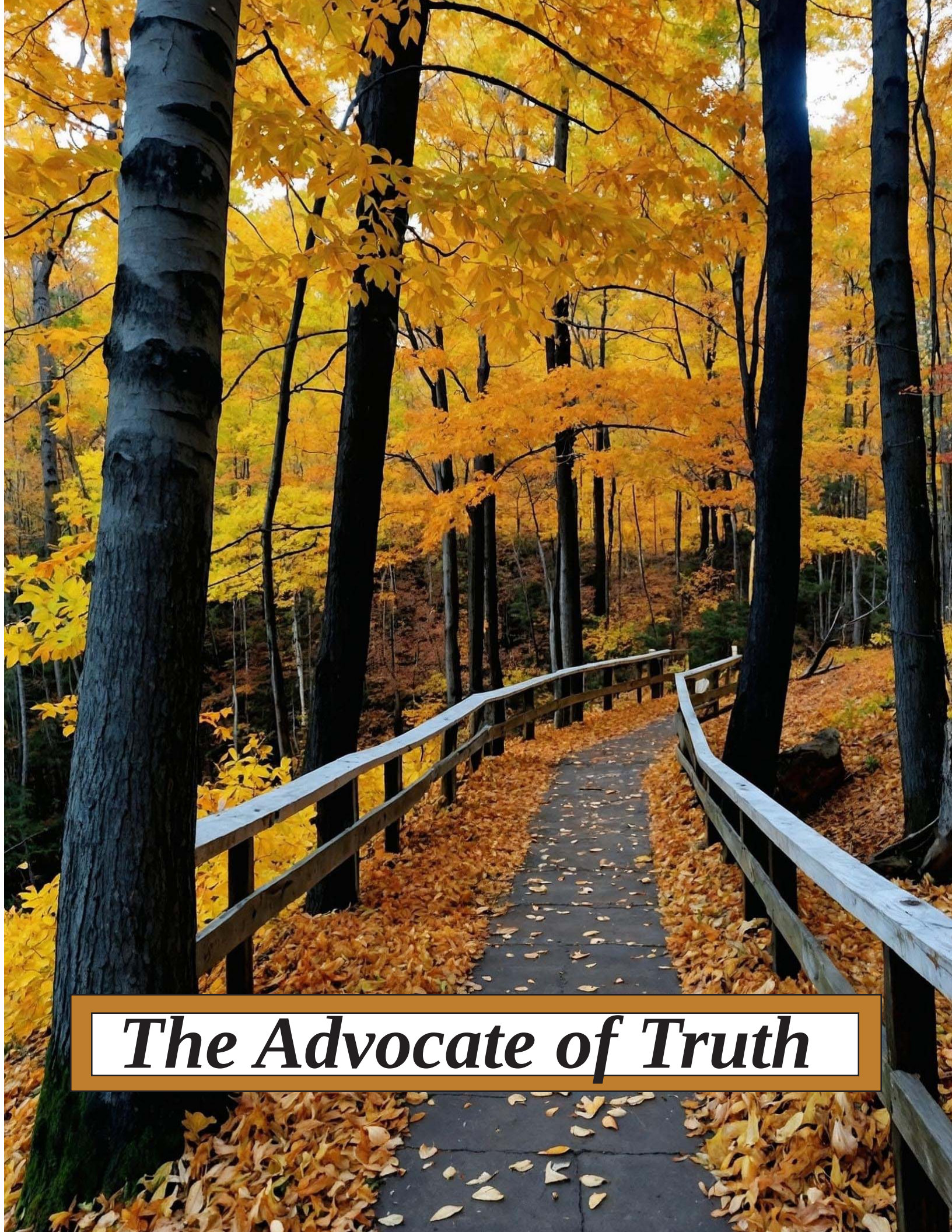
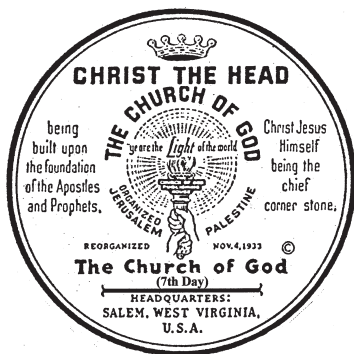




# *The Advocate of Truth*



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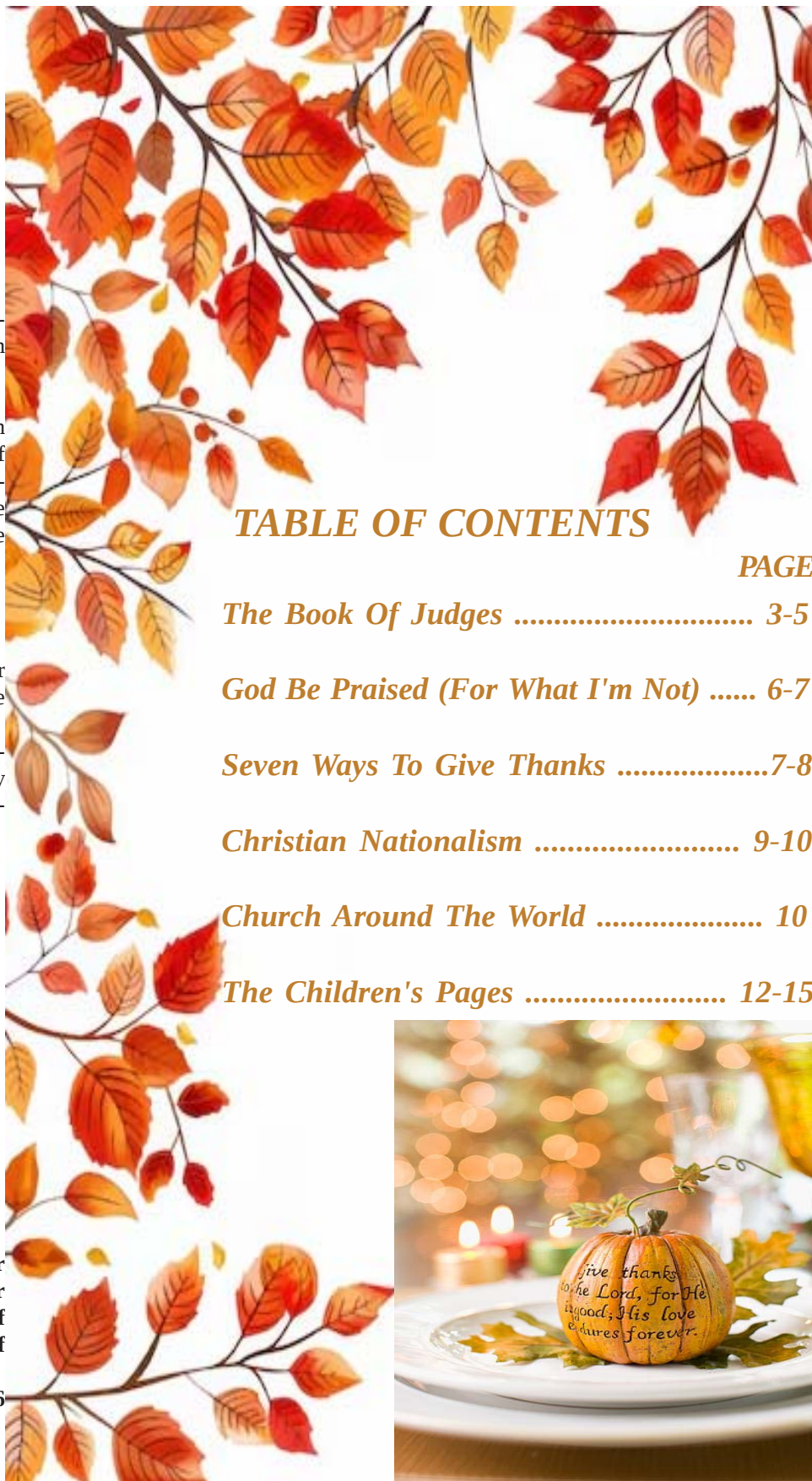
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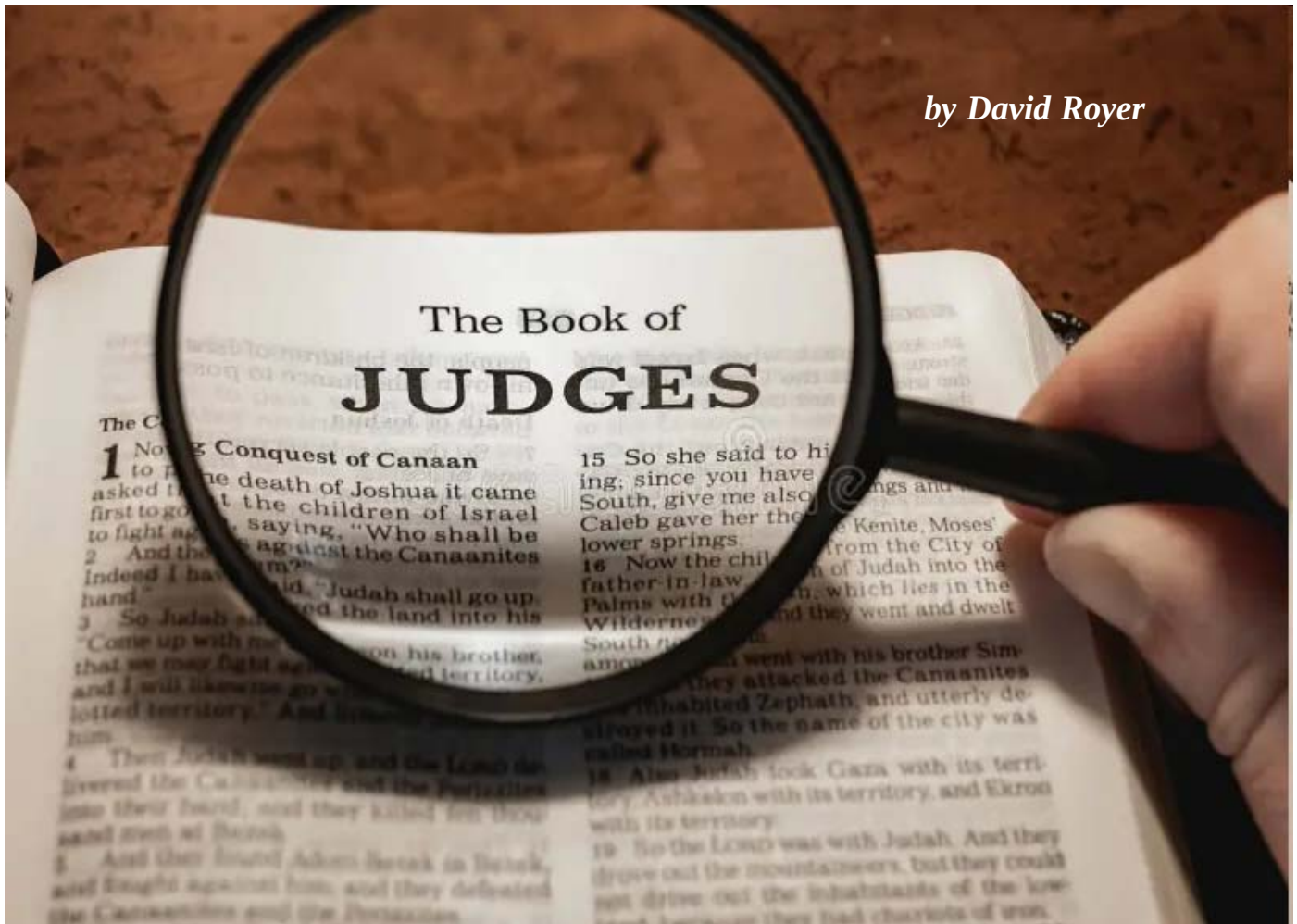
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by David Royer



I began writing this article about my hero: Samson, the 12<sup>th</sup> Judge of the rag-tag nation of Israel. His many exploits and feats of strength during his 20 years as Judge remind me of the Greek legend of Hercules. But now, after some research, I have become disenchanted and do not care to write in detail about his scandalous behavior, betrayals, lusts, oaths, and vow-breaking. You can read about this flawed character in Judges, Chapters 14-16.

The Book of Judges covers approximately 440 years of Israel's history, after entering the "Promised Land" led by Joshua, and is divided into two sections: 1) Chapters 1-16 gives an account of the wars of deliverance beginning with the Israelites' defeat of the Canaanites and ending with the defeat of the Philistines and the death of Samson; 2) Chapters 17-21 is referred to as an appendix and does not relate to the previous chapters. These chapters relate to a time when Israel had no king. This Book is a tragic account of how God is taken for granted by His "chosen people" for centuries.

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Judges.html>

After the death of Joshua and his contemporaries, the Israelites returned to sinful practices, even serving Baal and Ashtaroth. The cycle begins: First, turning their backs on God, then captivity or harassment by surrounding tribal nations, then asking for God's help. Every time Israel repented for their idolatry, God showed mercy and raised up someone (a Judge) to deliver them from their enemies. Judges reveal that in the absence of a leader, Israel would always wander astray. "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Source: Same as above.

So who were the judges? The title “judge” suggests someone who determines guilt or innocence in a court of law. But ancient Hebrew has a much broader meaning. It also appears in Psalm 2:10 and Psalm 148:11, where it refers to leaders and means “to rule” or “to command”.

Here is a summary of the 12 Judges described in the Book of Judges. Source: <https://overviewbible.com/judges-of-israel/> Note that they exercised their authority over one or the other tribes but never over the entire nation.

**Othniel** - He was the first judge of Israel after the death of Joshua and played a crucial role in the early history of the Israelites. The tribes had no sooner settled in the land of promise than a conqueror from the country of Mesopotamia, King Cushan-Rishathaim, probably an Aramean, swept down on Syrian territory and subjected Israel (particularly the tribe of Judah) for eight years, exacting the price of submission and oppression. When the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, He chose a deliverer to save them: Othniel, the son of Caleb’s younger brother Kenaz. By the Spirit of God that came upon Othniel, he routed the king and saved Israel from its oppressor. “And the land had rest forty years.”

**Ehud** - Ehud conquered the Moabites by assassinating their king, Eglon. His successful assassination of the Moabite king, followed by a strategic military campaign, resulted in the defeat of the Moabite army and the liberation of Israel from their 18-year oppression.

**Shamgar** - This Judge is noted for a single, significant act: slaying 600 Philistines with an oxgoad, a farming tool used to prod oxen. This feat is recorded in Judges 3, which states he “too saved Israel”. The biblical account does not specify the duration of his leadership, his tribal affiliation, or his death.

**Deborah** - After 20 years of domination and oppression by the Canaanites, the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help. Deborah is chosen. She was a prophetess and the fourth Judge of pre-monarchic Israel. Deborah received divine revelations and played a crucial role in leading the Israelites to victory over the Canaanite forces of King Jabin and his military commander Sisera. Her efforts resulted in 40 years of peace.

**Gideon** - After Deborah’s 40 years of peace, the Israelites once again turned their back on God and worshipped idols. As punishment, the Midianites, Amalekites, and other Bedouin peoples harassed Israel for seven years. When the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of mistreatment by the Midianites, God selected Judge Gideon to go to war. After gathering an army, God reduced Gideon’s forces from 22,000 to just 300 men through a water-drinking test, ensuring their victory is attributed to God rather than human strength. His victory resulted in another 40 years of peace.

Gideon makes an idol from the gold he won in a battle, and after he dies, all of Israel worships it as a god, and the cycle begins once again.

**Tola** - He became a judge after the death of Abimelech, an evil son of Gideon. Judges 10:1 says he “...arose to defend Israel” without explanation. Tola led Israel for 23 years.

**Jair** - His claim to fame was that he had 30 sons, who rode 30 donkeys and ruled 30 cities in the region of Gilead. Jair judged Israel for 22 years.

**Jephthah** - Jephthah from the tribe of Manasseh was a judge and military leader of Israel for 6 years. He is known for his role in defeating the Ammonites and making a foolish vow that affected his own daughter. He later led Israel against

one of their own: the tribe of Ephraim vs. Gilead (a sub-group of the Manasseh Tribe), who had refused to support him. 42,000 Ephraimites were killed.

Ibzan - He is described as a man of significant social standing, having thirty sons and thirty daughters, whom he married to individuals from outside his clan to establish alliances. Ibzan judged Israel for seven years, a period marked by relative peace and stability, likely due to his strategy of fostering unity through marriage alliances.

Elon - Elon was a member of the Tribe of Zebulun and served as a judge of Israel for ten years. His tenure is recorded in Judges 12:12. Little else was written about him.

Abdon - He was a member of the tribe of Ephraim. Abdon judged Israel for eight years, a period during which he restored order in the central region of Israel after the conflict between the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (See Judge Jephthah).

Samson - Samson was a legendary Israelite warrior and Judge from the tribe of Dan, renowned for his extraordinary physical strength, which he attributed to his Nazarite vow of uncut hair. He is described as the last of the major judges who led the Israelites for twenty years during a period of Philistine oppression. The Philistines eventually captured him after his lover, Delilah, tricked him into revealing his source of strength.

Samson's death turns out to be his most significant victory against the Philistines. After the Philistines blinded Samson, they brought him to Gaza and tied him to two pillars in their temple as a display for the amusement of the Philistine worshipers. Here, Samson prays to God, asking for his strength to return to him one more time (Judges 16:28-30).

God responds by giving Samson a final burst of strength. He pushes against the pillars and brings the entire temple down, killing himself and all those in the temple with him (at least 3,000). The text concludes: "...So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life" (Judges 16:30).

Upon reflection, I was too hard on Samson in my first paragraph of this article. You see, God had a purpose for all of these judges....good or bad personalities. Through these judges of Israel, God is honored, and God honors his promises. He protects and blesses His chosen people, with the promise that he made way back in Genesis 12:2-3 to Abraham and then to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14.

There are truths and inspirations for us in the Book of Judges. Here are a few:

- v God has a purpose for us. We are called to be the beacons of hope and shining lights, similar to the judges for the children of Israel. Listen to the Holy Spirit within you to follow your purpose.
- v When we turn our back on God, expect God's discipline. The Greek word used in Scripture for this discipline (ᾧαἰνῶν) conveys education, training, guidance, reproof, correction, and even punishment, emphasizing a means to train believers in righteousness, so they may share in His holiness and grow in character and godliness. The purpose of this discipline is not to destroy but to restore and mature the believer. Source: <https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/blessing-gods-discipline>
- v The Book of Judges is a testament to God's faithfulness. II Timothy 2:13 says: "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." Though we may be unfaithful to him as the Israelites were, God will always be faithful to save and preserve us. He will forgive us when we seek forgiveness. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).



# God Be Praised (For What I'm Not)

By David DeLong

This article is not intended to be like the Pharisee that Jesus told about in Luke 18:10-11. "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." But, we can be truly, and rightfully, thankful to the Lord for a number of things that we are not.

**1.) We should be thankful to the Lord that we are not starving, homeless, nor penniless.** The Lord has promised to provide for all of our needs. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 37:25: "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." If we are faithful to the Lord and His Word, then this will always be our case. We can depend upon it!

**2.) We should be thankful to the Lord that we are not living as drunkards, drug addicts, nor as neurotics.** Or, if that is how we once were, we should thank Him for our deliverance or that we are in the process of being delivered. The Lord has promised to be always there for us as we trust His protection. The Psalmist, once again, wrote in Psalm 4:8: "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety." Also, in I John 4:18: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

**3.) We can be thankful to the Lord for not living a life of crime, nor being in prison for it.** However, if that was your lifestyle before coming to the Lord, be thankful for His forgiveness and His promise to never leave you. The Lord assures us in Hebrews 13:5b: "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

**4.) For most of us, we can be thankful that we are not rich according to the world's standard.** Jesus said in Mark 10:23b: "...How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" In His parable of the sower Jesus even said "the deceitfulness of riches choke the word". The Apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy 6:8-9: "And

having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

**5.) On the other hand, let us always be thankful to the Lord for what He has provided us.** These include:

- a.) Our homes
- b.) Our daily bread
- c.) Our families
- d.) Our health
- e.) Our Bibles and our salvation
- f.) Our personal relationship with Christ

## God Be Praised!

God be praised for what I'm not:  
Not being hungry, cold, untaught,  
Nor living in a world, besot,  
Nor being someone time forgot.

God be praised for what I'm not:  
Not being in a gang, or shot,  
Nor left within a jail to rot,  
Not being plagued by guilty thought.

But, God be praised for what I've got:  
Some food, a chair, a sleeping cot,  
A place that sits upon a lot,  
And knowledge that I've been blood bought!



## 7 Ways To Give Thanks by Apostle Warren H. Randall Jr.

*While we are sure there are more than seven ways to thank God, in keeping with the column we offer seven ideas hoping you can add more of your own.*

**1. First and foremost, we can show our gratitude to God by being obedient which includes keeping the commandments of God and having the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev.12:17) In the Old Testament Noah was referred to as a "just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (Gen. 6:9). Abraham "believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness." (Gen. 15:6). In addition, Abraham and Moses were considered friends (2 Chron. 20:7 and Ex.33:11). The point here is that their actions spoke volumes just as ours can at this time.**

**2. A question was asked about rejoicing, specifically, how do we rejoice? The dictionary explains it is to be glad, delighted or full of joy. In 1Thes. 5:16 it says "Rejoice evermore." According to Strong's Concordance rejoice means to be cheerful. Let us consider what has been done for us. We have been created by God and given the opportunity for eternal life through the gift of His son Jesus. Also, we received His holy Spirit at baptism to help us along the way. One of the fruits of the Spirit is Joy so we should always be appreciative of what God has done for us and keep that smile on our face. Continuing in 1Thes.5:17-18 "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."**

3. In Psalm 9:1-2 we read, "I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth thy marvelous works. (2) I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." Believe it or not, every hymn is not acceptable, for example the "Ave Maria" is singing the Hail Mary prayer in Latin and just because some individual or group says they are "gospel" singers doesn't mean their music is acceptable to God. The music and praise should be all about God, His Son and what He has done, is doing, or will do for us. Paul writing in Eph.5:19-20, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Also, in Col.3:16-17, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

4. Prayer. Jesus gave us the example of the Lord's prayer in Matt. 6:9-13. By praying to God, we recognize His sovereignty and authority over us. As we previously reported, in 1 Thes. 5:17 we are to pray without ceasing. The Prophet Daniel, under the threat of death, continued to pray three times a day as he always had. (Dan.6:10) Other examples can be found in the Psalms. Prayers of David, Psalm 17 and 86 and a prayer of Moses in Psalm 90.

5. Be ye holy. In 1 Peter 1:16, "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." Why? Because "ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver or gold, (verse 18), But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (verse 19) So to be holy we must keep the commandments, Rom.7:12, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Tithe, Lev. 27:30, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." We should not make ourselves abominable. Lev. 11:43-44, "Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby. (44) For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Read the entire chapter of Lev.11 to learn what is clean versus unclean food for our consumption.

6. Thanksgiving. While Thanksgiving is a celebration and holiday in some countries, it is not a religious celebration in the United States. I believe the idea is that we as a people were thankful for the bountiful harvest and were acknowledging our Creator and His beneficence. The concordance indicates that thanksgiving is used 29 times in the KJV of the Bible. We are told in the many verses to do things, receive things and acknowledge things with thanksgiving.

7. In 1Chron. 16:34 we are told to "give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good; for His mercy endureth for ever." When we add everything up we realize we can never out-give God or thank Him enough, but we are never to stop trying or striving toward that end. Jesus, in John 14:15, says if you love me keep my commandments and a new commandment. He gives us in John 13:34 that we love one another so others would know we are His disciples. So, by keeping the 10 commandments and doing so with proper love and respect toward one another we will prove to God that we are serious about our calling.

# Christian Nationalism

By David Royer

The results of the November elections are in, and you are happy, sad, or do not care. I did vote emotionally based on my idea of the most “conservative” presidential candidate. But not because of the currently popular “Christian Nationalism.” The term “Christian nationalism” is relatively new, and its supporters generally do not use it of themselves. Still, it does describe those American nationalists who believe that our American identity is tied to Christianity.

TIME FOR SOME DEFINITIONS (courtesy of Collins Dictionary; [www.collinsdictionary.com](http://www.collinsdictionary.com)):

Nationalism — Noun, The desire for political independence of people who feel they are historically or culturally a separate group within a country. Synonyms: patriotism, loyalty to your country, and allegiance.

Nationalist — Noun, A person who believes in or advocates nationalism.

Christian — Noun, A person professing belief in Jesus as the Christ, or in the religion based on the teachings of Jesus.

American Christian Nationalism — Per Christianity Today: “The belief that Christianity defines our American Nation and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way. Popularly, Christian nationalists assert that America is and must remain a “Christian nation”—not merely as an observation about American history, but as a prescriptive program for what America must continue to be in the future.”

American Christian Nationalism — Per The National Council of Churches: “Christian nationalism is of great concern to the members of the National Council of Churches and, indeed, to all Americans committed to justice and peace.

From the foundation of the United States, Christian nationalism has traditionally employed images that advocate an idealized view of the nation’s identity and mission while deliberately ignoring those persons who have been excluded, exploited, and persecuted, such as Native Americans, enslaved African Americans and their descendants, and a cascading procession of others, including, e.g., the Irish in the 1840s-50s, Chinese in the 1880s, Italians in the early 1900s, Jews in the 1930s, and Muslims in the 2000s and following. From its beginnings, the Christian nationalist movement has endorsed American exceptionalism, the idea that the U.S. is more righteous and upright than other nations, but during the last sixty years, a significant number of Christian nationalists have become increasingly partisan, divisive, ideological, and militant. Christian symbols have been misappropriated, emptied of their profound meaning, and invoked to support idolatrous loyalty to the nation.

For some Americans, the familiarity of the themes that Christian nationalism celebrates can obscure its true character and intentions. Nevertheless, because of the danger that it poses to our country today, identifying and consciously rejecting its hateful outlook is vitally important.” Source: <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/common-witness-ncc/the-dangers-of-christian-nationalism-in-the-united-states-a-policy-statement-of-the-national-council-of-churches/>

As a member of The Boy Scouts of America, I was involved in programs that built character, fostered mental and physical fitness, and taught citizenship. I am proud and fortunate to be an American. However, we must remember that as Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith in the Gospel and Jesus. “*I am crucified with*

*Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).*

Our Bible provides us with guidance to be an active Citizen:

- Christians are to pray for the nation’s leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- Christians are to pay taxes (Matthew 22:21)
- Christians are to follow non-egregious laws and show respect to authorities (1 Peter 2:12-15; Romans 13:1-7).
- Christians are to stand up and speak out when man’s law conflicts with God’s law, as Peter and the Apostles did in Acts 5:29. (remember lawfully and be willing to accept the consequences)

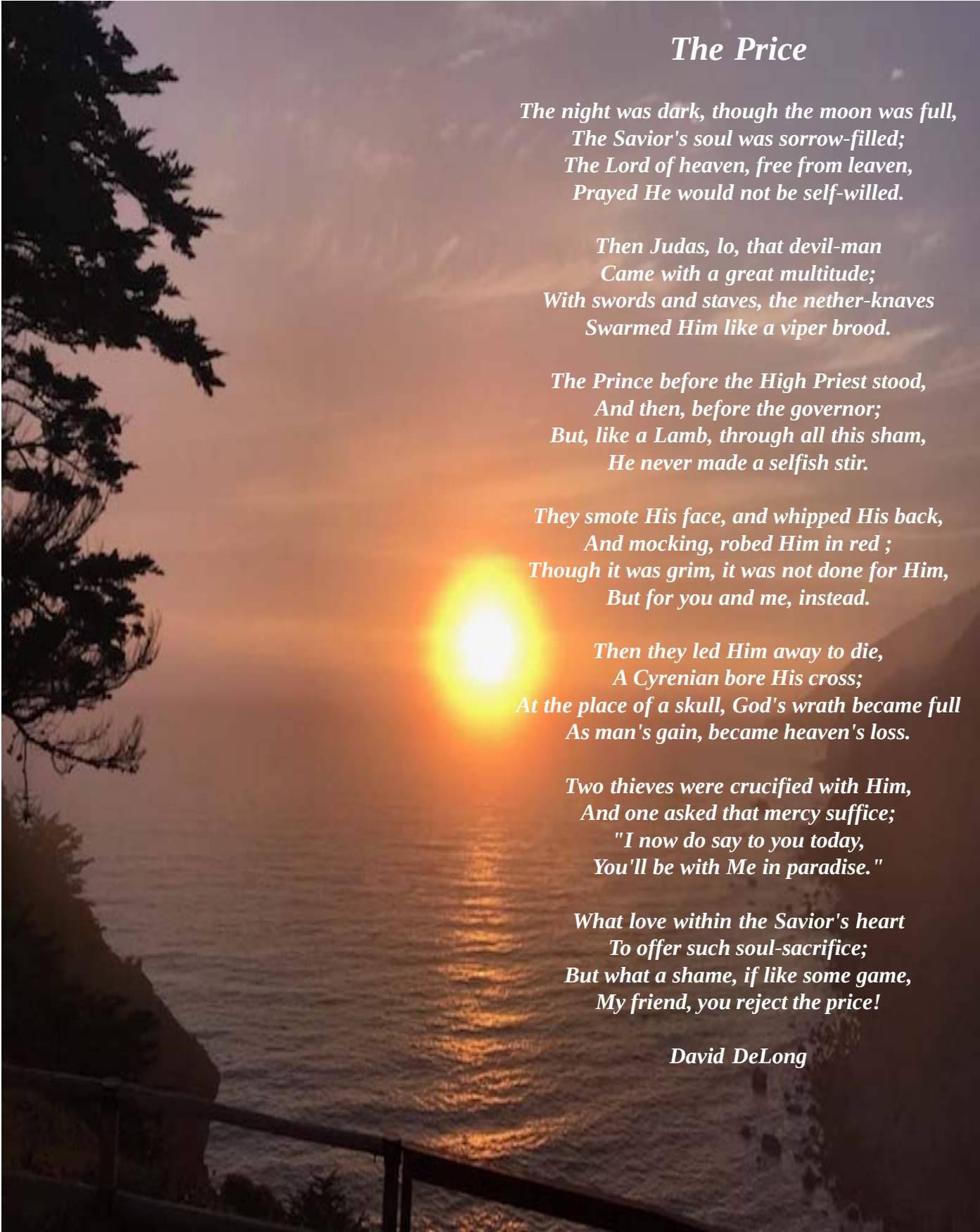
Here are some closing thoughts: Christian Nationalism sounds like a good idea when compared to current cultural chaos and political acceptance of immorality. However, it hasn’t worked well in the past. (Watch for the new definition of Christian.) When you mix politics and religion, you end up with politics.

We need to remember victory does not come through politics. We serve and follow a King who surrendered himself to an earthly government. Yet, He is honored and exalted today above all nations, and we patiently await His heavenly Kingdom to come.



**Contact Brother Tim Buechner (210-622-3191) or Brother Mario Cantu (210-605-9072) to join them at The San Antonio Texas Church.**





## *The Price*

*The night was dark, though the moon was full,  
The Savior's soul was sorrow-filled;  
The Lord of heaven, free from leaven,  
Prayed He would not be self-willed.*

*Then Judas, lo, that devil-man  
Came with a great multitude;  
With swords and staves, the nether-knaves  
Swarmed Him like a viper brood.*

*The Prince before the High Priest stood,  
And then, before the governor;  
But, like a Lamb, through all this sham,  
He never made a selfish stir.*

*They smote His face, and whipped His back,  
And mocking, robed Him in red ;  
Though it was grim, it was not done for Him,  
But for you and me, instead.*

*Then they led Him away to die,  
A Cyrenian bore His cross;  
At the place of a skull, God's wrath became full  
As man's gain, became heaven's loss.*

*Two thieves were crucified with Him,  
And one asked that mercy suffice;  
"I now do say to you today,  
You'll be with Me in paradise."*

*What love within the Savior's heart  
To offer such soul-sacrifice;  
But what a shame, if like some game,  
My friend, you reject the price!*

*David DeLong*

**LESSON I****SPIES SENT INTO THE PROMISED LAND**

**Scripture Reading:** Numbers 13:17-33.

**Golden Text:** Numbers 13:17 (first part).

**"And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan,..."**

NOTE: The Lord has led the children of Israel in their long journey to Canaan, and now they were at the very border of the land.

1. At this time, what did God tell Moses to do? Numbers 13:1-2.
2. What did Moses ask these spies to do? Numbers 13:17-18.
3. Besides finding out about the strength of the people, what else were they to look for? Numbers 13:19-20.
4. How long were the spies gone? Numbers 13:25.
5. When the spies returned, what did they bring with them? Numbers 13:26-27.
6. What report did they give to the people there? Numbers 13:28.
7. Caleb was one of the priests and what did he say? Did the other spies agree with him? Numbers 13:30-32.

NOTE: Joshua and Caleb were the only two spies who brought back a good report.

8. What did the spies who brought evil reports call the people who were in Canaan? Numbers 13:33.

NOTE: Out of the 12 spies who went into Canaan, 10 returned with an evil report. Two believed God and wanted to cross over the land. They knew He had been with them all the way and would still protect them.

**LESSON II****MURMURINGS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Scripture Reading:** Numbers 14:1-9.

**Golden Text:** Numbers 14:2 (first part).

**"And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron...."**

NOTE: In our last lesson, we found that 12 spies were sent out into the land of Canaan. When they returned, only 2 gave a good report and wanted to go over and take the land.

1. What affect did the evil report of the 10 spies have on the people? Numbers 14:1.
2. Were they sorry they had left Egypt, and what did they decide to do? Numbers 14:2-4.
3. What did Moses and Aaron do? Numbers 14:5.
4. Joshua and Caleb were the two spies who brought a good report. What did they say to the people? Numbers 14:9.
5. What did the congregation want to do with their leaders? Numbers 14:10.

NOTE: The people rebelled and refused to go forward. They would have stoned their leaders except for the appearance of the Lord.

6. The Lord was very angry. What did He say He would do? Numbers 14:11-12.
7. Moses answered the Lord and what did he say? Numbers 14:13, 16, 19.

**LESSON III****TURNING BACK INTO THE WILDERNESS**

**Scripture Reading:** Numbers 14:20-45.

**Golden Text: Numbers 14:25 (last part).**

**"To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea."**

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that the Lord was very angry with the children of Israel, and Moses pleads for them.

1. What does God promise, and what will He bring on the people? Numbers 14:20-23.
2. Caleb was one of the good spies. Was he to see the promised land? Numbers 14:24.
3. Where does the Lord tell the people to go? Numbers 14:25.

NOTE: For their disobedience they were sent back into the wilderness.

4. What did the Lord say would happen to all over 20 years old? Numbers 14:29-30.
5. What would happen to the children under 20? Numbers 14:31.
6. How long were they to wander in the wilderness? Numbers 14:34.
7. What did the people want to do when they saw they had sinned? Numbers 14:39-40.
8. What did Moses tell them about leaving? Numbers 14:41-43.
9. Did they go anyway? What was the result? Numbers 14:44-45.

## LESSON IV

### THE REBELLION OF KORAH

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 16:1-22.**

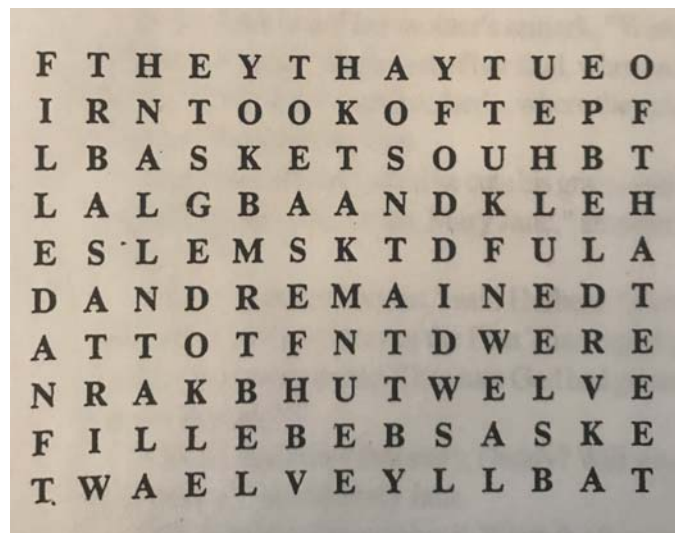
**Golden Text: Numbers 16:19 (first part).**

**"And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation..."**

NOTE: In the last lesson, God turned the children of Israel back into the wilderness because of their sinfulness, lack of faith, and murmurings. Now Moses has a new trouble arise.

1. Who rose up against Moses and how many men were with him? Numbers 16:1-2.
2. What was the complaint of Korah and others against Moses? Numbers 16:12-14.
3. Moses was angry and what did he do? Numbers 16:15.
4. Moses then spoke to Korah and what did he ask him to do? Numbers 16:16, 18-19.
5. What did the Lord tell Moses and Aaron to do? Numbers 16:20-21.
6. What did they ask of God? Numbers 16:22.

Find and circle every word from the Scripture hidden in the letter maze below. The words may be written down, across or diagonally. "They did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full" (Matthew 14:20).



**THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY** - Mrs. Porter had been looking out from her window for several minutes, watching the beautiful country scenery and busy with her own thoughts. When they passed a field where a farmer was loading his wagon with golden grain, she said to Lois, sitting beside her, "look dear, there is a farmer harvesting."

Mary Jane heard her mother's remark. "What does harvesting mean?" she asked of her dad, who was driving the family car to grandmothers, where they planned to spend Thanksgiving Day.

"A farmer harvests when he cuts his grains and when he gathers any of his crops, Mary Jane," answered Mr. Porter.

"I have heard of harvest," said Herbert. "At school our teacher told us a story of the first Thanksgiving Day. The Pilgrims were thankful because God had given them a good harvest."

"Oh, do you know that story, Daddy, will you tell it to us please?" asked Mary Jane.

"Yes, I believe, I remember it. When the first summer was over and fall came around again, Governor Bradford called the people together. When they were seated around his fireplace, he said, "Friends, God has blessed our work, and we have gathered in a bountiful harvest. We have plenty of food and our houses are well built and ready for winter. Let us rest from our work for a few days and spend the time in giving thanks to God for His goodness."

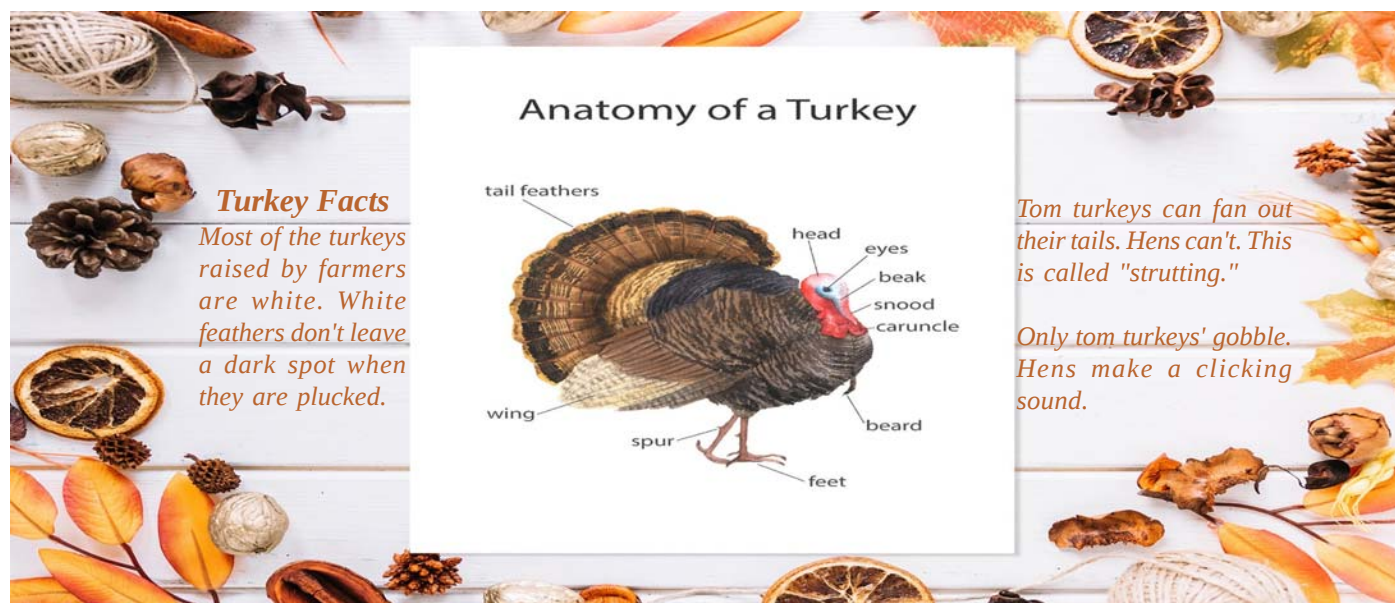
"Let us ask Massasoit and some of his Indian men to join in or celebration," suggested one of the men. All were in favor of this plan, and an Indian at the settlement, Squanto by name, was sent to invite them.

"There was great excitement everywhere. The men went into the woods and hunted wild turkeys. The women baked pies and puddings, cookies and tarts. The children cracked nuts and picked out the nut meats for the cakes and cookies.

It was a beautiful morning, and everyone was up bright and early. They all met in the log building that was both their church and the fort, to offer prayers of thanks to God for the blessings He had so graciously showered upon them.

Massasoit and his men came and brought corn, deer, and more wild turkeys. When the church service was over they began their feast. The Indians sang songs and taught the white men some of their games.

"This first Thanksgiving Day was a very happy one, and down to our day we follow the example of the Pilgrims."





See if you can "capture" the following Bible animals for your zoo by learning their identity. Some you will recognize easily; others you may have to search for. The clues given will aid you.

1. An animal whose skin was used to cover the tabernacle. Clue -- Look in Exodus 26:7-14.
2. An animal of great importance in Bible times; on occasion it was given power to speak: one of them carried Jesus while He was in Jerusalem. Clue - Search in Numbers 22:22-24 and Matthew 21:1-11.
3. This animal furnished material to help build the throne of King Solomon. Clue - Search in I Kings 10:14-20.
4. This animal laps water when it drinks: ran wild in Jerusalem's streets: was kind to a poor sick beggar, and its name is mentioned somewhere in the first eight verses of Psalm 59. Clues - Judges 7:3-7; Luke 16:19-21: Psalm 59.
5. This rather large animal furnished clothing for John the Baptist and carried Isaac's bride: Job owned many of them. Clues - Search in Genesis 24:61-67; Job 1:1-10.

#### Answers to Bible Riddles:

1. Satan John 8:44
2. The Earth Psalm 115:16
3. Palm tree John 12:13
4. Disciple

#### Answers to Bible Animals:

1. goat, ram, badger
2. ass
3. lion
4. dog
5. camel

#### Bible Riddles

1. I seek mens' lives; I provoke the wicked; I ineite men to evil; I am the father of lies. Who am I?
2. I was set upon pillars; I was shaken out of place; I am the Lord's footstool; I am given to man. What am I?
3. I grow tall and straight; Jericho had many of me; My branches were thrown before Jesus; What am I?
4. We are not above our master; Jesus washed our feet; Peter was one of us; Who are we?

#### BIBLE NAMES FOR CHRISTIANS PUZZLE

Circle all the names on the puzzle below.

ALIENS BELIEVERS BRIDE  
BROTHERS CHILDREN CHRISTIANS  
CHURCH DISCIPLES ELECT  
EXAMPLES FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS  
FRIENDS HEIRS MEMBERS PRIESTS  
SAINTS SERVANTS SHEEP SINNERS  
SOLDIERS SONS STRANGERS  
VESSELS WITNESSES WORKMEN





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## **Wait On The Lord**

**We must wait upon the Lord  
If we want to receive a reward;  
To go faster or slower, will make us sink lower,  
So, we wait, to be in accord.**