5. Did the Lord tell Abram why he was visiting the city of Sodom? Genesis 18:19-20.

NOTE: Boys and girls, this truly is a wonderful statement made by the Lord about what Abram would do. Does He know when you are obedient to? Live that the Lord can also say about you that you will always be obedient to the laws of God.

6. When Abram heard of the Lord's mission, what did he say? Genesis 18:23-24.
7. In what manner did the Lord answer Abram? Genesis 18:26.
8. From fifty righteous souls down to what number would the Lord spare the city of Sodom? Genesis 18:32-33.

LESSON III

SODOM AND GOMORRAH (PART II)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 19:1-3; 12-29.

Golden text: Genesis 19:24.

"Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven."

1. From last week's lesson you learned why the Lord came and visited Abram. Tell us the reason again.
2. Who did God send to the city of Sodom and meet Lot? Genesis 19:1.

3. What did he say to the two angels in Genesis 19:2-3?
4. What did the angels tell Lot to do and why? Genesis 19:12-13.
5. What happened when Lot talked to his sons in law? Genesis 19:14.
6. What other special instructions did they give Lot's family, and did all of them obey it? Genesis 19:24-26.
7. What special purpose did God have in destroying the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? II Peter 2:6; Luke 17:28-30.

NOTE: The cities were destroyed as an example of what will eventually happen to the wicked people of today.

LESSON IV

GOD'S TEST FOR ABRAHAM

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:1-19.

Golden Text: Genesis 22:18.

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

1. What was God's test for Abraham? Genesis 22:1-2.
2. What did Abraham do the next morning? Genesis 22:3.
3. What did Isaac ask his father, and what did Abraham answer back? Genesis 22:7-8.
4. Was Abraham going to sacrifice Isaac? Genesis 22:9-10.
5. What did the Lord do to help Abraham and Isaac? Genesis 22:11-13.
6. What did the Lord promise to Abraham for obeying him? Genesis 22:16-18.
7. This story is one of the classic examples in the Bible of

having faith to do what God tells you. This means also doing work to show your faithfulness. James 2:17-24; Hebrews 11:17.

8. Who else offered his Son a sacrifice so that the world might be saved? John 3:16.



FIRST DAY OF VACATION - It was the first day of vacation. Bert thought about it all during breakfast. "No school today," he said to himself. "All day long to have fun."

After breakfast, Bert got his bicycle from the garage. He tinkered with it for a while. At last, he was satisfied with the way it worked. "Mom," he called, "I'm going over to Terry's, is that all right?" Mother agreed, and Bert rode happily down the street to play with Terry.

Terry was in the back yard. "Hi!" he called as Bert rode around the house. "You're just in time to help me work on my rabbit pens." "Not me," said Bert. "This is vacation. I'm going to loaf and have fun all day." He watched Terry for a while. Terry wasn't much of a carpenter. Bert reached for the hammer. "Here, let me nail it for you. You're getting it all crooked."

Terry gave a sigh of relief. "I've got ten thumbs when it comes to building things." "I can show you some tricks that Dad taught me," Bert suggested. "It's mostly in knowing how."

Before long the rabbit pen was nicely repaired. "You did a good job," Terry said.

"Aw, that's nothing," Bert replied "I like to build things."

He looked up at the sun. "I think I've got time to play some more before lunch. Let's go over to Bill's place."

Terry got his bike. They rode along together. "Vacation time is swell, isn't it?" Terry commented.

"Yes," Bert agreed. "I'm not going to do a thing but loaf and have fun this whole vacation." Just then he saw Bill busily pushing the lawn mower. "Hey, Bill! What are you pushing that thing for? Don't you know it's vacation?" Bill mopped his face with his arm. "Vacation's a good time to get things done," said Bill. "Now Dad won't have to do it after he comes home from the office at night. I can help with things like this." "But vacation is for fun," argued Bert. "Helping Dad so he has time to play with me is fun," said Bill. He gave the mower a big push. "When I get through, Mom is taking me swimming at the lake." "If we helped, would she take us, too?" Bert asked. Bill grinned. "I thought that would get you. The rake is over there."

Terry beat Bert to the rake. "You get the lawn car," he said. "I'll rake up the grass cuttings." "Somebody has to trim the edges," reminded Bill. With three boys working, it did not take long to finish mowing and raking the lawn. "What time is it?" Bert asked. "It isn't anywhere near dinnertime," said Terry. "If that's what you're worrying about. Let's see if we can go swimming with Bill," said Terry.

"Hurry," Bill called after them. "The sooner we get started, the longer we can stay."

Soon the boys were back with their bathing trunks. "Now for the lake," said Bert. "That's fun, and lots of it." When they reached the lake, the boys were disappointed to find a sign saying, 'BEACH CLOSED - NO SWIMMING. "That's strange," said Bill, "The beach was open yesterday. I wonder what's the matter." "Let's go see," said Terry. The three boys walked down to the beach. They could see the owner busily raking the top few inches of the sand into hug piles.

"Hello boys," he greeted them. "No swimming today. Didn't you see my sign?" "What are you doing?" Bert asked.

"Some mischievous boys broke bottles all over the sand last night, so that it is dangerous to walk on. Before I can open the beach, I have to scrape up all this sand that might have pieces of glass in it."

"Do you have many more tools?" Bert asked.

The owner pointed to a shed near the edge of the beach.

There are some big hoes in there. But are you sure you want to help? It's hard work you know."

The boys ran to get the hoes. "We want to swim," Bert called back.

With the boys helping it didn't take long to clear the beach of the broken glass. The boys had a fine swim after their hard work. The water was refreshing.

By the time they were through with their swim, it was dinnertime. Bill's mother took the boys home.

"Did you have a good time this morning?" Bert's mother asked him.

Bert slid into his chair at the table. He nodded "I was certainly busy. I helped Terry fix his rabbit pens. Then Terry and I helped Bill mow and rake his lawn. After that all three of us helped Mr. George clean up the beach."

"I'll say you were busy," Bert's brother exclaimed. "I thought you weren't going to do anything but have fun during vacation."

"I'm not," said Bert. But his eyes widened with surprise as he did some thinking. "You know something?" he said.

"I worked more of the morning. But it was fun. I guess it isn't as much the work but the way you go at it that counts.

All play and no work wouldn't be much fun after all."

DAD - IN ANY LANGUAGE

This item translated from a Dutch magazine shows that families are pretty much about the same the world over:

4 Years: My Daddy can do anything.

7 Years: My Dad knows a lot, a whole lot.

8 Years: My father doesn't know quite everything.

12 Years: Oh, well, naturally Father doesn't know that either.

14 Years: Father? Hopelessly old-fashioned.

21 Years: Oh, that man is out of date; what did you expect?

25 Years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.

30 Years: Must find what Dad thinks about it.

35 Years: A little patience; let's get Dad's meaning first.

50 Years: What would Dad have thought about that?

60 Years: My Dad knew literally everything.

65 Years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Sabbath Memory Verses

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

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“Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth” (Psalm 119:90).

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“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small” (Proverbs 24:10).



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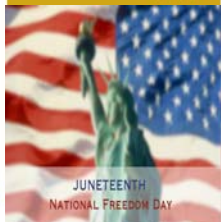
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“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Hebrews 1:13-14).

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“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings” (Malachi 3:8).

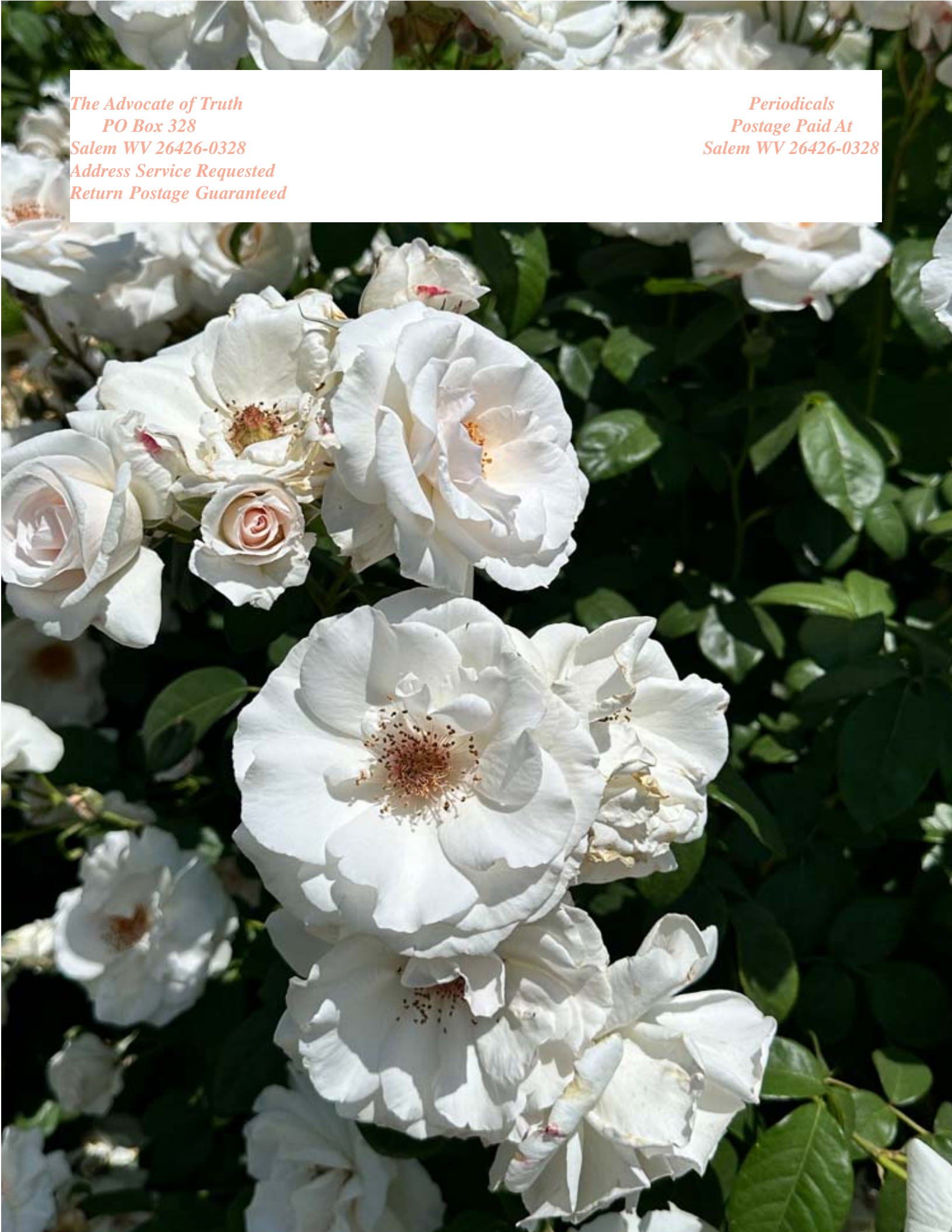
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“The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation” (Psalm 118:14).

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