

A lush green forest scene with several trees and a grassy field. The trees are tall and have dense green foliage. The ground is covered in grass, and there are shadows cast by the trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

*The Advocate of Truth*





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# Musical Instruments

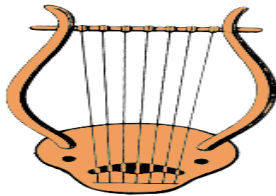
By David Royer

I have attempted to compile a list of biblical Musical Instruments and most likely corresponding pictures. Uncertainty arises due to various translations of the original texts, obscurity of historical records and current accepted musical instrument definitions.

The source of the descriptions below is “Smith’s Bible Dictionary”, (Musical instruments of the Hebrews) published by Dr. William Smith, 1901. Pictures and sketches were derived from various internet sources such as Pinterest, Alamy, Alexander Ancient Art, and Wordpress.

## A. STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

1. The harp or lyre. The ancient “Kinnor” was the very first lyre to be mentioned in the Hebrew Bible, where it is now commonly mistranslated as “harp” - Jubal was the son of Lamech and Adah, a brother of Jabal, a descendant of Cain, and according to the Bible, “...father of all such as handle the harp and organ.” (Genesis 4:21).



2. The psaltery; the name of various large instruments of the harp kind.



3. The sackbut, a harp-like instrument of four strings and of triangular form.



4. A kind of lute or guitar (mahalath), which is found in the introductions of Psalm 53 and Psalm 88. This instrument had a long, flat neck, and a hollow body of wood whose surface was perforated with holes. There

were three strings and the whole instrument was three or four feet long.



5. The gittith is mentioned in the introductions of Psalm 81 and Psalm 84. It was a musical instrument, of unknown character; supposed by some to have been used by the people of Gath, and thence obtained by King David.



## B. INSTRUMENTS OF PERCUSSION

6. The timbrel, a form of tambourine, a narrow hoop covered with a tightened skin, and struck with the hand. Found on the Egyptian monuments were three kinds —the circular, the square, and another formed by two squares separated by a bar.



7. The drum (toph). Of this there were many varieties, some of them resembling modern drums. The Egyptians had a long drum, of wood or copper, 2 1/2 feet long, resembling the tom-tom of India, and beaten by the hand. Another form was shaped like a cask with a bulging center and was made of copper. It was of the same length as the other, but larger around, and was beaten with sticks. Another drum was more like our kettledrum; and one of these, the rabbins say, was placed in the temple court for the priests to pray, and could be heard from Jerusalem to Jericho.



8. Bells (paanton), were attached to the high priest's dress, and rung by striking against the knobs, shaped like pomegranates, which were hung near them.



9. Cymbals. The earliest cymbals were probably finger cymbals -small plates of metal fastened to the thumb and middle finger and struck together. Afterward there were the large cymbals, played with both hands.



10. Comets (menaanim), II Samuel 6:5. Also known as Systrum, was a carved bronze or copper frame, with a handle, in all from 8 to 18 inches long, with movable rings and bars. It was shaken with the hand, and the rings and bars made a piercing metallic sound by striking against the bronze frame.



11. The triangle (shalishim), is a musical instrument (machol) used for accompanying the dance, and several times translated dancing. Psalm 150:3 and Psalm 150:4,5. It was a metallic rim or frame sometimes with a handle and had small bells attached to it, or bars across on which were strung metallic rings or plates. It was held in the hand and was played by the women at weddings and merry-makings.



### C. WIND INSTRUMENTS

12. The syrinx, pandean pipe or bagpipe (ugab);

translated "organ" in Genesis 4:21. A series of pipes from 5 to 23 in number, though usually only 7. An ancient musical instrument based on the principle of the stopped pipe, consisting of pipes gradually increasing in size.



13. The horn, in the form of an animal's horn even when made of metal but originating in the use of the horns of cattle.



14. The trumpet (Shofar) same as horn, #13. Shofar is a non-musical signaling device made from the hollow horn of an animal and in some cases, specifically the horn of a ram. The shofar is played by buzzing the lips on the small end of an animal horn that has been cut, pierced and smoothed. As the range of an average size shofar consists of only a few playable tones, the calls that were used consisted of varying sequences of long and short tones. Shofar is generally translated "trumpet," or "cornet".



15. The straight trumpet, made of bones, shell or metals - bronze, copper, silver, gold-all of which produced a high, shrill sound. It is generally believed that these trumpets, like the shofar, could not produce sounds in various pitches, so as to make music melody.





16. The flute (hali), meaning “bored through “ is a pipe perforated with holes, originally made from reeds, but afterward of wood bone, horn or ivory. It was chiefly consecrated to joy or pleasure. The flute alluded to in Daniel 3:10 is probably a kind of double flageolet.



17. The dulcimer, a kind of bagpipe with two shrill reeds. The modern dulcimer is a triangular instrument strung with about 60 brass wires and played upon with little sticks or metallic rods. (It more resembles the ancient psaltery than the dulcimer of Daniel 3:5—ED.)



**SEND A REVIVAL**

*O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,  
Revive Thy Church with life and power;  
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
And make Thy Church to meet this hour.*

*O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
Till humble we confess our need;  
Then in Thy tenderness remake us,  
Revive, restore; for this we plead.*

*O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,  
Renewing thought and will and heart;  
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
Revive Thy Church in every part.*

*Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating  
While harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,  
Equip Thy Church to spread the light.*

*-Bessie Porter Head*

**Why do not you understand my speech?**

By: Moises Torres M.

These words were spoken by the Lord Jesus to the Jews who wanted to kill him:

“Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word” (John 8:43).

The Lord strove to make those so called children of Abraham understand that He came from God; and He also said to them, “...If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham.” (Verse 39).

They also said that they had a Father, who was God. And Jesus reproved them, saying, “...If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.” (Verses 41,42).

Certainly, these Jews claimed to be children of Abraham and children of God, but their deeds proved they were liars for they did not understand the words of Jesus and wanted to kill Him.

Later, Apostle Paul speaking to the Church, not to the Jews, says: “...if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29). Paul confirms to the believers (the Church), that we are also Abraham’s seed, and this, we may also repeat many in the Church and boast of it by saying: “Abraham’s children we are”; but like the Jews who quarreled with Jesus, we could say it only, but neglect it with our actions. Then, tired of this lack of understanding of His people, Jesus rebukes them, saying, “Why do you not understand my speech?”, and immediately He adds to His question, “Even because ye cannot hear my word.” (Oh, how hard this word is, says one of our hymns).

Even these words were applied to the Jews who claimed to be Abraham’s children, must also be applied to the Church in our day; therefore, let us not be rebellious, and let us recognize Jesus' language and give the credit to His Word.



## Those who Trust in Themselves

By Moises Torres M

**“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.” (Proverbs 28:26, King James Version).**

It is not wrong to acquire or build security or confidence in oneself based on principles and moral concepts coming from God. This is “having faith in God”. However, the human tendency leads to ignore these principles which produce in man an excess of self-confidence that kills him instead of favoring him. Let us look at some examples in the Scriptures that make these types of attitudes very noticeable.

### The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

LUKE 18:9-14: “And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed this with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

This Pharisee trusted in himself to be justified by his works; however, the rejection of the Lord was imminent.

### The contradictory attitude of Peter and the other disciples:

MARK 14:27-31: “And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, that this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. But he spake the vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. **Likewise also said they all.**”

Although the Lord anticipated this to Peter that he would not fulfill his words, he was even more determined. Not only he, but everyone said the same thing. Peter also anticipated saying: “And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” (Luke 22:33). Peter was perhaps being sincere, and the emotion of the moment led him to make such a statement. However, he would soon realize that his words had only come from an excess of self-confidence, and that even he loved his master, something was still missing in him. The same thing happened to the others, since the evangelist says they all fled. (Mark 14:50).

### Simon the Magician, trusted his money

This man had been a magician and was esteemed as a great in the city of Samaria; but when he heard Philip preach the gospel of Christ, he also believed along with many people and was also baptized. But when he saw that by the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “...Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.” (Acts 8:18-21).

This story says this man believed and was baptized; what happened to him then? He believed in the gospel because of all the wonders and miracles that were done, but he

continued to believe in himself; he continued to have extra confidence in what he produced (money) and not in what was come from the power of God. For this reason he was strongly rejected by the apostle Peter, who emphatically said, “Thy money perish with thee.”

### **Ananias and Sapphira trusted themselves wanting to deceive the Holy Ghost**

The book of Acts, chapter 5:1-11, tells the story of Ananias and Sapphira, a couple who by mutual agreement wanted to deceive the apostles about the price of an inheritance. They were members of the church and knew the gospel, but they trusted each other, not knowing that it was not Peter they were going to deceive, but the Holy Ghost. “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God**”. (Acts 5:3-4).

It is possible that some in church today may think they can have extra privileges, either because of their social or intellectual position, or because of what they can bring to the community (church) as a favor; or simply because the devil makes them believe God is not aware of their intentions or of what really exists in their hearts. This story says that Satan filled the heart of Ananias and Sapphira his wife, and they lied to the Holy Ghost and to God. They both died in a space of three hours and a great fear came upon all the church. In the excess of trust (not faith) comes temptation, and trust kills man. This couple trusted each other and gave way to the devil.

### **What great advice does Paul give us?**

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I

press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14).

Truly, this is great advice from a great man, who despite having experienced the best and acquired great wisdom of life and of God, and having worked and suffered like few others, never exalted himself nor boasted nor trusted in any way; on the contrary, he only said: “I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK”, to reach THE PRIZE of the sovereign vocation of God in Christ Jesus: THE ETERNAL LIFE.

**“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING.” (Proverbs 3:5).**



### **THE HUMAN NEED FOR PRAYER**

The strength and assurance of God's presence in the world that came to Jesus through prayer can also be ours. Almost any moment of leisure or release from the usual demands of life can offer us the opportunity for prayerful contemplation. They need not be used, as many of us often use leisure, merely as moments of escape for the sake of escape. Like those of Jesus', ours can be occasions for accepting into our lives as great a portion of the plentiful and continuous outpouring of God's love and wisdom and power as we can hold.



## Arguing Against Evolution--David DeLong

The Bible informs us that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (see Psalm 139:14). This implies a caring and thoughtful Creator who took the time and effort to make His children with tremendous benefits and blessings. Evolutionists believe that we are random creatures of nature, here by chance. Let us look at some features of human beings that show we are designed and not here by chance.

First of all, let us look at the aspect of singing in our lives. To an evolutionist, singing probably has no real purpose in our lives. A person must communicate with vocal sounds to get along in life properly. Thus, we have speech. But a person can live just fine for many years without the function of singing. Therefore, we see that singing is a specially designed function for people to give them enjoyment and to praise the Lord. Evolution, an unthinking, uncaring system of random chance would have no need for singing.

Secondly, let us look at the developing baby inside its mother's womb. A baby cannot breathe inside its mother's womb simply because it would drown in the embryonic fluid surrounding it. However, a baby develops a perfectly functioning set of lungs to be used the minute the baby is born. How could a system of evolution anticipate what a baby will need in the future and provide for that need? The same is true of the baby's digestive system. The baby does not have food in its stomach while it is in its mother's womb. The mother feeds, and breathes, for the baby from her own bodily functions. Yet, a fully developed stomach, intestines, kidneys and other organs are formed in the baby long before it needs them. This is absolute proof of a grand design by a loving and caring Creator.

A comparison can be made between mankind and certain animals. For instance a walrus is supposed to be obese, with a great amount of fat upon its body. A human being is supposed to not be obese, with only a certain amount of fat on his or her body. The evolutionist will say that the walrus is obese because of where it lives, in very cold conditions. This is true, but why can a walrus be obese and not develop heart disease and diabetes, while a human being will develop these and other diseases when obese? This is evidence of design by a wise and discriminating Creator.



**PASTORS**

**WHY**

**DECEIVE?**

**"...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (II Thessalonians 2:10-12).**

In the last days, the world will have departed so far from God's Word that "...they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

"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).

What is knowledge? "Get wisdom, get understanding...Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom..." (Proverbs 4:5-7). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

"...a good understanding have all they that do his commandments..." (Psalm 111:10). God's commandments are recorded in Exodus 20:1-18.

How long do they stand? "...all His commandments are sure; They stand fast forever..." (Psalm 111:7-8). "...Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no



wise pass from the law..." (Matthew 5:18).

How may eternal life be gained? "...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:16-17).

"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" (Revelation 22:14).

What is love? "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments..." (I John 5:1-3). "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

What is in the heart of the righteous? "The law of his God is in his heart..." (Psalm 37:31; Hebrews 8:10).

What are the marks of the remnant people? They keep the commandments of God; and have the Testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17).

Now, Pastors: Seeing the Word of God is true, why do you fool the people and cause them to sin, by teaching God's law was changed at the cross?

God commands the seventh day to be kept holy, as the Sabbath of the Lord thy God (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11).

Why do you deceive the people, and teach them to keep the first day instead, which was set up by Romanism after A.D. 321? You have not one word of authority from Scriptures to change God's Sabbath.

Sin is transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). So in teaching disobedience you destroy the people (Hosea 4:6).

Jesus kept God's commandments (John 15:10). How can you break them and follow Jesus?

Sin brought death upon the world; only obedience can merit pardon. Speak the truth; honor God by keeping His law if you love Him. God has laws for the conduct of His subjects; and to break His laws, incurs the penalty of death (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23).

The way of grace you know not, and you have made crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace (Isaiah 59:8).

The only Sabbath declared in the Bible to be God's Sabbath is the seventh day (Exodus 20:8-11). Yet you pastors call it the Jewish Sabbath. G-O-D does not spell J-E-W. God says you have hid your eyes from His Sabbath and profaned it (Ezekiel 22:26).

You can see the first day of the week as a rest day which is an invention of Romanism over 300 years after the cross, and which is not commanded anywhere in the

Bible, but you cannot see the Sabbath God commands. Truly you have hidden your eyes from God's day, and fool your followers with a precept of man, which is vain worship.

You tell the people Jesus was resurrected on Sunday, the first day of the week, and that day should be kept in place of the Sabbath God commands. Matthew 28:1 says Jesus rose on the Sabbath, not on the first day. Neither Jesus nor the Apostles did authorize anyone to keep the first day, or set aside the Sabbath day.

In disobeying God, you sin and dishonor Christ, for Jesus kept God's commandments (John 15:10).

With not one word of authority in the whole Bible, you set aside God's law; say it is abolished, and teach people to be sinners.

The only way to prove love to God is to keep His commandments, I John 1-3, and by obedience have a right to the tree of life and the golden city (Revelation 22:14).

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" (Proverbs 28:9).

God's great and perfect law, the "Ten Commandments" the only way of peace and justice opens to a sin cursed world, you brazenly assert, was abolished at the cross. The only reason you assert that it is abolished is to get rid of God's Sabbath, so you can teach any kind of doctrine. Death came because of sin, and all the troubles of the world today are going to be harvested soon when the Lord comes.

Pastors continue to set aside God's law and so are responsible for the evil in the land: disobedience can never bring peace. If the world kept God's laws it would not be in its present condition.

The judgment day is at hand; will you continue in sin, or truth and live?

It is needless to say more about this tract. It will speak for itself. Please read the passages quoted here in your Bible, and pastors teach God's Word - not the tradition of men!

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## Why I Believe in The Inspired Name "Church of God"

**"...the House of God, Which Is the Church of the Living God, The Pillar and Ground of the Truth"  
- I Timothy 3:15**

I want to give some reasons why I believe in the inspired name "Church of God" for God's called out assembly. We read in I Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Through the Old Testament Scriptures the children of Israel were known as God's chosen people, and according to Deuteronomy 28:9-10 they were to be called by the name of the Lord. "The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord." See also marginal reading of Genesis 4:26. Let us now search the New Testament, and see what is our Father's pleasure concerning the name of the church during the ministry of Christ, and immediately following His death. In one of the most glorious, unselfish prayers ever made - the prayer that should be called the Lord's Prayer instead of the one listed in Matthew 6 which should be called the Disciples' Prayer - we find Jesus asking a request of His Father, and it concerns the name of the church that He organized during His ministry. "And now I am no more in the world, but these are tin the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in **thy name**..." - John 17:11-12.

In that great council of churches called in the fifteenth chapter of Acts, we find James addressing this august assembly in these words, "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for this name" (14th verse). Notice the prayer of Jesus - "Holy Father, keep through thine **own name** those whom thou hast given me." This was answered in James' reminding exhortation in Acts 15:14,

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people **for his name**." Paul offered similar testimony in Ephesian 3:14-15, "for this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." To make it plainer still, Paul speaking to an assembly of elders in Acts 20:38, said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God. which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Paul addressed one of this outstanding epistles to a certain church in Corinth. He did not say unto the church of Freeman, or the church of Smith but He said, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth" (I Corinthians 1:2). In this same letter he called it by the name "Church of God" several times. Let me give you the references for your information. In the tenth chapter and 32nd verse we read, "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." In the eleventh chapter and 16th verse, "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." In the 22nd verse, "What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not?" And once more in I Corinthians 15:9 it is found, "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." The second epistle unto the Corinthians was addressed to the same church (II Corinthians 1:1), and the next time we find the name is in Galatians 1:13, "fro ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it." You will recall how Saul did persecute this church before his wonderful, spectacular conversion on the road to Damascus, and he here recognizes the name of the church he was troubling as the Church of God. Four more times Paul mentions this inspired name, and I will give you these four quotations. "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus..." (I Thessalonians 2:14). "So that we ourselves glory in you in the Churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure" (II Thessalonians 1:4). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5) And the final reference that this



name is found in is the fifteenth verse of I Timothy 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

I have given fifteen times from the New Testament, references showing that this is the proper name for the called out assembly of God, Now the question is, Are we going to ignore this evidence and turn a deaf ear to it, and allow it to go by unheeded, and unobeyed? I just pray that it will create in your heart a greater desire to study the Bible, being like the Bereans in Acts 17:11, who "...were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

The Church of the New Testament is likened unto a virgin - a virgin that has become engaged, but has not yet been married to the groom. Paul said he was, "jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Corinthians 11:2).

The Church of the New Testament is compared to many things by Jesus and His apostles. The Master likens it unto a city that is built on a hill (Matthew 5:14). When we think of a city, we immediately think of the intense activity present in any modern city. The Church should be active, not so much in the line of chicken suppers, and rummage sales, for it is a hard task to preach on the bread of life, when the church is filled with the odor of fried chicken, or tell of the robe of salvation, when the temple is filled with the cry of old clothes sellers, but they should be active in helping to reap a harvest of precious souls. The church is not a nest for drones, but a hive for workers. It is not a refrigerator for perishable piety, but a dynamo for the charging of men with divine power.

The Church is also compared to a temple in Ephesians 2:20, and as a temple is suggestive of holiness, so the Church of God should be hold and without blemish. This can only be attained by complete surrender to the God of heaven, getting in the spiritual condition that we can say, "Thy will be done, not mine."

The Church is likened to a human body in I Corinthians 12:14-27, and as the human body wonderfully works together for the betterment of itself, in complete harmony and unity, when it is healthy, so we should be united in Spirit and truth. This can only be attained by continuing in

His word, for Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - John 7:31-32.

The Church is likened to a flock of sheep in John 10; Luke 12:32; and as a flock of sheep is suggestive of meekness, so God's people should be endued with a Spirit of meekness. This can only come by letting "...this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 2:5.

Finally the Church is likened to a family in Ephesians 2:19, and as a family brings to mind the thought of deep love and devotion, so we should have love one for another, and devotion for the Father in heaven. Surely such a standard of righteousness would produce active, holy, united, meek, and loving members of the Church of the living God, the pillar and the ground of the truth.

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## THE ABCs OF THE GOSPEL

**A** - All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.

**B** - Behold the lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29.

**C** - Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28.

**D** - Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. James 4:8.

**E** - Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish. Matthew 18:14.

**F** - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God. Ephesian 2:8.

**G** - God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

**H** - Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37.

**I** - I am the way, the truth and the life. John 14:16.

**J** - Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent. John 6:29.

- K** - Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Matthew 7:7.
- L** - Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth. Isaiah 45:22.
- M** - My grace is sufficient for thee. II Corinthians 12:9.
- N** - Now is the day of salvation. II Corinthian 6:2.
- O** - Our Passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ. I Corinthians 5:7.
- P** - Peace I leave with you: My peace I give unto you. John 14:27.
- Q** - Quicken me according to Thy word. Psalm 119:154.
- R** - Redeemed us from the curse of the law. Galatians 3:13.
- S** - Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16.
- T** - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. I John 1:7.
- U** - Unto you that fear My name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings. Malachi 4:2.
- V** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. John 6:47.
- W** - Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree. I Peter 2:24.
- X** - Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3.
- Y** - Ye are not your own; ye are bought with a price. I Corinthians 6:19.
- Z** - Zealous of good works. Titus 2:14.



### ADMIT

All of us are sinners in need of God's salvation. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. For the wages of sin is death." Romans 3:23 & 6:23a



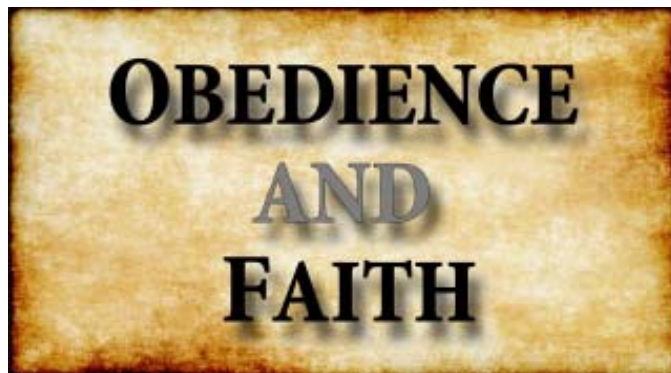
### BELIEVE

Because God loved us all so much, He sent Jesus to die in our place. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8



### CONFESS

Invite Jesus Christ into your heart and life as your personal Saviour. "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 6:23b & 10:13



The relation of obedience to saving faith is for many Christians a neglected truth. It can be an embarrassing experience to attempt to see whether the faith we profess has borne fruit in obedience to God's revealed will.

Living as we do in an age of lawlessness, we who are Christians need to search our hearts to find out whether the rebellion against law and order in the secular world has its counterpart in our own hearts in our response to the laws of God. God has not left his children to drift aimlessly; he has given us a chart for Christian faith and living.

From the time of Adam, the basis of sin has been rebellion against the obedience to God. This clash of wills - God's will for man and man's determination to have his own way - continues to the present day.

God says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22); but, like Pharaoh of old, man replies, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice...?" (Exodus 5:2).

We are not speaking here of the unregenerate world, for it is and always has been in rebellion against God. Our concern here is for professing Christians. How obedient are we to God's holy laws and commands. Are we not too often content with a profession of faith that is not validated by obedience?

Make no mistake; we are not advocating legalism, with its dependence on good works and behavior. We are affirming that for Christians there is a life for the glory of God, a code of behavior consistent with God's holy laws. The attempt to be a Christian while living in disobedience to God's revealed will brings frustration to individuals and confusion to those with whom he comes in daily contact.

The Christian faith can be described as faith in, love for, and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we measure up to this definition?



We may affirm our love and protest our faith, but if we are not obedient to Christ how much does our "love" or our "faith" really mean?

Christ demands of us total surrender. Obedience to Him involves our recognition of His right to command. For the true Christian there is one authority, God. We must recognize His right to command and our duty to obey.

Inherent in this is also recognition of God's superior wisdom. We are dealing with the one who sees the end from the beginning, who is omniscient, omnipresent, and sovereign in action. Such an understanding of God demands obedience on our part.

Obedience is part of normal life. The laws of nature; the compass; the square, level, and plumb line; physiology and mathematics - to these and hundreds of other things we must be obedient in daily living. Obedience is an integral part of military life, and a requirement of civil authorities whereby law and order are maintained.

How much more important that Christians be obedient to the One whose name they bear!

This is no ordinary obedience, for it can involve following Christ blindly. Not knowing the outcome but trusting that He is able to perform what He has promised.

The Bible has many stories of such obedience:

Noah obeyed God in building the ark, though to all around him the project must have seemed the work of a simpleton.

Abraham left this home and kindred in obedience to God's call, going out without knowing his destination. Later, with Isaac, the son of promise, he traveled to Mt. Moriah, obedient to God's command though unable to understand either the why or the hows of it.

Caleb and Joshua saw the difficulties involved in a conquest of Canaan; but they were determined to obey God, and it was His will that they should enter the promised land.

Ezra set us a perfect example; we are told that he "set his heart to study the law of God, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel."

The Apostle Paul met the risen Lord on the Damascus road and there was told what he should do and how much he would suffer for the name of Christ. Years later he could say with the truthfulness of a man who has given his all to his Lord: "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19).

Living as we do in this dispensation of grace, we are in danger of presuming on that grace. Christ has not redeemed us to lives of self-indulgence. While our salvation is through grace, by faith, it demands of us that we live obedient to the One who has redeemed us.

Jesus tells us that we have an example to set, a light to let shine that men may see it and glorify God. How often we are disobedient because we seek glory for ourselves!

Christ commands us to love our enemies. Do we rationalize this commandment, or merely ignore it? In either case, can we claim to be obedient to it?

Our Lord tells us that we should put God and His Kingdom first in our lives. How obedient are we to this? Do we not look on our obligation to God as relation and our duty to get ahead in the world as real?

We are told not to judge others, particularly our Christian brethren; but against and again we are disobedient to this injunction, excusing ourselves by saying that we are exercising "righteous" judgment.

The sermon on the Mount lays down a number of precepts by which we should live and ends with the admonition to "hear" and "do" according to this discourse. Then our Lord uses the illustration of the two houses, one built on solid rock and the other on sand. The man who obeys finds he has built on a foundation that can never be shaken.

Jesus tells us to say "No" to self and take up our cross and follow Him. Are we obedient to this command?

He tells us to watch and be ready for His coming. How obedient are we to this command that has both a promise and a warning?

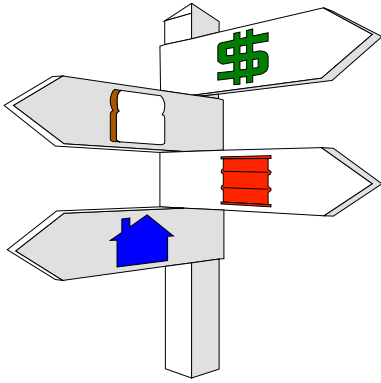
He tells us that we must abide in Him as truly as a branch abides in the vine. Is our relationship to Him one whereby He can impart divine life to us day by day?

The Apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit, tells us not to conform to this world. How obedient are we to this command, so full of meaning for us today?

Paul also admonishes us to put on the whole armor of God and tells us of what it consists. Are we wearing this armor in obedience to God's command and provision? Are we using the Word of God as the sword of the Spirit? Are we "praying at all times in the Spirit"?

These commandments are not onerous. They are for our good, given to us in love, and obedience brings with it rest and peace.

**-Christianity Today**



# THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

## LOVERS OF PLEASURE

As I observed people on the beach after some states relaxed their safeguards regarding Covid-19, I saw many who did not obey the few remaining recommended safeguards such as wearing a face covering and being at least six feet apart.

This brought to my mind the words of the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 3:4 when he said that one of the signs of the last days would be that men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Why not read II Timothy 3:1-5? I would like to share with you a large portion of an article copied from the internet. It is one in a series of *Sparkling Gems*:

### Lovers of Pleasure More Than Lovers of God

As Paul continued to bring illumination regarding events that will occur in society in the last days, he next wrote that people will become “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” Let’s delve deeply into these words and phrases today to see what gems of truth we can extract from the Greek that will broaden our understanding.

The words “lovers of pleasure” are a translation of the Greek word *philodonos*, which is a compound of two words, *phileo* and *hedonos*. The first word, *phileo*, is a well-known word that conveys the ideas of *affection and love*. It can denote an affection so deep that it even embraces the idea of *romance* and is from the same root word that means to *kiss*. Frequently in the Greek language, the word *phileo* is compounded with other words to form new meanings, as it is with the word *philodonos*. The following are examples:

**Philadelphos:** You may recognize this word because it is where we get the name of the great city *Philadelphia* on the east coast of the United States. It is actually a

New Testament word that is a compound of the words *phileo* and *adelphos*. The word *phileo* means to *deeply, profoundly* and *affectionately love*, while the word *adelphos* is the Greek word for a brother. When compounded, they form the word *philadelphos*, which means brotherly love.

**Philosophia:** The word *philosophia* is a compound of the words *phileo* and *sophos*. As noted, the word *phileo* means to love or to have a deep, profound affection. The word *Sophos* is the word for wisdom. When these two words are compounded, they form the word *philosophia*. This is where we get the word *philosophy*, which describes a deep and profound love of wisdom.

**Philoxenos:** The word *philoxenos* is a compound of the words *phileo* and *xenos*. The second part of this word is *xenos*, which is the ancient Greek word for a *stranger* or *foreigner*. When the words *phileo* and *xenos* are compounded, they form the word *philoxenia*, a word that expresses the idea of a person who has a special love for strangers or love for foreigners.

**Philostorgos:** The second part of this word is *storgos* – the Greek word for a *commitment or devotion to one’s family*. When the words *phileo* and *storgos* are compounded, the new word depicts a person who has a deep affection and sense of commitment for his family.

**Philanthropic:** In this word, the word *phileo* is compounded with the word *anthropos*, the word for mankind or humankind. The word *anthroposis* where we get the word *anthropology* or an *anthropologist*. But when the Greek word *phileo* is compounded with the word *anthropos*, it depicts a love for humanity. From this, we get the word *philanthropist*, which describes a wealthy person who generously gives his resources or money for the betterment of humanity.



*Philarguria*: Here we see the word *phileo* compounded with the word *arguria*. The word *arguria* is the old word for *silver* or *money*. When *arguria* is compounded with *phileo*, the new word *philarguria* depicts a love of silver or an affection and love of money.

In II Timothy 34, Paul compounded the word *hedonos* with the word *phileo* to tell us people in the last days will become “lovers of pleasure.” Because the word *phileo* means to have a deep, profound love and convey the notion of a romantic preoccupation, this emphatically forecasts that people in the last days will be preoccupied with and in love with the pleasure and the pursuit of happiness. But let’s look deeper at the word *hedonos* to get the full picture!

The word *hedonos* is only used five times in the New Testament, and each time, it conjures up the picture of people completely preoccupied with pleasure and who live for the gratification of their flesh and their own personal happiness. The English Dictionary says “hedonism” is the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good; addiction to and obsession for pleasure as a way of life. Paul used the Greek word *philodons* to say that society in the last days will become “lovers of pleasure” or that they will become preoccupied and obsessed with the pursuit of their own comfort, pleasure, and happiness.

The truth is, there has never been a generation in history with more material goods or comfort than this present generation. Yet, despite this glut of goods and pursuit of pleasure, the worldwide happiness index is the lowest on record, especially in the industrialized world where material goods abound.

It is very clear that self-centered living does not produce happiness. In fact, the highest rating on the happiness index is in developing Third World nations where goods are scarcer, but where commitment to “one’s personal faith” is higher.

There is no doubt about it! Because Paul used the word *philodons* – which means “lovers of pleasure” – he was emphatically declaring that people in the last days will be obsessed with pleasure.

It is unfortunate that even Christians are often obsessed with comfort and pleasure to such an extent that they don’t want to be asked to do anything that would inconvenience

them. But this should not be the case.

Here’s the bottom line: God is more concerned about your obedience than He is about your happiness. Happiness is fleeting, but obedience to God and His Word produces a long-term joy that is unaffected and unwavering.

A doctrine has permeated the Church in recent years that says that God wants them to be happy above all else. Such teaching ignores the fact that the Gospel frequently calls for us to die to ourselves, to deny ourselves, and to even pick up our cross and carry it (see Luke 9:23). Obeying this call of God to pick up our cross and carry it means that we will often be required to take the road of sacrifice – to humble ourselves and even lay down our “rights” for the sake of others.

This errant doctrine that we are entitled to be “happy” erroneously leads people to avoid any decision or to take any action that inconveniences their schedule, plans, or comfort. This is ultimately a doctrine of selfishness that justifies self-focus and nonservice. Yet, if we obey the demands put forth by the Gospel, these demands will make our flesh suffer – for in order for us to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh, it will necessitate that we mortify the deeds and demands of the flesh.

But according to Paul’s words in Second Timothy, the pursuit of “happiness” will become the chief goal of people at the end of this age. Of course, God wants us to be satisfied in life, but that which Paul wrote about in this verse is far beyond that. It was a prophetic declaration that people in the last days will become completely consumed with themselves and that their own happiness will drive them to unequalled selfishness.

**If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to -**

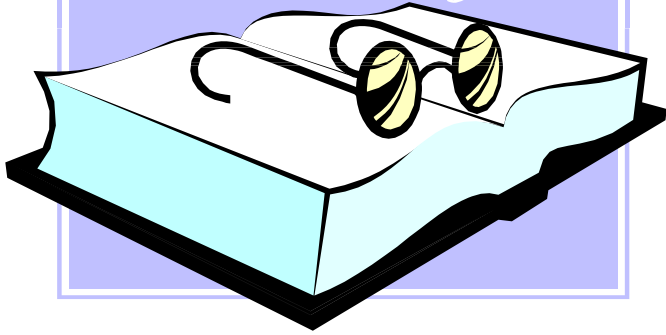
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# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

declares we know not what we should pray for as we ought (Romans 8:26). Jesus then condescended to the question of His disciples and began to teach them “how to pray!”

**QUESTION:** Will you please comment on the merits of prayer, and especially mention The Lord’s Prayer?

**ANSWER:** Prayer is a priceless privilege, and the time a child of God spends in prayer must be most fruitful in providing experiences which give undoubted satisfaction to those who realize its inestimable value. Our blessed Lord Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught men how to pray. He Himself spent much of His time in prayer. He sought to be alone in prayer. His disciples noted that many of their Master’s actions, words and deeds were preceded by prayer.

After a day of preaching the gospel and feeding five thousand men with five loaves of bread and two fishes, Jesus departed from His disciples to go by Himself into a mountain to pray. When He returned to the disciples later, He had power to still the wind and stormy waves (Mark 6:42-56). Before every trial Jesus went to pray. Before the ordeal of His betrayal, trial and crucifixion Jesus spent time in prayer. Even while He hung on the cross, He was in an attitude of prayer, and He communed with His Father and prayed for those at whose hands He was suffering.

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to pray without ceasing. Indeed, the whole life of the Christian should be a life of prayer even as it should be a life of faith. The disciples of Jesus asked Him one day: “Lord teach us to pray.” Paul

Our Lord began in Matthew 6:9-13 to instruct man in what manner he should pray. The Lord spoke beautiful words which is known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” It really should be called “The Model Form of Prayer.” It is a pattern of thought on how we, as Children of God, should pray. That then makes it a form of doctrine because it embraces the will of God toward man and how man is to address God.

This pattern of prayer should become an intricate part of every Christian’s life. Every part of this model prayer is thoroughly comprehensive and all embracing. We discover many vital truths in its teaching, and many doctrinal principles are embellished.

In the first place, we are taught to whom to pray, that is to God the Father only. This is furnished for us in the opening words: “Our Father which art in heaven.” No where in our Lord’s teaching, nor in any other part of the Holy Bible, are we exhorted to pray to anyone outside of the Father through His only begotten Son, Jesus, for anything and under any circumstances. Many people pray only to Jesus. Countless more pray to Mother Mary and other angels and saints. Some pray in the name of the Father, The Son and the Holy Ghost. They call this praying to the Triune God-head. Both the spirit and the letter of the “Model Prayer” is against this since only our prayer should be addressed to God through His only Son Jesus. The prayer spoken by Jesus is our only proper guide to

pray to the Father. He is set out as the One to whom we should come in prayer. See Colossians 3:17.

The Model Prayer teaches us to put the interests of God first and the interests of ourselves and other concerns after.

**QUESTION:** What is the first essential of a Christian in his endeavor to please God?

**ANSWER:** The first essential is faith. "But without faith it is impossible to please him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

**QUESTION:** What are the benefits of apologizing?

**ANSWER:** "I am sorry" are three words that are very difficult to say. How often have we failed to say them? How much better one's day would have ended if they had held back that bitter phase.

Bickering and strife could have been avoided when a disagreement arose. We should take a long and hard look at ourselves, accept our share of the blame, and honestly admit, "I am sorry, I was wrong."

When our tempers fly and jealousy produces misery in our lives, we become cold and aloof. Why can we not admit, I am sorry, I was wrong. We gain nothing by holding back.

The three little words, "I am sorry," have power to bless the wounded spirit and to heal the rift caused by an unkindness, and to take the sting out of cold indifference. Apologizing is a virtue. It is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength. Some people never apologize. They imagine themselves always right. The person who thinks he knows everything has a lot to learn.

Children of God want to apologize so they can leave their sins behind them and become more and more like their Master. By apologizing, they further tighten their bond to God's family.

A child of God is willing to admit his wrongdoing and to ask God and others to forgive him.

**QUESTION:** Who was Apollos? Please give scriptural

references.

**ANSWER:** Apollos is a form of a Greek word meaning "belonging to Apollo." Apollos was a fellow-laborer of Paul. His name is mentioned a number of times in the New Testament. He was an Alexandrian Jew and began his work about A.D. 56 at Ephesus, first teaching the doctrine of the Messiah without reference to Jesus. Paul's aids, Aquila and Priscilla, soon taught him the "way of God more perfectly," and he went to Greece to aid Paul. He must have been a man of strong personality as well as great knowledge, for he soon became the center of a church party. Paul, with the consent and approval and probably at the instigation of Apollos, took the Corinthians to task for this. They labored together quite a long time.

Tradition says that Apollos rose to considerable eminence in the Church.

### References

"And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus" (Acts 18:24).

"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ" (I Corinthians 1:12).

"For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are we not carnal?"

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?"

"I have planted, Apollos watered: but God gave the increase." (I Corinthians 3:4-6).

"And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another" (I Corinthians 4:6).

"Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their Journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them" (Titus 3:13).





## The Philippines

The new church building being constructed, with church members.







The brethren at convention after lunch.



Baptism at Tayawan, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental



2nd level



3rd level



manual cement mixer and water drums  
3rd Level

## LESSON I

## DAVID ANOINTED KING OF JUDAH

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 2:1-14.**

**Golden text: II Samuel 2:4 (first part).**

**"And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah."**

**NOTE: We have learned that King Saul is dead and that David grieved much over his death. David was certainly a person with a heart of love to lament so much over the death of Saul, who had so continuously sought to kill him. Now David is about to be anointed king over Judah. Let us study how this was done.**

1. David relied upon the Lord. What did he ask the Lord, and what did the Lord tell him to do in II Samuel 2:1?
2. Did David go? Who went with him? II Samuel 2:2-3.
3. Who anointed David king of Judah? What did they tell David? II Samuel 2:4.
4. Who did David send to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, and what was the purpose of this trip? II Samuel 2:5-7.
5. What did Abner, the son of Ner, do in II Samuel 2:8-9?
6. Who was Ishbosheth, and how old is he when he began to reign over Israel? How long did he reign? II Samuel 2:10.
7. How long was David king in Hebron over the house of Judah? II Samuel 2:11.
8. What did Joab and the servants of David do in II Samuel 2:13-14?

## LESSON II

## DAVID'S SERVANTS SMITE THE ENEMY

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 2:15-32.**

**Golden Text: II Samuel 2:31.**

**"But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, so that three hundred and threescore men died."**

**NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that David was anointed king over Judah. He reigned seven and one half years. We are going to study at this time how Davids servants fought for him against the enemy.**

1. Who was Ishbosheth, and what did he and his servants do to the enemy at Helkath-hazzurim? II Samuel 2:15-16.
2. Who was beaten by the servants of David in II Samuel 2:17?
3. Who was Asahel, and who was he following? II Samuel 2:18-19.
4. What request did Abner make of Asahel when he discovered Asahel was pursuing him? Did Asahel obey Abner? II Samuel 2:20-23.
5. Who then pursued Abner? II Samuel 2:24-25.
6. What did Abner say to Joab in II Samuel 2:26, and what was Joab's reply in verse 27?
7. Did Joab pursue the enemy anymore? II Samuel 2:28-29.
8. How many of David's men were smitten, and how many of Abner's men were smitten? II Samuel 2:30-31.
9. Where did they bury Asahel? II Samuel 2:32.



LESSON III

LESSON IV

DAVID ANOINTED KING OF ALL ISRAEL

DAVID DEFEATS THE PHILISTINES

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 5:1-12.

Golden Text: II Samuel 5:4.

"David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years."

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 5:13-25.

Golden Text: II Samuel 5:25.

"And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer."

NOTE: David has been king over Judah seven and one half years. Saul's son, Ishbosheth, reigned over the rest of Israel. You may read the third and fourth chapters of II Samuel to learn how the rival kings fought over Israel. Now David is going to be king over all Israel, and he will dwell at Jerusalem.

NOTE: David is now king over Israel and has moved his capital from Hebron to Jerusalem. Let us now study how David seeks the Lord's help in dealing with the Philistines and his victory over them.

1. Who came to David and spoke to him? II Samuel 5:1-2.
2. Who anointed David king over all Israel? II Samuel 5:3.
3. How old was David, and how long did he reign? II Samuel 5:4.
4. King David and his men went to Jerusalem. What did the Jebusites say unto David? II Samuel 5:6.
5. What did David reply to the Jebusites? II Samuel 5:8.
6. Did David go on and grow great? Why? II Samuel 5:9-10.
7. What did Hiram, King of Tyre, do for David? II Samuel 5:11.

1. How many sons and daughters were born to David? II Samuel 5:14-16.
2. When the Philistines heard that David was king over Israel, what did they do? II Samuel 5:17-18.
3. David inquired of the Lord to see if he should go up to the Philistines. What did the Lord tell him to do? II Samuel 5:19.
4. Did David obey the Lord in II Samuel 5:20?
5. What did David and his men burn? II Samuel 5:21.
6. Did the Philistines come again against David and his men? II Samuel 5:22.
7. What did the Lord tell David to do this time in II Samuel 5:23-24?
8. Did David obey the Lord, and what was the result? II Samuel 5:25.

A CHILD'S PRAYER

Father, we thank Thee for Thy Son,  
Who loves the children every one.  
Here in our land and far away,  
Bless all, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





## GRANDMA'S STRANGE VISITOR

by Marie Hurley

There was a loud crash and the tinkle of falling glass. "Another broken window!" sighed Grandma. "I didn't know there were any boys around there this morning, but that sounded like a ball crashing through the dining room window."

Grandma took her hands from the dishpan and dried them as she walked toward the dining room. Yes, there was a large hole into the window. She looked out. There was no boy in sight!

"It must have been a ball," she said, "Windows don't break by themselves. Let me see now. I suppose the ball would be across the room from the window." She looked under the buffet, and in the corner under the chair. But there was no ball anywhere on that side of the room. "Maybe it rolled back toward the window. I'll look under the table," she thought as she lifted the tablecloth and peered under the table. There was not a ball under the table, but what was that looking back at her?

"Well, how do you do, sir!" said Grandma. "Are you as surprised and bewildered as you look?" Standing there under her table was a large and very puzzled pheasant.

Grandma looked around the dining room. There were plenty of things he could break if he became alarmed and flew about the room. But he seemed quite right now. Maybe she could pick him up. Maybe.

Dropping slowly to her knees, she reached carefully under the table. He was a big bird; she'd have to get a good hold. Her hand closed around his legs. He did struggle. She leaned toward him and slid her other arm carefully over his wings and around him. Grandma held that pheasant close to her as she stood up again.

"You poor thing," said Grandma. "You must have hit the glass so hard that it stunned you. Or are you so ashamed of your blunder that you can't even fight to get away? You probably think you're doomed to an awful death. But God made you, Mr. Pheasant. He made you to walk proudly through the fields and orchards destroying pests. You are our friend. We should protect you. Now where did I put the big box I had yesterday? Oh, yes, I put it on the back porch."

Carefully Grandma lowered Mr. Pheasant to the porch and turned the big box upside down over him. Then she placed a piece of grain and small pan of water in his prison and went happily back to her dishes.

Grandma had several friends come to visit her that day. She greeted each one with a mysterious smile and a beckoning finger. "Come here, and meet the strangest visitor I've had today," she said. Then she told of the broken window and her search for some boy's ball.

"It will soon be dark, Mr. Pheasant," said Grandma that evening as she lifted the box. "I suppose Mrs. Pheasant and the children will be wondering where you are." She lifted him carefully and carried him to the yard. "I hope you were not injured in your crash through my window. Most of my guests knock at the door, you, know, but then most of my guests are most different from you. There now, let's see if you can still fly. I'll be glad to leave the window open if you care to call again. Now fly away home."

Mr. Pheasant looked at Grandma, bobbed his head politely, and with a sudden fluttering of his strong wings disappeared into the evening twilight.

"JONAH WAS THANKFUL"

Find the words from the Bible Scripture Jonah 2:7-9.  
Only the words that are capitalized are in the puzzle.

WHEN MY LIFE was EBBING AWAY, (I) REMEMBERED you, LORD,  
and my PRAYER ROSE to you, to your HOLY TEMPLE.  
THOSE who CLING to WORTHLESS IDOLS FORFEIT the GRACE that  
COULD be THEIRS. BUT I, WITH A SONG of THANKSGIVING,  
will SACRIFICE TO YOU. WHAT I HAVE VOWED I WILL MAKE GOOD.  
SALVATION COMES FROM the Lord.





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### I'M THANKFUL

When my eyes behold a beautiful sunset  
Or a million stars on a clear summer night,  
My mind turns to God in His heaven,  
To His love, mercy, and might.

"Thank you, God".

When I'm watching two tiny sparrows  
Working hard to feed their young in their nest,  
I think of how God always feeds us  
His children, His chosen, His blest.

"Thank you, Father".

When I think of the many miracles  
He performed to save Israel, long ago  
It's so plain how He has loved his people,  
And it will always be so.

"Thank you, Lord".

And when my mind shifts to dwell on His kingdom  
That He's been preparing for all these long years  
My soul is longing to be there  
Where I'll be free from all these sorrows and tears.

"Thank You, my mighty King!"

Betty Whetstone

