

# *The Advocate of Truth*





The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

#### POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

THE CHURCH OF GOD  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
P.O. Box 328  
Salem, WV 26426-0328

Telephone: 304-782-1411

Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com

Web site: [www.churchofgod-7thday.org](http://www.churchofgod-7thday.org)

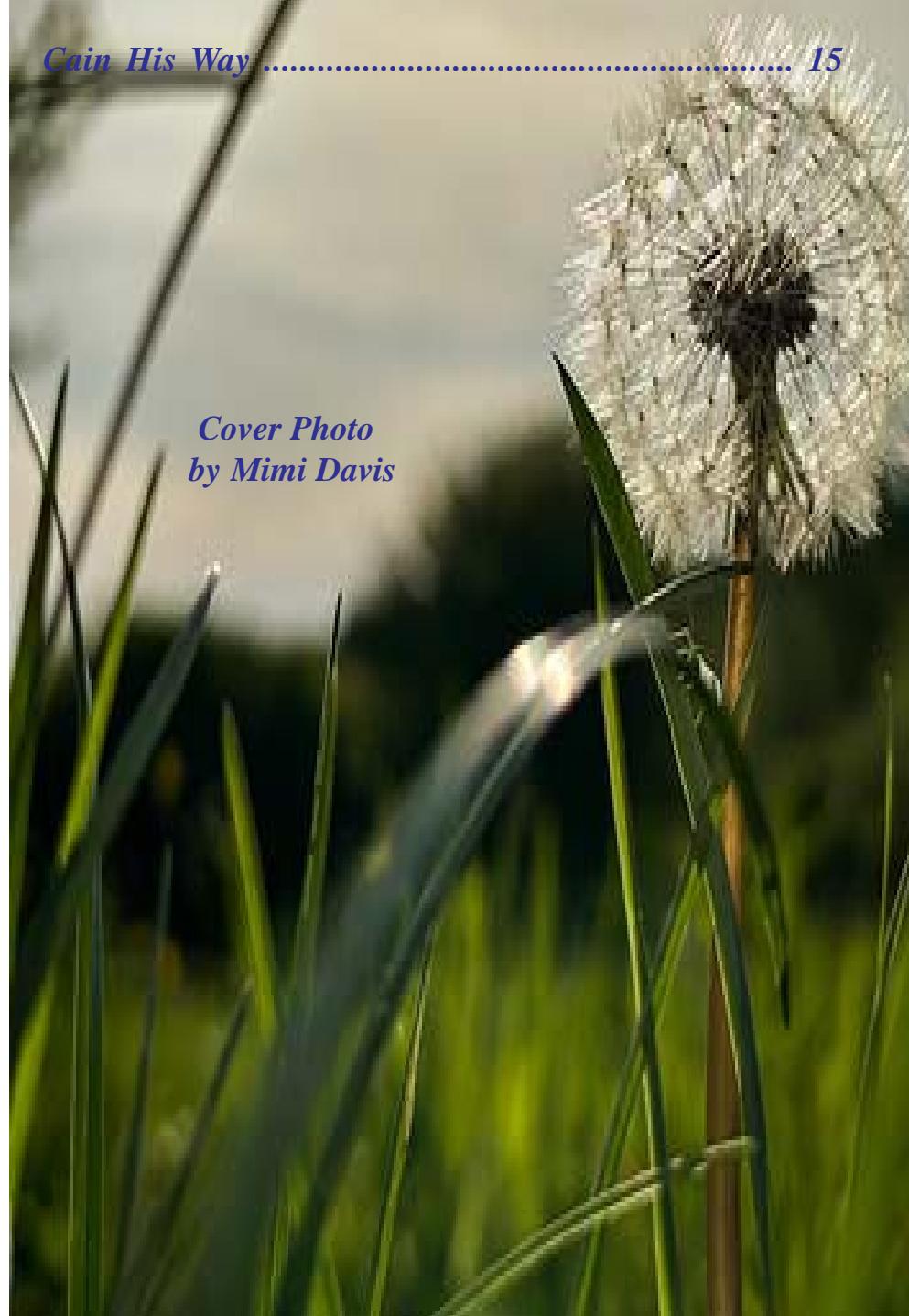
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Volume LXXIV Number 10  
March 2026  
The Advocate of Truth  
USPS 542-940

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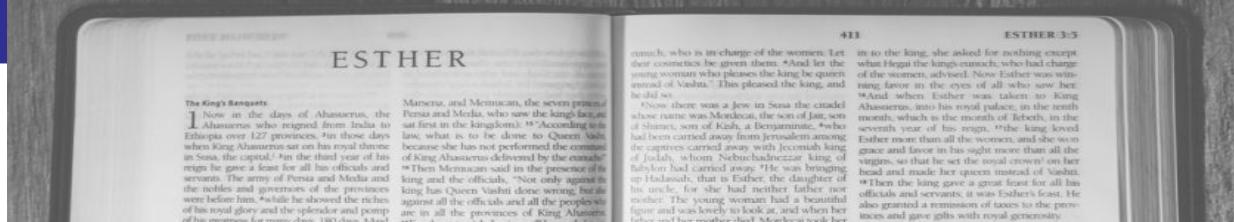
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*Cover Photo  
by Mimi Davis*



# Lessons from Esther

By David Royer



Esther's birth name was Hadassah. She was of the tribe of Benjamin and lived during the time her tribe and the tribe of Judah were taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. In exile, Esther eventually became queen and saved her entire people. By reading the Book of Esther, you will learn how Queen Esther and her kinsman Mordecai saved the Jewish people from the plot of the wicked Haman, who was an advisor to the then-current king, Ahasuerus.

Here is a short version of her heroism: Ahasuerus, the all-powerful king of Persia, banishes his existing queen, Vashti, for failing to appear before him when bidden. The newly chosen queen is Esther, the adopted daughter of Mordecai, the Jew. Mordecai's bitter enemy at court is the wicked Haman, the king's right-hand man. Because Mordecai fails to bow before him, Haman plots not only Mordecai's death but also the extermination of all the Jews in the Persian empire.

Mordecai calls on Queen Esther to save her people. Esther heroically risks the king's wrath by appearing unbidden before him. She invites King Ahasuerus and Haman to two banquets, where she persuades the king to save her people and hang Haman on the gallows he had constructed for Mordecai. The king's edict to kill the Jews was reversed, and the Jews instead got revenge on their would-be persecutors, including ten sons of Haman.

411  
ESTHER 3:5  
Esther, who is in charge of the women, except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her; and she was fair to look at, and she pleased the king. **Now** there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, of the Benjaminites, who had been carried away from Jerusalem when the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon. He was the uncle of Esther, who is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her

Here are some key takeaways and lessons that are from the story of Esther:

1. Faithfulness and obedience: Esther's obedience to Mordecai's request to keep her Jewish identity secret and her willingness to approach the king without being summoned demonstrate the importance of faithfulness and obedience to God's will.
2. Courage in the face of danger: Esther's bravery in the face of Haman's evil plan and her willingness to risk her own life to save the Jewish people show that courage and trust in God can lead to miraculous outcomes even in the most daunting situations.
3. Humility: Esther's humility is evident in her willingness to fast and seek God's guidance before approaching the king, demonstrating the importance of seeking God's wisdom and advice in times of crisis.
4. The value of preparation: Esther's preparation for her presentation before the king, including her banquet and spiritual preparations, demonstrates the importance of being prepared for opportunities and challenges that come our way.
5. The power of prayer and fasting: Esther's three-

day fast and prayer demonstrate the effectiveness of prayer and fasting in seeking God's guidance and help in times of need.

6. The importance of relationships: Esther's relationship with Mordecai, her relative and mentor, highlights the value of strong relationships and seeking guidance and counsel from others.
7. God's sovereignty over human affairs: The story of Esther illustrates God's sovereignty over human affairs, even when His name is not explicitly mentioned. It shows that God can work through seemingly ordinary people to bring extraordinary

results. Esther reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.

8. God's ability to turn situations around: The story of Esther shows that God can take seemingly hopeless situations and turn them around for good, demonstrating His power and sovereignty over all circumstances.

These lessons can be applied to our lives, reminding us to trust in God, seek His guidance, and demonstrate courage, humility, and obedience in the face of challenges.



The 80/20 Rule

by David Royer

The Pareto principle (also known as the 80/20 Rule) is an observation made by an Italian economist. "The Pareto principle was developed by Vilfredo Pareto in 1896. Pareto observed that 80% of the land in Italy was owned by only 20% of the population. He also witnessed this happening with plants in his garden—20% of his plants were bearing 80% of the fruit."

Source: Asana, Inc. <https://asana.com/resources/pareto-principle-80-20-rule>

More simply put, the 80/20 rule says that approximately 80% of the outcome and effects come from 20% of causes and our efforts. Or reversed: 20% percent of your input results in 80% of your output. You may have heard of or recognized this phenomenon in other ways. For example:

- Business: 80% of their revenue comes from 20% of their customers.
- Investments: 20% of my stocks make up 80% of the gains.

- Retail: 80% of retail sales are produced by 20% of a store's brands.
- IT: 80% of system crashes are caused by 20% of bugs.
- Economics: 80% of a country's wealth is held by 20% of its population.
- Auto accidents: 80% of car accidents are caused by 20% of young people.
- Project Management: 80% of the project's results come from 20% of the project's activities.
- Agriculture: 80% of a crop's yield comes from 20% of the land.
- Taxation: 80% of federal tax money comes from about 20% of society.
- Software development: 80% of a program's bugs come from 20% of its code.
- Healthcare: 80% of a population's health outcomes are determined by 20% of the population's lifestyle and environmental factors.

Keep in mind that the 80/20 rule is just an observation and not a law of nature. The percentages can change and do not have to equal 100%. It boils down to two universal truths: all things are not created equal, and most things in life are not distributed evenly.

Use this imbalance to improve your life. By conducting an 80/20 analysis in various areas of our life, we can focus on and prioritize the most critical goals and aspects of our life. For example: What 20% of People, Things, and Habits are drawing us 80% closer to God? Is it going to church regularly? Getting up early to read your Bible? Finding and spending time with a trusted spiritual mentor? Join a Bible study group? Devote more time to prayer?

On the other hand: What 20% of People, Things, and Habits are drawing you 80% farther away from God? Is it working on the Sabbath? Is it your phone? Tithing? Social media? An old friend who is influencing you in a negative direction? We must prioritize our time, efforts, and prayers to decrease these things. Even taking just one of these “worst offenders” out of your life could make a huge difference.

In reality, there is no 80%. There are only followers of Jesus, charged with the goal of living for Christ. Something to keep in mind is that we cannot “fix ourselves” on our own! As we do our best to find the most important things to do in our life, the Lord will help lead and guide us on the straight and narrow path. We have been given His Holy Spirit, residing within us, to make these kinds of changes in our lives. Remember, God doesn’t love us based on how well we do our 80/20 analysis. But still, it does help to have a clearer idea of where to focus in terms of having a closer relationship with God and others.

So have faith, and don’t worry about trying to do everything. Take the time to find the essential things in your life. Strive for the best. Ask the Lord to help you know what you need to focus on. As we do so, I know the Lord will give us the help we need to draw closer to Him.

Correctly prioritizing our time, efforts, and prayers will significantly impact our spiritual life. Most of us are “a work in progress.”

## “MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE”

PASTOR IJEL EMMANUEL O.  
CHURCH OF GOD 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY  
ISSELE-UKU  
DELTA STATE NIGERIA  
WEST AFRICA

God says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the LAW of thy God, I will also forget thy children” (Hosea 4: 6). The word “Knowledge” and “LAW” are the two key words in the verse above. Dictionary of contemporary English (LONGMAN) defines “Knowledge” as “The facts, skills and understanding that you have gained through learning or experience.” First John 3:4 defines LAW as thus: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

In Hosea 4:6 God says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ..." The question is "What knowledge do people lack? The answer is not far fetched. People lack the knowledge of the LAW of God. In continuation of this verse, God says "... because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee... seeing thou hast forgotten the LAW of thy God, I will also forget thy children." The LAW of God is the bone of contention in this verse. Today most Christians preach that the LAW is nailed to the cross and so they are not under LAW. God says "... because thou hast rejected Knowledge (which is the LAW of God), I will also reject thee,...seeing thou hast forgotten the LAW of thy God..." Lack of knowledge in this very verse means lack of the LAW of God. Dear reader, let it be made known to you that there are two LAWS: (1.) The law of God and (2.) The LAW of Moses. The LAW of God is the Ten Commandments, while the

LAW of Moses is sacrificial commandment. It is also ceremonial commandment or Mosaic LAW.

What is the difference between the LAW of God and that of Moses?

Answer: The LAW of God is different from the LAW of Moses because God with His own finger wrote His LAW, even the Ten commandments on two tables of stone. Deut. 9:10, "And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God, and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly." Also read Deut. 10: 4, "And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me."

In the verses, it is understood the LORD God spoke to the children of Israel in the mount to the hearing of the congregation out of the midst of the fire on the day of assembly. The LAW of Moses or Mosaic LAW is called such because it was given to Moses through the angels of God. It was not God who spoke to Moses directly. Gal. 3: 19 tell us this. "Wherefore then serveth the LAW? It was added because of transgressions, (sins), till the seed (Jesus) should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ORDAINED by angels in the hand of a mediator." Example is found in Numbers 15: 32-35. "And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the Sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp". At this time, God did not come down from heaven to speak to Moses in the Tabernacle. A similar example is found in Gen. 22: 15: "And the ANGEL of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,".

The LAW of God was written by God upon two tables of stone, Deut. 9: 10, while the LAW of Moses was written by Moses in a book. Deut. 31: 24: "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this LAW in a book, until they were finished." The LAW of Moses is what Jesus Christ abolished, not the ten commandments of God. Col 2 : 14 says: "Blotting out the

handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." Any man that uses this verse to contradict the LAW of God is a deceiver; and also not a Bible student. Acts 15: 5 says: "But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the LAW of Moses." The answer given to this statement about the LAW of Moses is in verse 24 of Acts 15. "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the LAW (MOSAIC): to whom we gave no such commandment". The Law of Moses is against mankind. "Take this Book of the LAW, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a WITNESS AGAINST THEE" (Deut. 31 : 26). Note: this Mosaic Law was written by Moses in a book and it is called the Book of the Law. Ezekiel 20: 25 reads: "Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live." Circumcision is a Mosaic LAW: 1 Cor. 7: 19 says: "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God." Circumcision that is required for any child of God is BAPTISM BY IMMERSION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PERIOD.

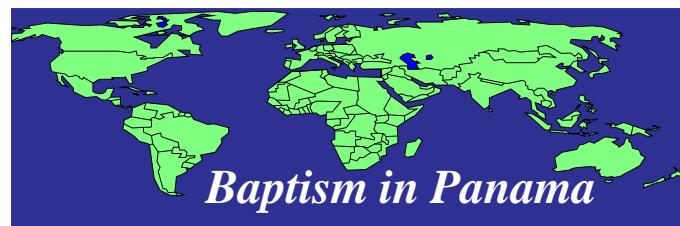
Dear reader, if by any reason you are told not to keep the SABBATH OF GOD because the LAW is abolished, you are among them that have been destroyed for lack of knowledge. Paul writes in II Cor. 4: 3-4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost (destroyed): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Dear reader, be not among them in whom the god of this world hath BLINDED the minds of them which believe not.

Sabbath worship is a sign through which God recognizes His people. Ezekiel 20: 12 says: "Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them."

Col. 2: 16 says: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days." Most people of the world are being deceived with the verse above when they

come across the word “SABBATH.” The Sabbath being spoken of here is not the weekly Sabbath or the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, but the SABBATH of ceremonies (yearly Sabbaths). Thus: The day of BLOWING OF TRUMPETS, THE DAY OF ATONEMENT and the day of TABERNACLES. Read Lev. 23: 23–37. To have details of the sacrifices that are attached to these feast days, read the whole chapter of NUMBERS 29. It is a yoke on the Israelites and to any man that wishes to keep those feast days. It is a YOKE to all mankind; this is why Jesus Christ came to remove the yoke from us that we may have direct access to God through Him.

Please, Dear reader, join this church to worship the God of Sabbath on Sabbath days and save your life from IMPENDING DOOM.



*Pictured above: Apostle Walter Goff, Anthony Issac De Gracia Vargas (new member), Alfonso De Gracia and Hayellis Vargas de De Gracia (his parents).*

# The Covenants Of God

By David DeLong

The Lord has always had covenants with man. These covenants are an agreement between God and man that certain good conditions will exist if man is obedient to God, and that certain bad conditions will exist if man is disobedient to Him.

The first covenant that the Lord made with man that we will look at is found in Genesis 2:15-17: "And the LORD God took the man (Adam), and put him into the

garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." We know that Adam and Eve broke that covenant of eternal life when they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the death sentence was pronounced upon them.

Another covenant was made with Noah, his sons, their seed after them, and with the creatures of the earth after the Flood which destroyed disobedient mankind. We find this covenant in Genesis 9:8-13: "And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, be-

hold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."

A third covenant was made between the Lord and Abram (Abraham) and his seed. Abraham was concerned that the steward of his house, Eliezer, would be his heir. The Lord assured him that he would not be his heir. We pick up the story in Genesis 15:3-6: "And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness." The Lord then promised Abraham that he would inherit the land he was dwelling in. Abraham wanted to know how he would know that he would inherit it. The Lord told him to take a heifer, a she goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. He then divided these animals, except the birds. Verses 17-21 tell us: "And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." At that period of time it was customary for a covenant to be executed by the parties passing between the cut pieces of the sacrificed animals involved. To my way of thinking, the smoking furnace and the burning lamp were the Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus, respectively, entering into the covenant with Abraham by passing between those

divided pieces of animal flesh.

The covenant then passed to Abraham's son, Isaac, and later to his son, Jacob. This is told about in Genesis 26:4-5: "And I will make thy (Isaac's) seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Because of Abraham's obedience to God, then his covenant was passed down to Isaac, then to Jacob, then to the sons of Jacob, down to Christ and even to our day and beyond! How God values His childrens' obedience.

We come down to the time of Moses and the children of Israel at Mount Sinai. Moses recounted to them God's dealings with them and in Deuteronomy 4:13 we learn : "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." God's covenant with Israel and with mankind is tied to their obedience to the Ten Commandments. We saw that with Abraham in Genesis 26:5 where we were told that Abraham kept God's commandments, His statutes, and His laws.

To King David and his descendants was a covenant made by God. When David wanted to build a house for God to dwell in, the Lord sent Nathan the prophet with a message for David. After David would die, his son would build a house for the Lord. In II Samuel 7:15-17 we learn: "But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David." David's throne would be established forever, of course, through David's descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is through Christ that a new covenant was made with mankind. Hebrews 8:7-10 reads: "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them (the people of Israel), he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is

the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:". We see that the new covenant with man is also based on God's Laws being kept by His people. Jesus became mankind's Representative, and He kept God's Ten Commandment Law perfectly for us so that His righteousness could be imputed to His people. They, therefore, would be justified by God, through Christ. We learn from Romans 2:7-13: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." That justification comes through Christ who sees His people trying to imitate His perfect life.

It was the serpent (inhabited by Satan) which tempted Eve to disobey God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and it is the dragon (Satan) who is wroth with God's people who are obedient to Him in the last days. Revelation 12:17 tells us: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Because of that wrath of Satan, God's people must be patient in keeping His commandments. Revelation 14:12 reads: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

As a matter of fact, it is only by being in God's new covenant and by obeying His commandments that one has a right to the tree of life and may enter the New Jerusalem. We are told in Revelation 22:14: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

If you have never entered into a covenant with the Lord, you are invited by Him to do so now. Hebrews 3:15 invites you: "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his

voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." That invitation is to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, and to keep God's holy commandments, including the Ten Commandments.

## Whatever You Do Sow

By David DeLong

Whatever you do sow,  
You shall also reap;  
Whatever, then, does grow  
Has shallow roots, or deep.

If to the Spirit, then,  
You choose to sow a seed;  
Twill come to you again  
As life, if you take heed.

But if unto the flesh  
A shallow seed you've sown;  
Then, weeds of death, enmesh  
The plant that now is grown.

Photo by  
Denise Gonzalez  
Pico Rivera CA

# THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD - Philippines



## The Children's Page



**IN THE GARDEN** - I like the story I once read of a man who had planted a lawn and cultivated and watered it with great care. Finally, he was rewarded for all this effort, not the beautiful green grass such as he had expected, but a big crop of dandelions. He tried to remove them, but every place he tried to remove them, two seemed to blossom where one had been before.

Finally, in desperation he wrote to the government experiment station and asked what he could do about the dandelion pests. The answer came back "Learn to love them!"

In this life, there are crosses we must bear, and they come like dandelions and weeds in our garden, or even as the thorns that grow with the beautiful roses. It is hard to learn to love them, but if we learn to accept and bear them, we will be rewarded with a

## Story

*little glimpse of heaven and of Calvary.*

*There is a great secret to be learned if we walk in our beloved garden or woods in the early morning. We can commune with our Creator there, and God will reveal many things to us.*

*When the Lord planted a garden in Eden, He made every tree to grow there that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food. He also planted the "Tree of Life" in the center of the garden.*

*God walked in the garden He planted in Eden, and in the cool of the day, He talked to Adam and Eve. What a wonderful privilege to walk and talk with God.*

*Boys and Girls, regardless of where you live, you have the same privilege of walking and talking with God that Adam and Eve had. You can kneel down and talk to Him, and wherever you may be, you will find that you are in the Garden with Him.*

*Always seek the Lord in the morning and while you are young.*

*Remember these "Golden Words" and keep them locked in your heart; "...those that seek me early shall find me" (Proverbs 8:17).*

### Answers to Circle Puzzle on page 13:

1. Eve
2. Esther
3. Rachel
4. Lois
5. Sarah
6. Hannah
7. Hagar
8. Rebekah

### JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?
2. Who said, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood?"
3. What did the chief priests do with these pieces of silver that Judas brought back?
4. Who was the governor that Jesus was delivered to?

*Answers on page 13*

**LESSON I****GOD'S MESSAGE TO PHARAOH****Scripture Reading:** Exodus 4:18-31.**Golden Text:** Exodus 4:22.

"And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn".

1. Who did Moses ask permission to leave, to go to Egypt? What was his reply? Exodus 4:18.

2. Who went with Moses, and what did he take in his hand? Exodus 4:20.

3. When Moses returns to Egypt, what is he to do, and what will God do? Exodus 4:21.

4. What was Moses instructed to say unto Pharaoh? Exodus 4:22-23.

5. Where did God tell Aaron to go, and did Aaron obey? Exodus 4:27.

6. Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord and the signs which He had commanded them. What did Moses and Aaron do after this? Exodus 4:28-29.

7. Aaron spoke to the people, and Moses did the signs before them. Did they worship God after Aaron spoke to them? Exodus 4:30-31.

**LESSON II****MOSES AND AARON SPEAK TO PHARAOH****Scripture Reading:** Exodus 5:1-14.**Golden Text:** Exodus 5:2 (first part).

"And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?"

1. What message from the Lord did Moses and Aaron give to Pharaoh? Exodus 5:1.

2. What was Pharaoh's answer? Exodus 5:2.

3. What were the children of Israel supposed to do, and what would happen if they did not do this? Exodus 5:3

4. What question did Pharaoh ask Moses in Exodus 5:4?

5. What did Pharaoh command the taskmasters to do to punish the people? Exodus 5:6-9.

6. Did the taskmasters tell the children of Israel what Pharaoh said? Exodus 5:10-11.

7. What other punishment did the children of Israel get while they were working? Exodus 5:14.

**LESSON III****THE ISRAELITES MURMUR AGAINST MOSES****Scripture Reading:** Exodus 5:15-23.**Golden Text:** Exodus 5:22 (first part).

"And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people?"

1. What did the officers of the children of Israel say to Pharaoh? Exodus 5:15-16.

2. What was Pharaoh's answer? Exodus 5:17-18.

3. Who did they go and meet then? Exodus 5:20.

4. What did they say to Moses? Exodus 5:21.

5. What question did Moses ask the Lord? Exodus 5:22.

6. What did Moses say that Pharaoh had done since Moses had spoken to him in the Lord's name? Exodus 5:23.

## LESSON IV

## GOD REASSURES MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 6:1-13.

Golden Text: Exodus 6:2.

"And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD".

1. What did the Lord say unto Moses? Exodus 6:1-2.
2. By what name was He not known to the Israelites? Exodus 6:3.
3. God had established His covenant with Israel. What land was He to give to them? Exodus 6:4-5. God heard their groanings and remembered this covenant.
4. What was Moses instructed to tell the children of Israel? Exodus 6:6-8.
5. When Moses tried to tell these promises to the children of Israel, did they listen? Exodus 6:9.
6. What then did God tell Moses to do, and was Moses doubtful that Pharaoh would hear him? Exodus 6:10-12.
7. What did the Lord speak unto Moses and Aaron? Exodus 6:13.

Answer to Matching Bible Verses About Sabbath:

1.b  
2.e  
3.d  
4.j  
5.g  
6.f  
7.h  
8.a  
9.i  
10.c

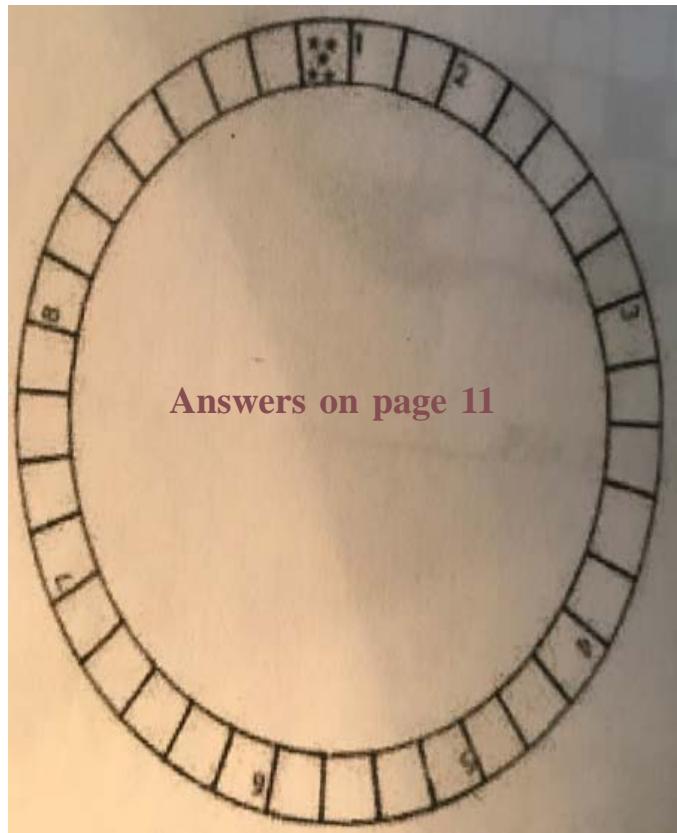
**Answer to Ancient Egyptian Writing:**  
**Because I drew Him out of the water**

**Answers to Junior Bible Quiz:**  
**1.30**  
**2.Judas Iscariot**  
**3.bought the Potter's field**  
**4.Pilate**

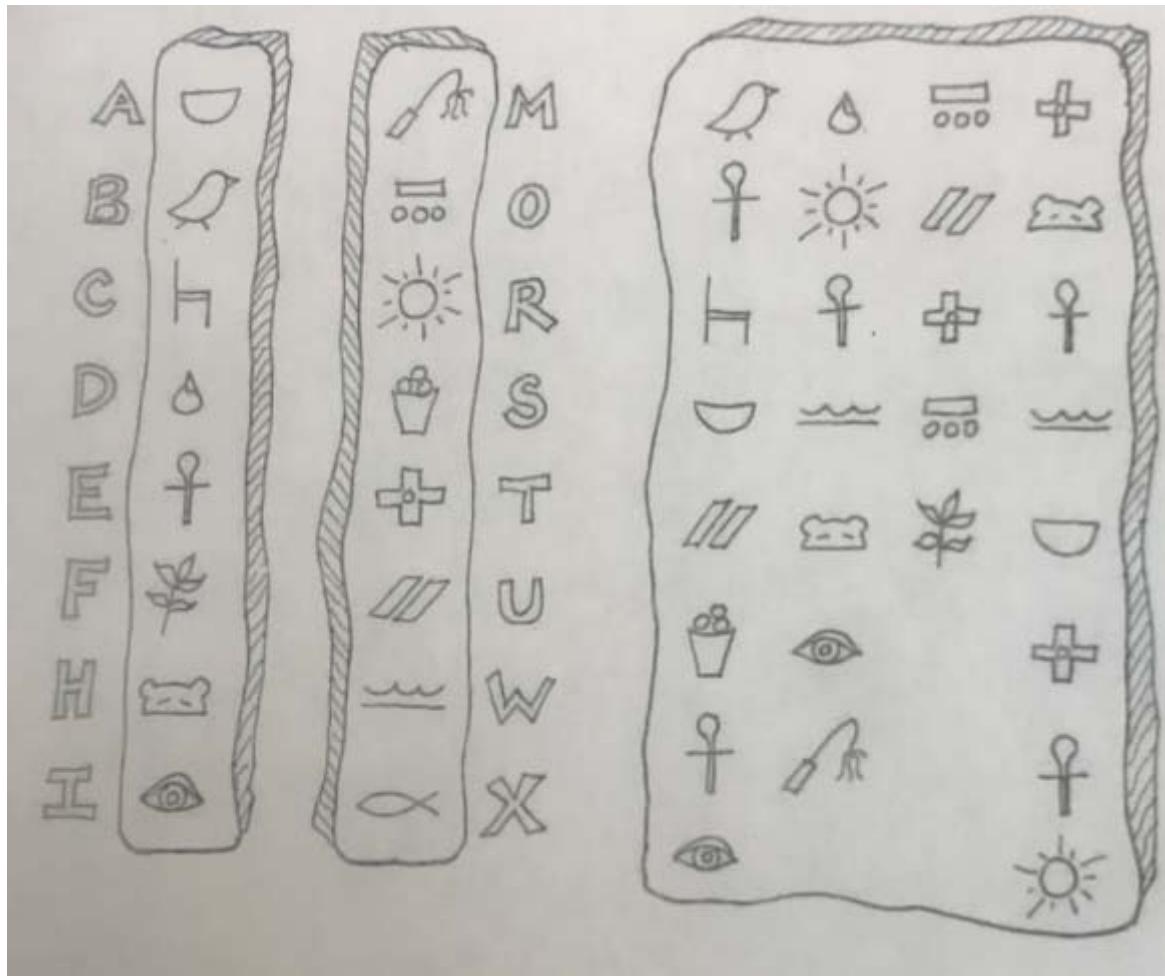
## CIRCLE PUZZLE

Start with number 1 and go around the circle filling in the names of Bible women. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next one. Use the clues below to help you.

1. The first woman in the Bible and wife to Adam. Genesis 3:20.
2. A beautiful Jewish maiden that became queen and helped the people. Esther 5:3.
3. The wife of Jacob and the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. Genesis 29:18.
4. A woman of great faith and grandmother of Timothy. II Timothy 1:5.
5. The wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac. Genesis 21:2.
6. The wife of Elkanah and mother of Samuel. I Samuel 1:20.
7. A handmaid of Sarah and mother of Ishmael. Genesis 16:8.
8. The wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau. Genesis 24:67.



The ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics. Pictures and symbols were used to represent words. Use the picture code below to find out why the Egyptian princess gave the name "Moses" to the baby she found. Read down the columns - not across the rows.



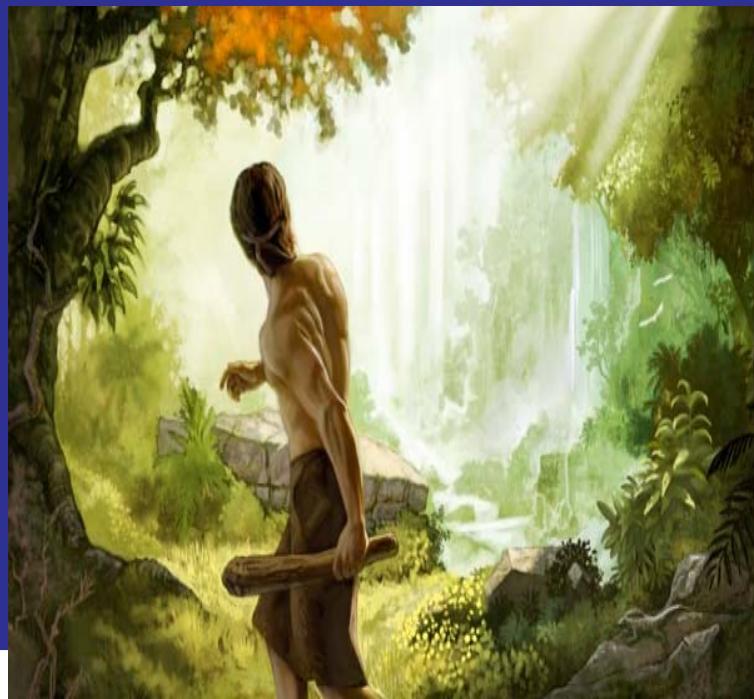
**Matching Bible Verses About Sabbath - Match the proper Bible verse to the description in the first column. Put the proper letter in the blank in front of each numbered statement.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. *A statement of its beginning*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. *A sign of sanctification*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. *A Sabbath command*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. *A Sabbath song*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. *A Sabbath healing*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. *A broken Sabbath*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. *Lord of the Sabbath*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. *A warning*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. *A Sabbath reformation*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. *Sabbath in the new world*

- a. *Jeremiah 17:27*
- b. *Genesis 2:2-3*
- c. *Isaiah 66:23*
- d. *Exodus 20:8-11*
- e. *Ezekiel 20:12*
- f. *Exodus 16:27*
- g. *John 9:15-16*
- h. *Mark 2:28*
- i. *Nehemiah 13:15-21*
- j. *Psalm 92*

# CAIN HIS WAY

*Reprinted  
by Amos R. Wells*



The first murderer was a man who wanted his own way. That is why he was the first murderer. Not God's way, not Abel's way; his own way.

It seems reasonable enough, too. Abel had offered the fruit of his toil, and it had been accepted. Cain offered the fruit of his toil; why was not it also accepted?

That Abel was following the Divine command, and that he was disobeying it made no difference in Cain's eyes. His way ought to be as good as Abel's way, his sacrifice as acceptable as Abel's, so he argued, and he would hear to nothing else. This fondness for one's own way soon becomes a passion, the passion soon becomes a possession, the possession soon becomes a frenzy. Self-willed people are on the highway to murder, every one of them. Their will, their way, becomes everything to them, and whatever opposes it becomes nothing to them. Down with it!

The Devil was a murderer from the beginning, and selfishness, self-will, is of the essence of all deviltry. That Cain, balked of his own way, should put Abel out of the way, was the most natural thing in the world.

It was none the less natural because it was supremely foolish. As if God would respect his offering the more when he had killed the one whose offering God had honored! But that is the way with all self-will: nothing in the universe is so short-sighted.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" That answer of Cain's pillories him as well as words can do it. He was no brother's keeper. He was looking out for himself - his own possessions, his own way, his own precious life. He had no conception of the great truth that as a man keeps his brother, the man himself is kept. As a man yields to another's better way, to God's best way, he gets his own way, in reality his own way.

For what a man wants, after all in seeking his own way, is happiness; and there is no happiness like leaving one's own self-willed way and walking in the way that God has marked out. In this lowly self-abandonment lies the most profound satisfaction that earth and heaven know. The gentle Abel knew it. Cain scouted it.

What was the mark of Cain? No one knows. But from what I have written it is very plain what I, at least, think to be the mark of the modern Cain. It is the idolatry of one's own way.

Not that one's own way is always wrong and the way of others always right. Not that it is not occasionally necessary to fight for one's own way, in the interest of justice and humanity. Not that one's own way is not sometimes God's way, and increasingly God's way as we yield ourselves to God.

But when our way is God's way, and we love it, not because it is our way but because it is God's way, the mark of Cain has vanished from our forehead, and in its stead, His Name is in our forehead who is perfect humility, because He is perfect wisdom and perfect love.

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## Trust

By David DeLong

God's only pleased by our trust,  
We live by our faith to be just;  
And we trust in His name, for He knows our weak frame,  
Because we are made out of dust.