



LESSON STUDY

2020

And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you [Jeremiah 26:4](#)

TO BE USED WITH THE BIBLE

Workers are needed, for "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."

Believer's Tabernacle Church of God 7th Day!

BIBLE LESSONS FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD 7TH DAY

Table of Contents

DARIUS AND THE LION'S DEN	4
LMT DISEASE	8
THE CRY OF THIS ERA.....	12
THOUGH HE SLAY ME YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM	15
JOAB, AMASA, AND JEALOUSY	20
JUDGEMENT: DAVID'S EXAMPLE	24
LAW, LAW, LAW.....	29
JESUS CHRIST TEACHES US TO PRAY	33
PAUL'S LIFE AND LABOR FOR THE KINGDOM	36
THE ACTS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT	44
JONAH'S PRAYER	49
DAVID AND ARAUNAH (A Real Estate Transaction).....	52
THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS (As Seen by the Pharisees)	57
THE PASSOVER LAMB	61
THERE IS NO TRINITY	65
TEACHING BY EXAMPLE.....	68
THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES	70
INVESTING IN STOCKS AND BONDS.....	74
MUST WE STILL KEEP THE FEASTS OF THE LORD?.....	78
WOLVES LEADING GOD'S SHEEP	83
ABIJAH'S MESSAGE TO JEROBOAM.....	89
NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.....	92
SUBSTITUTION.....	96
FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION.....	99
SOME THOUGHTS FROM REVELATION.....	101

PLEADING OR CLAIMING THE BLOOD OF JESUS (Is This Doctrine Based On The Bible or Not).....	107
BINDING SATAN (Has God Given His People The Power To Bind Satan?)	110
REBUKE THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU(Is That What The Bible Teaches Us To Do?).....	114
WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?	118
DREAMS AND VISIONS (Prophecies To Be Fulfilled)	121
PROPHESED DESTRUCTION	130
THE GENTILE MILLENNIUM.....	133
JANNES AND JAMBRES	139
WHAT IS VAIN AND WHAT IS PROFIT?.....	142
TIMOTHY.....	144
JOHN'S DISCIPLES	147
HEROD'S WRATH ON THE CHURCH	151
WHO WERE THE PHARISEES?	154
EVERLASTING DOORS.....	158
ARE WE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD?	162
GAIUS AND DIOTREPHES	166
CHARIOTS	169
AHAB BELIEVED, ACCEPTED, AND REJECTED	174
ESAU AND JACOB (A Sworn Agreement).....	177
LUKE THE PHYSICIAN	179
SHEM	182
NEW TESTAMENT FIG LEAVES	188
UNDERSTANDING JUDGEMENT.....	191
DID JESUS PREACH A FEEL GOOD GOSPEL?	195
ACTS 15 - CLARIFYING THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW.....	197

THE IDOLATROUS IMAGE	200
SEVEN, SEVEN, SEVEN.....	204

DARIUS AND THE LION'S DEN

Sabbath Date: Saturday, January 4th, 2020

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6

Memory Verse: Daniel 6:26

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 24:13-14

Proverbs 24:13 My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

Proverbs 24:14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Introduction: Is the main character in this story Daniel or Darius?

1. Darius was king of Persia. How many princes did he set over his kingdom? And over the princes, how many presidents? Daniel 6:1-2

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Daniel 6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

2. What was the purpose of setting these presidents over the princes? What does that say about the character of the princes? So what did Darius think of the character of Daniel? v 2-3

Daniel 6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

3. Considering the character of Daniel, what did the presidents and princes need to do to get Daniel out of the way? Considering the character of these presidents and princes, why did they want Daniel out of the way? v 4-9

Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Daniel 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Daniel 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

Daniel 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm

decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel 6:8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Note: Unlike the princes and the other presidents, Daniel was faithful in his oversight of the king's business.

4. Did these men just happen to find Daniel praying to his God? Why did they "assemble?" What did they remind Darius of? v 10-13

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

5. He realized he had been deceived. Based on the words, "sore displeased," "set his heart," and "labored," how did he feel? v 14

Daniel 6:14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

6. Knowing he king labored to deliver Daniel, what did the princes remind him of? What power did Darius have to deliver Daniel? v 15

Daniel 6:15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

7. Darius knows that he cannot deliver the man that he trusted to oversee his kingdom? Whom does he acknowledge can? v 16

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

8. With regret, what did the king do? v 14, 17

Daniel 6:14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Daniel 6:17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

9. How strong were Darius's feelings for Daniel? Why did he go without food, and hear no music, and why could he not sleep? And why did he get out of bed so early in the morning? v 18-19

Daniel 6:18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

Daniel 6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

10. Considering the word god is capitalized, which specific god is Darius referring to? How does he honor Daniel's God? v 20

Daniel 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

11. What assurance did Darius give Daniel? Was he correct? Why does Daniel say he was delivered? v 16, 21-22

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Daniel 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Daniel 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

12. Darius had a terrible night. How did he feel in the morning? v 23

Daniel 6:23 Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

13. What happened to Daniel's enemies? Darius' enemies? v 24

Daniel 6:24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had

the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

14. There must have been many lions, because they slaughtered two presidents and one hundred and twenty princes, their children and their wives. They must have been famished to slaughter so many so quickly. But they didn't touch God's prophet. What impression was made on Darius? Whom did Darius glorify throughout the world? v 25-27.

Daniel 6:25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

Daniel 6:26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

Daniel 6:27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Conclusion: Daniel 6 is often taught by focusing on Daniel; but let us remember Darius, the most prominent character in the story. Early in the story, he favored Daniel and knew his God. At the end of the story, his faith is raised to a higher level and he proclaims Daniel's God.

LMT DISEASE

Sabbath Date: Saturday, January 11th, 2020

Scripture Reading: Psalm 15

Memory Verse: James 1:26

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 27:12

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Introduction: Whoever has no control over their speech is playing with fire, and suffering from LMT (Lips, Mouth, and Tongue) Disease. It's a terrible thing to use our lips, mouth and tongue improperly. Do you know someone who suffers from LMT Disease? Let us study a few of its many symptoms.

1. There is talk and there is useless talk. Is excessive talking dangerous? Do the wise have any use for it? Proverbs 10:19a, (b), Proverbs 29:11a, (b)

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Note: "There wanteth not sin" means there is no lack of sin.

2. Some of us have great appetites for speech. When we approach God, is it possible to use too many words? Ecclesiastes 5:2

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

3. We take pleasure in saying, "I was only kidding." Is there a price to pay for idle or careless speech? Ecclesiastes 5:4-6, Matthew 12:35-26

Ecclesiastes 5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

Ecclesiastes 5:5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

Ecclesiastes 5:6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Note: If you don't mean it, don't say it. LMT Disease will be judged.

4. I think it was she who said, you said, he said, I said. What is so wrong with a little gossip? Leviticus 19:16, Proverbs 16:28b

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the Lord.

Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

5. What good thing does the psalmist have to say about persons who refuse to slander? Psalm 15:1, 3a

Psalm 15:1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Psalm 15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

6. Accepting the words of a liar was the downfall of humanity. Is there place for lies and liars in the presence of God? Psalm 15:1-2

Psalm 15:1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Psalm 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

7. How does God feel about lies? Does he have a plan for liars and all who suffer from LMT? Proverbs 6:16-19, Revelation 21:8

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Proverbs 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Proverbs 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Note: hell, eternal death, is the eternal home of all liars.

8. A sincere compliment can lift one's spirit. Flattery, however, is a form of lying. How dangerous is it? Proverbs 26:28, Proverbs 29:5

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Proverbs 29:5 A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

9. What can flatterers, and others who misuse their tongues, expect from God? Psalm 12:3-4

Psalm 12:3 The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Psalm 12:4 Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

10. Is it wise to be hasty in our speech? Proverbs 29:20, James 1:19.

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

11. LMT Disease has no friends. To what use do some religious leaders put their tongues? Jeremiah 23:31-32, Matthew 15:8-9 (1-9).

Jeremiah 23:31 Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.

Jeremiah 23:32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord.

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Matthew 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

Matthew 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Matthew 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Answer: They love telling lies in God's name and they teach His people false doctrine.

12. We really should not use our lips as we please. What else should we never practice with our lips? Proverbs 24:28

Proverbs 24:28 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

Conclusion: Hastiness of speech, excessive talking, deception, false doctrine, flattery, idle talking, slander, gossip, and lying are just a few of the symptoms that can be seen in someone who is suffering from LMT Disease. The cure is in Psalm 34:12-13 and Psalm 39:1.

Psalm 34:12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

Psalm 34:13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Psalm 39:1 I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

THE CRY OF THIS ERA

Sabbath Date: Saturday, January 18th, 2020

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:6

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 12:28

Proverbs 12:28 In the way of righteousness is life: and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Introduction: Presently, we are seeing the downfall of our children. The spiritual vigor is oozing out of them. Since we know that society is responsible for the wild and disastrous life that they are flung into and God's ways are contrary to that of the carnal man, the Church must not compromise. Acts 5:29. The so-called boyfriend and girlfriend among the youth is a major incubator and take the heed to what happened to Eli when he refused to punish his children for their evil. He knew the iniquities they committed but he did nothing to restrain or chastise them. That is why God broke his neck. 1 Samuel 3:12-13, 1 Samuel 4:8.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

1 Samuel 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

1 Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

1 Samuel 4:8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

1. To whom do the children belong? Psalm 127:3

Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

2. Who knows the formation to parents concerning the children He had provided them with? Ecclesiastes 11:5

Ecclesiastes 11:5 As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

3. What is God's instruction to parents concerning the children He has provided them with? Proverbs 29:17

Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

4. When should parents teach their children the principles of God? Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

5. Do parents love their children when they do not correct them? Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

6. What will a child that is left to himself do? Proverbs 29:15

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

7. Is there biblical evidence that parents should not withhold disciplinary measures from their children? Proverbs 22:6, 2 Timothy 3:2, 1 Samuel 3:11-13

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

1 Samuel 3:11 And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

1 Samuel 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

1 Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

Note: Discipline is training that produces obedience, self-control, or a particular skill or virtue. Skill is the ability to perform in obedience to God and parents will be evident. He will possess controlled behavior.

8. In correcting their children, what are parents delivering their children from? Proverbs 23:13-14

Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Proverbs 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

9. What should children seek while they are young? Ecclesiastes 12:1

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

10. Shortly before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, what did God say she know of Abraham? Genesis 18:19

Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

11. What does life have in store for the disobedient child? Compare Ephesians 6:1-3 and Proverbs 30:17

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

12. What is disobedience compared to? 1 Samuel 15:23

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

13. What was the Judgement of a child that was disobedient? Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Deuteronomy 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

Deuteronomy 21:19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

Deuteronomy 21:20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

Deuteronomy 21:21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Conclusion: Pray to God that He will help you with the responsibility of rearing the children which he has entrusted you with, so that they may be obedient and ready to do His will.

THOUGH HE SLAY ME YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM

Sabbath Date: Saturday, January 25th, 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 20:1-13

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 4:14

Proverbs 4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Introduction: Ever so often a biblical character makes an unusual statement. Job makes the statement that if his Creator were to slay him, he would still trust Him. How could he say such a thing? Why not flee the person that would slay you?

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 13:16 He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.

Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Job 19:27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Genesis 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:11 And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

John 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

2 Peter 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

2 Peter 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Acts 21:7 And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Acts 21:9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Acts 21:10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

Acts 21:11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Acts 21:12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 21:14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Conclusion: Job valued the future above the present, Abraham did not ask for life for his son, and Peter and Paul did not pray for longer life. They all knew that they had to die and that it was

God that was allowing them to die. But they kept their trust in God knowing that there is a resurrection.

JOAB, AMASA, AND JEALOUSY

Sabbath Date: Saturday, February 01, 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 20:1-13

Memory Verse: Proverbs 6:34

Proverbs 6:34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 10:22

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Introduction: Emotions are powerful. They control the simple. A man can become a slave to his emotions. In this story, jealousy is the driving force behind Joab's murder of Amasa his cousin. David's errors play a key role in this story. Look for them.

1. Who was David's captain in Jerusalem? 2 Samuel 17:25

2 Samuel 17:25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

2. Absalom rebelled against David his father. Once he takes Jerusalem, he needs a captain. Whom does he choose to be his captain? 2 Samuel 17:25

2 Samuel 17:25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

Note: Absalom did not demote Joab and replace him with Amasa. Joab was with David when Absalom revolted. Amasa was a traitor and rebelled with Absalom.

3. What was the relationship between David, Joab, and Amasa? 2 Samuel 17:25; 1 Chronicles 2:16, 17

2 Samuel 17:25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

1 Chronicles 2:16 Whose sisters were Zeruiah, and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah; Abishai, and Joab, and Asahel, three.

1 Chronicles 2:17 And Abigail bare Amasa: and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmeelite.

Answer: David was their uncle and they were cousins.

Note: The name Nahash appears a few places in the scriptures. It is attached to the king of Ammon. Exactly how that king, Jesse, Zeruiah, Abigail, and David are all related, the scriptures do not say. I Samuel 11:1, 2, I Samuel 12:12, I Chronicles 19:1, 2, (II Samuel 10:1, 2, II Samuel 17:26-29

4. David regains the kingdom, due to Joab's military wisdom. Who does he make captain instead of Joab? 2 Samuel 19:13

2 Samuel 19:13 And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

5. Soon after, to prepare for war, David commands his captain. What is the first command that David gives Amasa? 2 Samuel 20:4

2 Samuel 20:4 Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.

6. It might have been Amasa's lack of experience as the captain of an army, but what serious mistake did he make? 2 Samuel 20:5

2 Samuel 20:5 So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

7. Joab's jealousy has simmered for many days. On the way to battle, what sinister plot does Joab execute? 2 Samuel 20:9, 10

2 Samuel 20:9 And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

2 Samuel 20:10 But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

8. Amasa falls. He is dead. Who is captain? 2 Samuel 20:11, 23

2 Samuel 20:11 And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab.

2 Samuel 20:23 Now Joab was over all the host of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:

9. In David's life he never brought Joab to justice. What does he tell Solomon before he dies? I Kings 2:5

1 Kings 2:5 Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet.

10. Before he died, who was David's virgin concubine? I Kings 1:1-4

1 Kings 1:1 Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat.

1 Kings 1:2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat.

1 Kings 1:3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

1 Kings 1:4 And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

11. What "game of royal relationships" was Joab involved in? 1 Kings 2:12-21

1 Kings 2:12 Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

1 Kings 2:13 And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.

1 Kings 2:14 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.

1 Kings 2:15 And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.

1 Kings 2:16 And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.

1 Kings 2:17 And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.

1 Kings 2:18 And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

1 Kings 2:19 Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.

1 Kings 2:20 Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.

1 Kings 2:21 And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife.

12. Solomon, the wise man, immediately understood the game and the players. What was his sentence for the gamesmen? 1 Kings 2:22-34

1 Kings 2:22 And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he is mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.

1 Kings 2:23 Then king Solomon sware by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

1 Kings 2:24 Now therefore, as the LORD liveth, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David my father, and who hath made me an house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.

1 Kings 2:25 And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

1 Kings 2:26 And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the LORD God before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.

1 Kings 2:27 So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

1 Kings 2:28 Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

1 Kings 2:29 And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and, behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him.

1 Kings 2:30 And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.

1 Kings 2:31 And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.

1 Kings 2:32 And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.

1 Kings 2:33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

1 Kings 2:34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

Conclusion: Normally, we are proud of our relatives when they are promoted. But, when that promotion means that I am replaced, jealousy enters in. Jealousy, greed, and envy can all be more powerful than family relationships. They should not be. If we are to overcome the world, we must overcome these emotions. Revelation 21:7.

JUDGEMENT: DAVID'S EXAMPLE

Sabbath Date: Saturday, February 08, 2020

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 33

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 33:13

Ezekiel 33:13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 6:28

Proverbs 6:28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

Introduction: A man cannot trust in his wealth, nor his strength, nor his fame, nor his ability to command an army. A man cannot even trust in his own righteousness.

1. A man can live a lifetime of righteousness, impressive works recognized by God. After years of righteousness, what must he beware of? Ezekiel 33:13

Ezekiel 33:13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

2. As a boy, while keeping his father's sheep, what impressive act of bravery did David perform? 1 Samuel 17:34, 35

1 Samuel 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

1 Samuel 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

3. Did the future king of Israel consider this a personal and secular act of bravery? To whom did he give the credit for his victory? 1 Samuel 17:36, 37

1 Samuel 17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

1 Samuel 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

4. Did David's bravery end with the lion and the bear? Did his faith in the God of Israel end in the pasture with the sheep? 1 Samuel 17:40-51

1 Samuel 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

1 Samuel 17:42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

1 Samuel 17:43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

1 Samuel 17:44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

1 Samuel 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

1 Samuel 17:46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

1 Samuel 17:47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

1 Samuel 17:48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

1 Samuel 17:50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

1 Samuel 17:51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

5. David was the people's champion, he was God's champion, he fought for God's kingdom on earth. What great recognition did he receive from those he protected? 1 Samuel 18:6, 7

1 Samuel 18:6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

1 Samuel 18:7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

6. Many men have the capacity to kill, many have the tools to kill, many can justify their deeds. What of mercy? How many have mercy? 1 Samuel 24:10, 11

1 Samuel 24:10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed.

1 Samuel 24:11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor

transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

7. David proved his righteousness, he proved his faith in God, he proved he was worthy to be King. After becoming King, what temptation overcame Israel's hero? 2 Samuel 11:2-5

2 Samuel 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

2 Samuel 11:3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

2 Samuel 11:4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

2 Samuel 11:5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

8. The Creator sees all: nothing is hidden from His sight. How does God judge David's secret act? 2 Samuel 12:1-14

2 Samuel 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 Samuel 12:2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

2 Samuel 12:3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

2 Samuel 12:4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

2 Samuel 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

2 Samuel 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

2 Samuel 12:8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

2 Samuel 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

2 Samuel 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

2 Samuel 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

2 Samuel 12:12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

2 Samuel 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

9. Does Nathan mention David's righteous acts? Does he mention the lion and the bear? Does he mention Goliath? Does he mention the tens of thousands of Philistines David killed? Does he mention how David had spared the life of Saul? II Samuel 12:1-14

2 Samuel 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 Samuel 12:2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

2 Samuel 12:3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

2 Samuel 12:4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

2 Samuel 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

2 Samuel 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

2 Samuel 12:8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

2 Samuel 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

2 Samuel 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

2 Samuel 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

2 Samuel 12:12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

2 Samuel 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

Answer: None of David's righteous acts were mentioned during Nathan's judgement.

10. Can the hero depend on his great acts during judgement? Did David plead for mercy based on his righteousness? II Samuel 12: 13; Psalms 51:1-4

2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Psalms 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalms 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Psalms 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

11. What message did Ezekiel give to Israel? What message is for us today? What message did David understand? Why didn't he attempt to defend himself? Ezekiel 33:13

Ezekiel 33:13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

Conclusion: Our righteousness will be forgotten in the day of iniquity. The judge has salvation for all those who are righteous to the end.

LAW, LAW, LAW

Sabbath Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:8

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 2:11

Proverbs 2:11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

Introduction: Throughout the history of the world, God has given man the opportunity to find righteousness defined in his laws. We have lived without laws, with laws, with strict laws, and with lenient laws. In the New Testament we are even taught the law of love. We have broken them all. This lesson explores law and man's relationship to it.

Definition: The word cockatrice in the scriptures is translated from the Hebrew word "tsepha". This .is an unknown venomous snake. A viper.

1. What very serious act did Cain commit? Genesis 4:8

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

2. What was his punishment? Genesis 4:9-15, 12

Genesis 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Genesis 4:11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

Genesis 4:12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Genesis 4:13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Genesis 4:14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

Genesis 4:15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Answer: Cain received no serious punishment. He was simply sent to live separately from all other people. Because we know he had children, he was even able to take his wife with him. This murderer was even protected by God.

3. A few generations later, Lamech kills someone. Whether or not he killed him in self-defense, how did Lamech interpret the lack of a strong law? Genesis 4:23, 24

Genesis 4:23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

Genesis 4:24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

4. What was the ultimate result of generations of men living without laws? Genesis 6:1-5

Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

Genesis 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Genesis 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

5. Man has shown that he cannot live without law. God destroyed that lawless generation. What law was given immediately after they were destroyed? Genesis 9:6

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

6. What other laws were given? Exodus 20:13

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

7. Man was given many years to live with the laws and commandments of God. What was the result? Isaiah 59: 1-8

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

Isaiah 59:4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Isaiah 59:5 They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.

Isaiah 59:6 Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands.

Isaiah 59:7 Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

Isaiah 59:8 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Note: So far, in this lesson, man has proven that he cannot live with or without laws. It doesn't seem to make a difference. Man is a sinful creature.

8. Surely man can live with a better law. Or can he? What is the result of a law (based on love) taught to benefit all mankind? Acts 7:59; Acts 12:1-3; Acts 14:19

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

Acts 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 14:19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Answer: Jesus and His disciples taught the spirit of the law. For their teaching they received persecution and death. Man does not want God's law at all.

9. How will man act in the face of the Judge and King? Revelation 20:7-9; Zechariah 14:16, 17

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Conclusion: Law is not mankind's problem. Man creates his own law but rejects God's law. The world rejects God's law so it can exercise its own will. Eventually, the world will even reject the Creator face to face.

JESUS CHRIST TEACHES US TO PRAY

Sabbath Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020

Scripture Reading: Luke 11:1-13

Memory Verse: John 15:16

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 8:5, 6

Proverbs 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Proverbs 8:6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

Introduction: Jesus Christ is our Priest. Do we pray to him?

1. What did one of the disciples say to Christ? Luke 11: 1

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2. While he was on earth, to whom did Jesus pray? Mark 14:35, 36; Luke 6:12; John 17:1, 2

Mark 14:35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

3. To whom did Jesus say we should make our requests? John 15:16

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

4. Did Jesus teach the apostles to address Him or the Father in prayer? Matthew 6:6, 9; Luke 11:2

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

5. Who knows what we need before we ask him? Matthew 6:7, 8

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

6. In whose name did Jesus say we should pray? John 14:13; John 16:22, 23; John 15:16

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

7. Whom did Jesus say that the disciples would NOT ask anything after His crucifixion? John 16:17, 23

John 16:17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

8. Who answers prayers? Matthew 6:6

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

9. Who also answers prayers? John 14:13, 14

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Note: We just read that both God and Christ answer prayers. Christ, however, instructs us to pray to God in His name to receive an answer.

10. Is Jesus God? Mark 15:33, 34

Mark 15:33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

11. Who makes intercession on our behalf to God? Hebrews 7:14-17, 25

Hebrews 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Hebrews 7:15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

Hebrews 7:16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Hebrews 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

12. Who also makes intercession for us? Romans 8:26

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

13. Years after Christ had returned to heaven, Paul and Timotheus sent a letter to the Philippian Saints. Philippians 1: 1. To whom did these ministers of the gospel instruct them to pray? Philippians 4:6, 7. What else did these ministers instruct the Saints to do? Romans 8:9

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Note: One of the things the Saints of Philippi learned from Paul and Timotheus was to pray to God.

Conclusion: This lesson gives many scriptures that say that we pray to the Father. The Church is called the Church of God. Even our Saviour, while on earth, prayed to God. Jesus as the intercessor takes our prayers to God. Together they answer our prayers. Therefore, pray to God Almighty in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

PAUL'S LIFE AND LABOR FOR THE KINGDOM

Sabbath Date: Saturday, February 29, 2020

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3

Memory Verse: Philippians 3:14

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 20:30

Proverbs 20:30 The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

Introduction: The apostle Paul lived the life of a Saint. His life is used to build a significant portion of the New Testament. Before he was converted, he led the religious life behind the veil of the Old Testament. After he was converted, he humbled himself, forsook all, and labored mightily. What can we learn about him?

1. Paul was not one of the fishermen. How fertile and privileged was his background?
Philippians 3:4-6; Acts 22:1-3

Philippians 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Philippians 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Philippians 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Acts 22:1 Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.

Acts 22:2 (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Note: As we will see, Paul led a demanding life, and he had a background suited for the job. He was well prepared.

2. He was not always a Saint. What did he do before coming into the church? Acts 22:3-5; Acts 26:10, 11; Galatians 1:13

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Acts 22:4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

Acts 22:5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Acts 26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

Acts 26:11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

Galatians 1:13 For 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:

3. Did he receive divine grace and a commission? Did he regret his former life? Acts 9:1-6, 10-18; 1 Timothy 1:12-16

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

Acts 9:11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

Acts 9:12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

Acts 9:14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

1 Timothy 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

1 Timothy 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

4. Before his conversion he persecuted the church. After his conversion, who is being persecuted? Acts 9:23-25; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

Acts 9:24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

Acts 9:25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

2 Corinthians 11:22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

2 Corinthians 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

2 Corinthians 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2 Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

2 Corinthians 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

2 Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

2 Corinthians 11:30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

2 Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

2 Corinthians 11:32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

2 Corinthians 11:33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

5. After his call and commission, did he forsake all things? **Philippians 3:7-14**

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philippians 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Philippians 3:12 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.

Philippians 3:13 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,

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Note: Paul didn't just give up television on the Sabbath Day. He gave up a pleasant and prestigious life as a Pharisee.

6. Did he use the church as a leader? Or, did he ask for their support? **Acts 18:3; 2 Corinthians 11:9; 1 Corinthians 9:11-15, 18, 19**

Acts 18:3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

2 Corinthians 11:9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

1 Corinthians 9:11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

1 Corinthians 9:12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

1 Corinthians 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

1 Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

7. How courageous was Paul in his ministry? Acts 20:22-24

Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Acts 20:23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

8. How sincere and dedicated was he? 1 Corinthians 4:10-15

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

1 Corinthians 4:11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

1 Corinthians 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

1 Corinthians 4:13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

1 Corinthians 4:14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

9. Did he allow his persecutions to break his spirit (zeal)? 2 Corinthians 4:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

2 Corinthians 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

2 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

2 Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

10. Luckily for Paul, as a high-ranking official of the church, he occasionally traveled in first-class on a luxurious cruise ship. Describe one of his wonderful experiences? Acts 27:14-44

Acts 27:14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

Acts 27:15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

Acts 27:16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

Acts 27:17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

Acts 27:18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

Acts 27:19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

Acts 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Acts 27:22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

Acts 27:23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Acts 27:24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Acts 27:25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Acts 27:26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

Acts 27:27 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

Acts 27:28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

Acts 27:29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

Acts 27:30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

Acts 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 27:32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

Acts 27:33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

Acts 27:34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

Acts 27:35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

Acts 27:36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

Acts 27:37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

Acts 27:38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

Acts 27:39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

Acts 27:40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

Acts 27:41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

Acts 27:42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

Acts 27:43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

Acts 27:44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

11. How glorious was the end of Paul's ministry? 2 Timothy 4:6-8

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

12. Should we follow the life of this living example? 1 Corinthians 4:16

1 Corinthians 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Conclusion: It took a miracle to convert Paul. But after conversion, he proved that he was the man for the job. His work and attitude helped build the New Testament church. There are many lessons that can be learned from his life. 1 Corinthians 3: 1-11.

THE ACTS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

Sabbath Date: Saturday, March 07, 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26

Memory Verse: Psalms 41:9

Psalms 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 4:1-4

Proverbs 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

Proverbs 4:2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

Proverbs 4:3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

Proverbs 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Introduction: The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus were all in the plan of salvation from the foundation of the world. Jesus had to die for our sins. The part that Judas Iscariot plays in the plan of salvation is crucial. In this lesson we examine the acts of Judas Iscariot.

1. Jesus calls His twelve apostles. When they are called what does he give them? Matthew 10:2-4, 1

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Matthew 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Matthew 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Matthew 10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

2. Who was included in the twelve? Did he heal and cast out unclean spirits along with the other eleven? Matthew 10:4

Matthew 10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

3. What difficult decision did His apostles have to make? John 6:53-58, 66-69

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

John 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

John 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

John 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

4. Did they make the right decision? Did Judas make the right decision along with his fellow apostles? John 6:69

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

5. Knowing the future, did Jesus know what Judas' future held for Him? John 6:70, 71

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

John 6:71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

6. Matthew was a tax collector, Peter was a fisherman, and Jesus was a carpenter. What was Judas' "profession?" John 12: 1-8, 6

John 12:1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

John 12:2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

John 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

John 12:5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

John 12:7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

John 12:8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

7. A plot has to have an author. Who was the mastermind behind the betrayal of Jesus? Was it the chief priest? Matthew 26: 14-16

Matthew 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

Matthew 26:15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

8. Did this opportunity please the chief priest? Mark 14:10, 11

Mark 14:10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Mark 14:11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

9. Such a deed requires a commitment. How strong can a promise be? Luke 22:3-6

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Luke 22:4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Luke 22:5 And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

Luke 22:6 And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

10. Who was Judas' partner? Who was the ancient adversary that instigated him? John 13:2

John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Note: Judas did not try to resist Satan. James 4:7, 8, I Peter 5:8, 9. 11. Jesus tells Judas that someone will betray Him. Can Judas resist? Is it the promise? Is it the money? John 13:21-30

John 13:21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

John 13:22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 13:24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.

John 13:25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

John 13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

John 13:28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him.

John 13:29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

John 13:30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

Note: God did not tempt Judas to betray Christ. James 1: 12-16.

12. Did Judas deliver on his promise? Matthew 26:47-49

Matthew 26:47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Matthew 26:48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

Matthew 26:49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

13. Jesus had prophesied that He would be crucified. Judas never expected Him to be executed because of his betrayal. Luke 4:28-30, John 8:57-59, John 10:39, 40. When Judas realized that the Lord would be executed, what did he do? Matthew 27:1-10

Matthew 27:1 When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

Matthew 27:2 And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Matthew 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

Matthew 27:7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Matthew 27:8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Matthew 27:9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

Matthew 27:10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Conclusion: Judas had all the knowledge given to the other eleven apostles. He had all the opportunity as the other eleven. But for one man, money was more important than the kingdom of God. Our reward must be more important than anything we encounter on our journey. It was prophesied that Jesus would suffer, so He was crucified. Isaiah 53. It was prophesied that He would be betrayed, so Judas played the part of the traitor. Zechariah 11:12, 13. Romans 9:14-24.

JONAH'S PRAYER

Sabbath Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Scripture Reading: Jonah 2

Memory Verse: Jonah 2:9

Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 21: 17

Proverbs 21:17 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

Introduction: The main character in this story is at first disobedient. He commits his sin, he prays, and he receives forgiveness and resurrection. His prayer is a pattern for us.

1. Jonah ran from the commandment of the Lord. Obviously, he did not leave God's sight. Where did Jonah find himself? Jonah 2: 1

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

2. What a terrible place to be: a whale's belly; an affliction worse than a prison made by men. How did he expect to get out of such a place? Jonah 2:1,2

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

Jonah 2:2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

3. Does he acknowledge Him who put him in this prison? Jonah 2:3

Jonah 2:3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

4. This is a very advanced question: Considering that the story of Jonah is a type of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, what is the significance of the words "passed over?" Jonah 2:3

Jonah 2:3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

5. Another very advanced question: Considering God's mercy, what is the significance of the billows and waves passing over Jonah? Jonah 2:3

Jonah 2:3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

6. He knew he ran from the commandment; he knew that he was a sinner. Was he expecting a merciful God to answer his prayer? Jonah 2:4-6

Jonah 2:4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

Jonah 2:5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

Jonah 2:6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

7. What did it take for Jonah to realize that running from God was futile? Was his prayer received? Jonah 2:7

Jonah 2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

8. A vanity is an idol. A lying vanity is an idol that promises something that he cannot deliver. How does he acknowledge God's power to be merciful? What is the mercy that he speaks of? Jonah 2:8, 10

Jonah 2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

9. He did not expect to stay in his ocean prison. What was he planning to do after his release? Did he wait for his release to be thankful to be back on dry land? Jonah 2:9

Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

10. Who heard his prayer? Who forgave him? Who is responsible for his resurrection? Jonah 2:10

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Note: In this story, Jonah prays for his salvation while he is in the whale's belly, the type of the grave. We shouldn't wait until we are in the grave to pray for our salvation; there is no knowledge in the grave. Ecclesiastes 9:10. Just as Abel's blood spoke from the grave, the holy spirit in us is with us in the grave. Genesis 4:10.

Conclusion: The story of Jonah is a type of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus; it is also a type of our resurrection. In his prayer he acknowledges that God has put him in the whale's belly and that God has the power to bring him out again. He acknowledges that other gods are vain idols, and he shows thanksgiving to God for his release from the whale's belly. This is our pattern, our pattern before we enter the grave. Jonah was resurrected because he prayed for resurrection.

DAVID AND ARAUNAH (A Real Estate Transaction)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 24

Memory Verse: Zechariah 12:2

Zechariah 12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 10:9

Proverbs 10:9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Introduction: As the end of this age draws near, the conflict between Israel and their neighbors will escalate. The Jews claim to own the land. The Arabs claim to own the land. A mosque sits where the temple once stood. What does the Bible tell us of the history of Jerusalem and the site that the temple was once built on.

1. What did David plan to do? Did Joab tell him that it was sinful? Did he heed the warning? 2 Samuel 24:1-4, 8-10; 1 Chronicles 21:1-4

2 Samuel 24:1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 24:2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

2 Samuel 24:3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

2 Samuel 24:4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

2 Samuel 24:8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

2 Samuel 24:9 And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

2 Samuel 24:10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

1 Chronicles 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:2 And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it.

1 Chronicles 21:3 And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?

1 Chronicles 21:4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

2. How did the kingdom suffer for David's sin? II Samuel 24:15

2 Samuel 24:15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

3. What was the prescribed remedy for his sin? II Samuel 24:17-19

2 Samuel 24:17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

2 Samuel 24:18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.

2 Samuel 24:19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

4. What is the relationship between the city of Jebus and the city of Jerusalem? 1 Chronicles 11 :4

1 Chronicles 11:4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus; where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.

5. How did David and Israel come to possess Jebus? 1 Chronicles 11 :5-8

1 Chronicles 11:5 And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which is the city of David.

1 Chronicles 11:6 And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief.

1 Chronicles 11:7 And David dwelt in the castle; therefore they called it the city of David.

1 Chronicles 11:8 And he built the city round about, even from Millo round about: and Joab repaired the rest of the city.

6. Who owned property in Jebus? 2 Samuel 24:16

2 Samuel 24:16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

Note: Even though Israel ruled Jebus, the Jebusites still owned their own property within the city.

7. The Jebusites were ruled by the Israelites. Who was their king (governor)? 2 Samuel 24:23

2 Samuel 24:23 All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.

8. How did David try to take the threshing floor? 2 Samuel 24:20, 21

2 Samuel 24:20 And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

2 Samuel 24:21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

9. Araunah the king of Jebus knew that David wanted to buy his threshing floor. Instead of selling it, what offer did he make? II Samuel 24:22

2 Samuel 24:22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

10. What was David's response to Araunah's offer? 2 Samuel 24:24

2 Samuel 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

11. How much did David pay Araunah for the threshing floor? 2 Samuel 24:24

2 Samuel 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

Note: This verse clearly says that fifty shekels of silver were paid for the threshing floor and the oxen.

12. How much did David pay for Jerusalem? 1 Chronicles 21:25, 16

1 Chronicles 21:16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

1 Chronicles 21:25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.

Note: Oman is another name for Araunah. Verse 25 ambiguously says that six hundred shekels of gold were paid for "the place." Verse 16 lets us know what place by saying that "the angel ... having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem." This accounts for the discrepancy between the two amounts of money, and lets us know that the location of the temple and Jerusalem have been bought and paid for.

13. The real estate transaction was complete. What happened next? 1 Chronicles 22:1-5

1 Chronicles 22:1 Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.

1 Chronicles 22:2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

1 Chronicles 22:3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight;

1 Chronicles 22:4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

1 Chronicles 22:5 And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

Conclusion: The ancient occupants of the land sold Jerusalem to David. This real estate transaction is documented. The land belongs to God and this is how He gives it to whomever He chooses.

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS (As Seen by the Pharisees)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020

Scripture Reading: John 2

Memory Verse: John 2:19

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:3

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

Introduction: What did the Pharisees know about the three days and three nights? Did they know how important it was for Jesus to fulfill this prophecy?

1. When Jesus overthrew the tables of the money changers, what did the Jews ask for? John 2:13-18

John 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

John 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

John 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

John 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

2. What sign did Jesus say that he would give them? John 2:19-21

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

John 2:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

3. Who else asked for a sign? Matthew 12:38

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

4. Who was the sign for? What was the sign? Matthew 12:39, 40

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Note: This sign was for an evil and adulterous generation, which included the Pharisees.

5. What did Jesus tell a blind man after he was healed? Mark 8:22-26

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

Mark 8:23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

Mark 8:24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

Mark 8:25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Mark 8:26 And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

6. What did Jesus tell Peter after he correctly identified Him as the Messiah? Mark 8:27-30

Mark 8:27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

Mark 8:28 And they answered, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

Mark 8:29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

Mark 8:30 And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.

Note: Jesus did not want to be known as just a miracle worker. His purpose for coming to earth was to give His life as a sacrifice, die, be buried, and rise from the dead.

7. What did Jesus speak openly? Mark 8:31, 32

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

Note: Jesus wanted the Jews and everyone to know that He would give His life and be resurrected just as it was prophesied. This would prove that He intentionally gave His life, and intended to be resurrected.

8. How important did Jesus consider this sign? Mark 8:32, 33

Mark 8:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

Mark 8:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

9. What did the high priest use as evidence to "convict" the innocent Saviour? Matthew 26:59-61

Matthew 26:59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

Matthew 26:60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

Matthew 26:61 And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

10. How was He reviled on the cross? Who participated in this mocking? Matthew 27:39-41

Matthew 27:39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Matthew 27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

11. How important was this sign to the Pharisees? Matthew 27:62-64

Matthew 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Note: The last thing they wanted was for Jesus's body to come out of the tomb. A missing body would prove that He was the Messiah.

12. Could this sign be stopped? Matthew 28:1, 2

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

13. Did the Pharisees try to cover up the truth about the three days and three nights? Matthew 28:11-15

+Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Matthew 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Matthew 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

Matthew 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Conclusion: The Pharisees knew how important this sign was and tried to stop Jesus from coming out of the grave. When He came out anyway they tried to cover it up. Even today, this sign is kept in a closet. Since the three days and three nights is His signature that He is the Messiah, the Church of God proclaims this sign.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

Sabbath Date: Saturday, April 04, 2020

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12

Memory Verse: John 1:29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 5:22, 23

Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

Proverbs 5:23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

Introduction: Jesus was slain for our sins as the Passover Lamb. Unfortunately, today He is recognized as a Good Friday sacrifice and an Easter resurrection. However, it is the blood of the Passover Lamb that saves us. Can we separate the Passover Lamb from the Passover? Can we keep a "communion" or "Lord's supper" once a month, once a quarter, or any time that is convenient?

1. What was the character of the Passover lamb? Exodus 12:5

Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

2. What did Israel do with the lamb? Exodus 12:6

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

3. What day did they kill it? Exodus 12:2, 6

Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Note: That day was called the Passover. Every year that day is called the Passover.

4. What did they do with the lamb's blood? Exodus 12:7

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

5. What did they do with the lamb's flesh? Exodus 12:7

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

6. What did they eat with the flesh? Exodus 12:8

Exodus 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

7. What was the lamb called? Exodus 12:11, 21

Exodus 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.

Exodus 12:21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

Note: That lamb was called the Passover. Just as a birthday cake is given on someone's birthday, the Passover lamb was killed on the Passover. You can bake a cake any day of the year, but only on someone's birthday is it called a birthday cake,

8. What did the lamb's blood do for the Israelites? Exodus 12:13

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

9. Who is the fulfillment of that type? John 1 :29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

10. What day was the Lamb destined to be killed? Matthew 26: 18

Matthew 26:18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Note: When Jesus says "My time is at hand," He means that the day that he was destined to be crucified, the Passover, had arrived. 11. On what day was the Lamb killed? John 19: 14-18, 30, 31

John 19:14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

John 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

John 19:17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

John 19:18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Note: Just as the Old Testament lamb was killed on the Passover, the New Testament Lamb was killed on the Passover.

12. How do we commemorate that Passover? 1 Corinthians 11 :23-26

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

13. What day do we commemorate that Passover? 1 Corinthians 11 :23

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

Note: The Passover should be kept the same night that Jesus and His disciples kept it. A birthday cake on any other day is not a birthday cake. A lamb on any other day is not a Passover lamb.

14. What does the Lamb's blood do for us? 1 John 1:7; Revelation 7:14

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15. Where is the Lamb today? Revelation 4:1, 2; Revelation 5:6

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

16. What type of records are kept by the Lamb? Revelation 13:8

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Conclusion: The Passover is the day. The Passover is the lamb. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that Passover lamb.

THERE IS NO TRINITY

Sabbath Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1

Memory Verse: Genesis 2:24

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Weekly Proverb: Ecclesiastes 11 :9

Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Introduction: The concept of the trinity is probably one of the most common of Christian beliefs, but it is not supported by scripture. Through the scriptures, this lesson reveals why the Godhead is definitely not a trinity. The Godhead is God the Father and His Son.

Definition: The Hebrew word ruwach and the Greek word pneuma, both mean breath or wind: They are both translated as spirit.

1. Before the beginning, there was God and His spirit. His spirit was there at the creation. What is the spirit called? What is the difference between the phrase "spirit of God" and "God the spirit?" **Genesis 1:1, 2**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Note: God the spirit would imply a trinity. That phrase is not used.

2. What did God use to make the heavens (and earth)? **Psalms 33:6**

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

3. What natural phenomenon is the spirit compared to? **John 3:5-8**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

4. How did Jesus give the Holy Spirit to His disciples? **John 20:22**

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

5. Where did Adam get his life from? What is it that made Adam a living soul? **Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4**

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Job 33:4 The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

6. Based on the scriptures above, is the Holy Spirit a third person in a trinity? Is the Holy Spirit a person at all?

Discuss.....

7. Adam was a man, one person, one flesh. Eve was a woman, one person, one flesh. They came together in marriage. After marriage, what did the Creator proclaim them to be? **Genesis 2:18-24**

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

Genesis 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Genesis 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

8. Adam and Eve never became one physical body. Did God intend for them to be one body or is He referring to the lifelong bond of marriage? Define the word cleave. **Matthew 19:5**

Matthew 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

9. Did Jesus want His disciples to be one? **John 17:22**

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

10. How were they one? Were they one body? **Acts 2:1**

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

11. What is the relationship between God and His Son? Does this verse mean that they are one physical being? **John 10:30**

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

12. I and "me" imply one person. "We" and "our" imply at least two persons, possibly more. How many were present at the creation? Could it have been two or three, or even more? **Genesis 1:26**

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

13. While Jesus was on earth, God was in heaven. The Holy Spirit was not given until Pentecost, so the Holy Spirit was in heaven. In these verses, why does God use the word "I"? Why not "we," if the person of the Holy Spirit was with Him in heaven? Can there be more than two in the Godhead? **John 12:28; Matthew 17:5; Matthew 3:17**

John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Conclusion: Using the Bible, we can determine the spirit is the breath of God. We can also determine that there is Almighty God and the Son of God. There is no trinity.

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

Sabbath Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020

Scripture Reading: Romans 2

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:12

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:29

Proverbs 11:29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

Introduction: This lesson is not so much about teaching by example as it is about why we cannot commit the same sins that we teach against. Being a good example teaches. Being a bad example also teaches; it destroys the teacher and the student. Let's study.

1. Who will be looking to the elders for an example? (Will those outside of the church be looking to the Saints as an example? What is imitation? What does it have to do with learning? **Hebrews 13:7**

Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

2. Setting the example saves our soul and the soul of another. If we are not a good example to others, will the judge grant mercy to the teacher? (What has the student learned") **Romans 2:3**

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

3. The teacher that does not set an example exercises what attitude toward the patient Judge? **Romans 2:3-6**

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Note: In the next few verses, it is not clear if Paul is speaking of a particular person or just teachers in general. The questions will focus on a particular person.

4. In the early church, most Saints were Jews. They would have brought their Jewish customs with them. Describe the person Paul is addressing in these verses. What functions does he perform? **Romans 2:17-20**

Romans 2:17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

Romans 2:18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

Romans 2:19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

Romans 2:20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

5. The perpetrator could not have been committing these sins in a closet: they had come to Paul's attention; they must have been well known, What was this teacher guilty of? **Romans 2:21, 22**

Romans 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

Romans 2:22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

6. We know that the sins of a man are a reflection on his character. Someone who murders is labeled a murderer. Someone who steals is labeled a thief. But how do the actions of a sinner who is a teacher in the church reflect on the Most High? **Romans 2:23, 24**

Romans 2:23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

Romans 2:24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

7. Are this man's actions an example to others?

Answer: Yes. Some will take his actions and use them to justify their own actions. Some may think that his actions are acceptable and forgiven. Some, knowing that he is a bad example, will be turned off. But he definitely is an example.

8. Did Paul understand that he was an example? Did he use his life as an example? Was he an excellent example? **Philippians 4:9**

Philippians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

9. An excellent teacher teaches his student. He also teaches the student to be a teacher. What did Paul command his spiritual son to be? In what way was he to be an example? **1 Timothy 4:12**

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Conclusion: The little children in our homes have no other teachers than their parents. The little children (new Saints) in our churches have the elders as their main teachers.

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Sabbath Date: Saturday, April 25, 2020

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 37:21

Ezekiel 37:21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 10:2

Proverbs 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Introduction: The nation of Israel has a long history: prosperity, captivity, subjugation, and expulsion. Deuteronomy 8:10-20. Very little of the history can be described as peace and righteousness. Their prosperity led to sin, and sin led to captivity, subjugation, and expulsion. What is prophesied for their future?

1. The Lord had a message for Israel. Who was chosen to deliver it? Where was he taken to receive the message? **Ezekiel 37:1**

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2. The Lord showed the prophet many bones. Had they been dead many days, even years? What strange question did He ask him about these dry bones? Can these bones be any "deader?" **Ezekiel 37:1-3**

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

Ezekiel 37:2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

Ezekiel 37:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

3. These bones are the message to the people of Israel. They are the symbol that the Lord is showing to the prophet. What does He command the prophet to do and what is the result? **Ezekiel 37:4-8**

Ezekiel 37:4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Ezekiel 37:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

Ezekiel 37:6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

Ezekiel 37:8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

4. The bones assembled themselves, flesh came upon them, and skin covered the flesh. What else did the prophet prophesy? **Ezekiel 37:9, 10**

Ezekiel 37:9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

Ezekiel 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

5. The prophecy must be revealed. What does the Lord say that the bones represent? How hopeless are dry bones? **Ezekiel 37:11**

Ezekiel 37:11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

6. What is the message prophesied to these hopeless people? What is a man without a home or a people without a land? Did God intend to resurrect His people and leave them homeless? **Ezekiel 37:12-14**

Ezekiel 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

Ezekiel 37:14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

Question: Was this resurrection fulfilled during the time of Jesus?

7. Before the children of Israel went into captivity, they were divided into two nations, Israel and Judah. What is used to symbolize their division? What is prophesied of their division? **Ezekiel 37:15-20**

Ezekiel 37:15 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions:

Ezekiel 37:17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

Ezekiel 37:18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

Ezekiel 37:19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

Ezekiel 37:20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

8. It is prophesied that Israel would return to their land. Was this fully true or partially true while Jesus was on earth? Is it fully true or partially true today? Must it be fully true in the future? **Ezekiel 37:21-23**

Ezekiel 37:21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

Ezekiel 37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.

Ezekiel 37:23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

9. When this prophecy is fully fulfilled, who will be king in Israel? How can He be their king? How long will this kingdom last? **Ezekiel 37:24, 25; Luke 1:31-33**

Ezekiel 37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

Ezekiel 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

10. This prophecy is not fully fulfilled today. It must be fully fulfilled. Is there a kingdom coming that will fulfill this prophecy? How long will that kingdom last? **Ezekiel 37:26-28; Revelation 21:1-3**

Ezekiel 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

Ezekiel 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 37:28 And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Conclusion: Israel is in their land. But the prophecy of Ezekiel 37 is not fully fulfilled. That is for the near future. Prosperity and righteousness are soon to come. David will be their king, so this must be after the resurrection of the righteous. God's tabernacle will be on earth. That tabernacle is in the new Jerusalem on earth during the one thousand-year reign of Jesus on earth.

INVESTING IN STOCKS AND BONDS

Sabbath Date: Saturday, May 02, 2020

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:16-40, 24

Memory Verse: Colossians 4:18

Colossians 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 1:10

Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Introduction: Which type of stocks and bonds did Paul invest in? Most importantly, can we invest in these same instruments? What yield can we expect? Can they provide security for our future?

Definition: Stocks and bonds, in the world of finance, are certificates of ownership; financial instruments used for investing money. The investor seeks a profit that will create financial security for the future.

Definition: Stocks and bonds, in the Bible, are devices used by the state to hold those accused of crimes, and to punish those convicted.

1. Investments have to be bought. You have to pay the price. How much did these investments cost Paul? Acts 23:26-30; Acts 26:31

Acts 23:26 Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.

Acts 23:27 This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.

Acts 23:28 And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:

Acts 23:29 Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.

Acts 23:30 And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.

Acts 26:31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of **bonds**.

Answer: These stocks and bonds are free! You can't find a better way to invest for the future.

2. Rewards inspire an employee to do a better job. In some companies, successful employees are rewarded with stocks and bonds. Does our employer reward us with the same? Colossians 4:3

Colossians 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

3. How was Jeremiah rewarded for an excellent job? Jeremiah 20:1, 2

Jeremiah 20:1 Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things.

Jeremiah 20:2 Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.

4. He must have loved these investments. By continuing to prophecy, was Jeremiah asking for more stock? Jeremiah 20:3-6

Jeremiah 20:3 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magormissabib.

Jeremiah 20:4 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword.

Jeremiah 20:5 Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon.

Jeremiah 20:6 And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies.

5. How did Paul use these significant investments to spread the gospel? Ephesians 6:18-20

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Ephesians 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Note: When you are this wealthy, everyone wants to know about you. You are in the news often; you become famous.

6. How were his brethren empowered by his bonds? Do his bonds empower us today? Philippians 1:12-14

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

Philippians 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

Philippians 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Note: And when you become famous, others will impersonate you.

7. We remember famous conquerors; and their conquests. We remember wealthy people; and their wealth. Should we remember Paul's investments? Colossians 4:18

Colossians 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

8. When you are wealthy, people want to take your wealth. Was anyone trying to take his bonds? Philippians 1:16, 17

Philippians 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

Philippians 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Question: Why didn't they want to take his wealth? Why did they want to give him more?

9. Was he the only investor in the church? Revelation 1:9

Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10. Paul's bonds were about his hands and feet. What investments in bonds can we make every day? Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:14

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

11. Stocks and bonds promise future security. What is our future security? What is the big payoff? Revelation 7 :9-17

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Revelation 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Revelation 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Revelation 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Revelation 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Conclusion: Paul, Jeremiah, and John, invested in tribulations. These tribulations are the stocks and bonds that yield eternal dividends.

MUST WE STILL KEEP THE FEASTS OF THE LORD?

Sabbath Date: Saturday, May 09, 2020

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:16-17

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 13:16

Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

Introduction: There are people who believe that they must keep the feasts of the Old Testament. This belief has been made popular by some Sabbath-keeping organizations that keep those feasts; and persons in the Church of God have questions about it. Here are some answers.

1. Who wrote the Ten Commandments? Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 9:10

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,

Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's

wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Deuteronomy 9:10 And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

2. Who wrote the ceremonial law of ordinances? Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 31 :9

Exodus 24:4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

3. How long will God's law remain? Psalms 119:144, 160; Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:24, 25

Psalms 119:144 The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Psalms 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

4. How long will the ceremonial law exist? Galatians 3:19-25; Hebrews 10:1-12

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

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

Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Hebrews 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

Hebrews 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Hebrews 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Hebrews 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

5. How severe was this law? Leviticus 4:1-4

Leviticus 4:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Leviticus 4:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them:

Leviticus 4:3 If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.

Leviticus 4:4 And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the LORD.

6. Could any sinner be saved by animal blood? Acts 13:39

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

7. Who has redeemed Israel from this severe law? Romans 10:1-4; Galatians 3: 13

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Romans 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

8. What is much more important than keeping that Mosaic Law? Exodus 23:21; Deuteronomy 13:4; Jeremiah 7:23

Exodus 23:21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

Deuteronomy 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Jeremiah 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your

God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

9. Which law was nailed to the cross? Colossians 2: 14; Ephesians 2:13-16

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Note: Just as parking ordinances keep order on the streets, these commandments contained in ordinances dictated the procedures that the priest should follow in the temple.

10. When did this law of ordinances end? Matthew 27:51

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

11. What does Paul say concerning the yearly Sabbaths and feasts? Colossians 2:16-18

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

12. Where were the feasts to be held? Joshua 18:1; Luke 2:41, 42

Joshua 18:1 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

Luke 2:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

Note: The feasts ended when Jesus was crucified, although the Jews, who did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, continued the sacrifices. When the temple was destroyed in 70AD, the Jews could no longer keep any feasts.

13. What must we do to please God? 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; John 14:15

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt

offerings.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

14. What does Paul say of sticking to old traditions? 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1 Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

15. What can or will never be changed? Exodus 31: 13-17

Exodus 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Exodus 31:14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Exodus 31:15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Exodus 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

Exodus 31:17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Conclusion: No, we should not observe Old Testament feasts.

WOLVES LEADING GOD'S SHEEP

Sabbath Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020

Scripture Reading: Acts 20

Memory Verse: Acts 20:29

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 25:28

Proverbs 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Introduction: Throughout the history of God's church, it has been infested with evil leaders. Christ taught against the godless leadership of spiritual leaders. Finally, he was condemned to death by spiritual leaders who pretended to be godly persons. Wherever God has His sheep, the devil has his wolves.

1. Did God promise to give the land of Canaan to His children? Exodus 23:20-33

Exodus 23:20 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

Exodus 23:21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

Exodus 23:22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

Exodus 23:23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Exodus 23:24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

Exodus 23:25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

Exodus 23:26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

Exodus 23:27 I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

Exodus 23:28 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

Exodus 23:29 I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

Exodus 23:30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

Exodus 23:31 And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

Exodus 23:32 Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

Exodus 23:33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

2. Whom did God tell Moses to send to spy the land before Israel took possession of it?
Numbers 13:1-3

Numbers 13:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Numbers 13:2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

Numbers 13:3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.

3. Ten of the twelve spies lied to the people about the condition of the land. What sin did their lies cause the people to commit? Did those leaders love God's people? Numbers 14:1-4;
Proverbs 26:28

Numbers 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

Numbers 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

Numbers 14:3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Numbers 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

4. Who was almost stoned to death because of the lies of the ten leaders? Numbers 14:6-10

Numbers 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

Numbers 14:7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

Numbers 14:8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Numbers 14:9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

Numbers 14:10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

5. In the days of Zephaniah, did God have any good thing to say about the leaders of his people? Zephaniah 3:3, 4

Zephaniah 3:3 Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

Zephaniah 3:4 Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

6. Did God ever warn Israel about occultism? What secret practice of the leaders of God's people did God reveal to Ezekiel? Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Ezekiel 8:7-18

Deuteronomy 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

Deuteronomy 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or **an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.**

Deuteronomy 18:11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

Deuteronomy 18:12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Deuteronomy 18:13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.

Ezekiel 8:7 And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.

Ezekiel 8:8 Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.

Ezekiel 8:9 And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.

Ezekiel 8:10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

Ezekiel 8:11 And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.

Ezekiel 8:12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, the LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

Ezekiel 8:13 He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

Ezekiel 8:14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

Ezekiel 8:15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

Ezekiel 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

Ezekiel 8:17 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

Ezekiel 8:18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Note: Occultism among leaders in the house of God is not new.

7. In the days of Christ, who were the wolves, and what did they do to some of God's sheep? Matthew 10:16-19; Matthew 23:1-3, 33, 34

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Matthew 10:18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Matthew 23:2 Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Matthew 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

8. What warning is given by Paul and Peter about wolves in God's house? Acts 20:28-31; 2 Peter 2:1-3, 18, 19

Acts 20:28 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.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2 Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2 Peter 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Note: Sadly, some of the leaders of God's people that Paul spoke to later turned into wolves: "Also of your own selves shall men arise ... "

9. What did Jeremiah know about wolves among God's sheep? Jeremiah 23:1, 2, 11, 13, 25

Jeremiah 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I

will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:11 For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.

Jeremiah 23:25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

10. What did Ezekiel know about wolves among God's sheep? Ezekiel 34:1-10

Ezekiel 34:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 34:2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Ezekiel 34:3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

Ezekiel 34:4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

Ezekiel 34:5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

Ezekiel 34:6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Ezekiel 34:7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Ezekiel 34:8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

Ezekiel 34:9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Ezekiel 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

11. How are wolves able to hide in the flock while feeding on sheep? 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15; Acts 20:28-31

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Acts 20:28 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.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

12. Wolves are very intelligent. Did the Chief Shepherd teach the flock how to identify those

animals? Matthew 7:15-20

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Conclusion: Greed, forceful and cruel leadership, the teaching of lies, forgetting about lost sheep, refusal to strengthen the brethren, and practicing occultism are some of the traits of evil leaders among God's children. Beware of wolves that look and act like people.

ABIJAH'S MESSAGE TO JEROBOAM

Sabbath Date: Saturday, May 23, 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 13

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 15:23

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 17:3

Proverbs 17:3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Introduction: Some may stumble on the way; some may stray from the path; and a few will even rebel. When a man rebels against a government, he intends to fight against it and overthrow it. When a man rebels against God, he intends to fight against Him and overthrow Him. Rebellion is an act of war. Who can fight against God? Who can overcome the Almighty?

Definition: A coup d'etat is the sudden overthrow or change of a government; sometimes violent, but not necessarily.

1. Jeroboam was the father of the wickedness practiced in Israel. In the eighteenth year of his reign, who became his adversary? 2 Chronicles 13:1, 2

2 Chronicles 13:1 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah.

2 Chronicles 13:2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

2. The two kings meet on the battlefield and the battle is set in array. What does Abijah do before the battle is joined? 2 Chronicles 13:3, 4

2 Chronicles 13:3 And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour.

2 Chronicles 13:4 And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel;

3. Before the battle Abijah wants to give a speech! What is the subject of his speech? David, or Solomon, or rebellion? 2 Chronicles 13:5, 6

2 Chronicles 13:5 Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?

2 Chronicles 13:6 Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord.

4. What four-letter word describes Jeroboam's followers? Who is their father? 2 Chronicles 13:7

2 Chronicles 13:7 And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them.

5. What did Jeroboam make? What did his followers follow? 2 Chronicles 13:8

2 Chronicles 13:8 And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with your golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.

6. Rebellion requires a coup d'etat. Who was overthrown? 2 Chronicles 13:9

2 Chronicles 13:9 Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.

7. Abijah is zealous for the Lord and for Judah. How does he proclaim his allegiance to the God of David? 2 Chronicles 13:10, 11

2 Chronicles 13:10 But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business:

2 Chronicles 13:11 And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.

Answer: He shows his allegiance in his zeal to keep the laws and statutes of God. His allegiance is to God and to His priests.

8. Every army needs a captain. Who is his captain? 2 Chronicles 13:12

2 Chronicles 13:12 And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

9. This would be the perfect time for Jeroboam to repent. Does he? What does he do? 2 Chronicles 13:13

2 Chronicles 13:13 But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them.

10. Who was Judah's Captain? Who fought for them? Who delivered them? Who destroyed the rebels? 2 Chronicles 13:14-19

2 Chronicles 13:14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.

2 Chronicles 13:15 Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

2 Chronicles 13:16 And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into

their hand.

2 Chronicles 13:17 And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.

2 Chronicles 13:18 Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 13:19 And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

11. The Almighty gave the rebel an opportunity to repent. However, He does demand obedience. How does He deal with rebels? 2 Chronicles 13:20

2 Chronicles 13:20 Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the LORD struck him, and he died.

Conclusion: A prophet of God was sent to Jeroboam, who told him that it is God that is giving him the kingdom of Israel. (**1 Kings 11 :26-40**). When he starts to rebel against God, another prophet was sent to him. (**1 Kings 12:28, 1 Kings 13:1-10**). When his son falls sick, he seeks advice from God's prophet. (**1 Kings 14:1-18**). Jeroboam is very familiar with the word of God spoken through His prophets. He knows he is dealing with the true God. Jeroboam did not stumble in the way; he did not stray from the path; he rebelled against the God that created Israel, and that gave him his kingdom. In the end, he suffered the fate of a rebel. (**2 Chronicles 13 :20**).

NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

Sabbath Date: Saturday, May 30, 2020

Scripture Reading: Acts 10

Memory Verse: Acts 10:34-35

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 19:26

Proverbs 19:26 He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

Introduction: What does the Bible mean when it says that God is not a respecter of persons? Does it mean that God treats all men the same? Does it mean that if Abraham was rich that you will be rich? Does it mean that if Paul worked miracles that you will work miracles? These have become popular interpretations in the last few years. Can these interpretations be supported by the scriptures?

1. Did God have a relationship with Abraham? How deep was that relationship? 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8

2 Chronicles 20:7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

2. How did God bless His friend? Genesis 12:4, 5; Genesis 20: 14

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 20:14 And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and women servants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife.

3. What kind of relationship did God have with this man and his family? 2 Kings 4:1

2 Kings 4:1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

4. A man of the sons of the prophets; known by Elisha. Did God bless his substance just as He blessed Abraham? 2 Kings 4:1- 7; Ecclesiastes 9:11

2 Kings 4:1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

2 Kings 4:2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

2 Kings 4:3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

2 Kings 4:4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

2 Kings 4:5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

2 Kings 4:6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

2 Kings 4:7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Note: God blessed Abraham's possessions on more than one occasion. But, He did not bless this prophet, He did not make him rich, He allowed him to die in poverty. Throughout the scriptures we see examples of rich Saints and poor Saints. It does not appear as if God treats all men the same.

5. What special vision did God give to Peter? Acts 10:9-16

Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Acts 10:10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

Acts 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Acts 10:12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

Acts 10:13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

Acts 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Acts 10:15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Acts 10:16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

6. Did Peter make a quick interpretation of the dream? Acts 10:17

Acts 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

7. How long was this thought in his mind? While thinking about it, who came to his door? Acts 10:1-8, 19

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band

called the Italian band,

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

Acts 10:6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Acts 10:7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

Acts 10:8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

8. What do these men say about Cornelius, a gentile? Does Peter go with them? Acts 10:20-23

Acts 10:20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Acts 10:21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Acts 10:23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

9. Before Peter arrives, who does Cornelius call? Acts 10:24

Acts 10:24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

10. When Peter sees the crowd of Gentiles, how does he interpret his vision? Acts 10:27, 28

Acts 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

11. Based on the vision and this meeting with Cornelius, what statement does Peter make about God's character? Acts 10:34

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

12. What is the significance of the words, "every nation," and "Lord of all?" Acts 10:35, 36

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus

Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

13. What is the significance of the word, "whosoever?" Acts 10:37-43

Acts 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

Acts 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

14. Was God a respecter of persons in the Old Testament? Deuteronomy 26:10-13

Deuteronomy 26:10 And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:

Deuteronomy 26:11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

Deuteronomy 26:12 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;

Deuteronomy 26:13 Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them.

Conclusion: Is God a respecter of persons? No. But we must take this verse in the context that it is written. Cornelius' vision, Peter's vision, and Peter's interpretation teach us that salvation is for the Jews and for the Gentiles. In that sense, God is no respecter of persons.

SUBSTITUTION

Sabbath Date: Saturday, June 06, 2020

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 4

Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:28

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 7:4

Proverbs 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

Introduction: If every person had to bear his own punishment in his flesh before an earthly judge, many of us would be missing many body parts or we would have suffered execution. Fortunately, some sins are covered by fines and many sins are unknown, If every person had to bear his own punishment in his flesh before the eternal and righteous judge, there would be no salvation. This lesson explores the concept of substitution: one person taking on the sins of another and suffering punishment for them.

1. What commandment was given to Adam? What was the punishment for breaking that commandment? Genesis 2: 17

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

2. What happened soon after the commandment was given? Genesis 3:6

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

3. Was their sin discovered? What was their punishment? Genesis 3:11, 12, 21

Genesis 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Answer: Earlier, God stated that they would surely die. They did not die. Animals were killed in order to clothe their nakedness. These animals were substitutes. They died in their place.

4. Under the old law, what ritual was given as a substitute for sin? Leviticus 4:27, 28

Leviticus 4:27 And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty;

Leviticus 4:28 Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned.

5. And what was the result of this sacrifice? Leviticus 4:35

Leviticus 4:35 And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

Answer: Under the old law, when someone sins in ignorance, an animal was sacrificed in place of their own punishment.

6. What special substitution was made in Egypt? Exodus 12:1-13

Exodus 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,

Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exodus 12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

Exodus 12:4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

Exodus 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Exodus 12:9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

Exodus 12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

Exodus 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

7. In the New Testament, we are not taught to sacrifice animals in place of our own punishment, or for our deliverance. What is the ultimate substitution taught in the New Testament? Hebrews 9:13, 14

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

8. Is this substitution necessary? How important is it? Hebrews 9:22

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

9. Must Jesus Christ be sacrificed again for every sin or for every person? Hebrews 9:26, 28

Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

10. How can we all participate in this one substitution for our sins? Matthew 26:26-28

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Conclusion: Every sinner must die for their sins. Or, every sinner must have a sacrifice to die in his place. Jesus, the Redeemer, is our substitute. He has willingly died in our place and for our sins. However, we must accept Him as that sacrifice. Every year when we participate in the Passover, we are accepting Him as our Substitute.

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Sabbath Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-26

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:25

Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 3:30

Proverbs 3:30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

Introduction: Are forgiveness and reconciliation the same thing? Who forgives? Who reconciles? How?

1. What did one of Jesus's disciples ask him to teach them? Luke 11:1

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2. Since all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, when we approach God in prayer, what must we ask Him? Luke 11:4

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

3. Under what condition will God grant us the forgiveness we ask Him? Matthew 6:14, 15

Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Matthew 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

4. How did Christ elsewhere repeat the principles of forgiveness? Mark 11 :25, 26

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Note: This scripture means, if you have a valid complaint against someone else, forgive them. In our prayers, we must forgive those who have wronged us, and God will forgive us our own sins. Nowhere does the text or any other text tell us to go to the one who has wronged us and say, "I forgive you" and then go and pray to God.

5. What did Christ say can prevent anyone from entering God's kingdom? Matthew 5:20

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

6. Were the scribes and Pharisees indeed righteous or did they only appear righteous? Matthew 23:28

Matthew 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

7. In the days of Christ, animal sacrifices were still being performed. What did He teach the multitude about making reconciliation with those whom they had wronged? Matthew 5:23, 24

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Matthew 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Note: thy brother hath ought against thee means that your brother has a just complaint against you. In other words, he has been wronged by you. Notice that the reconciliation is initiated by the one who is at fault.

8. Why did he tell the multitude to make reconciliation before offering their sacrifices (gifts)? Matthew 5:25, 26

Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Matthew 5:26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Note: Animal sacrifices are no more (Hebrews 10:1-4), but the principles of Matthew 5:23, 24 still apply. When we are at fault in a matter it is up to us to approach the person we have wronged to make reconciliation.

Conclusion: In our prayers, we forgive those who have offended us. Speaking to our neighbor that we have offended, we reconcile ourselves to them, or suffer the consequences.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM REVELATION

Sabbath Date: Saturday, June 20, 2020

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 6:17

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 3:35

Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Introduction: This is an overview of the book of Revelation.

1. Why was the book of Revelation written? Revelation 1:1-3

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

2. Why did John say he wrote the book of Revelation? Revelation 1:9-11

Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

3. What did the Saviour tell him to do? Revelation 1:19

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

4. What is notable about chapters 2 and 3? Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; Revelation 3:1, 7, 14

Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Note: A history of various phases of the church.

5. What was another thing seen by John in the vision? Revelation 4:1-5

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6. What was seen in chapter thirteen? Revelation 13: 1, 2

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

7. Who else saw this same beast? Daniel 7:3-8, 17-25

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Daniel 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Daniel 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Daniel 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Daniel 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

Daniel 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Daniel 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Daniel 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

8. Who is this dragon? Revelation 12:9

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

9. Who else is worshiped besides this beast? Revelation 13:4

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

10. What was the purpose of this beast power? Revelation 13:5-8

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Revelation 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

11. What is another purpose in the plan of God in using this beast? Revelation 17:3-6, 12-18

Revelation 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Revelation 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Revelation 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

Revelation 17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Revelation 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

12. What was the message to be preached according to the first angel? Revelation 14:6; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 3:9; Titus 1:2

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

13. What was the message of the second angel? Revelation 14:8, (Isaiah 21:9, Revelation 16:19, Revelation 17:5, Revelation 18:1-3). **14.** What was the message of the third angel? Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 18:4, 5; Genesis 19:12, 13; 2 Corinthians 6:15-17

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Revelation 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Genesis 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

Genesis 19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

2 Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

Conclusion: Revelation reveals the past, the present, and the future.

PLEADING OR CLAIMING THE BLOOD OF JESUS (Is This Doctrine Based On The Bible or Not)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:26-29

Memory Verse: Jude 3

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 4:19

Proverbs 4:19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Introduction: In their prayers, some people "plead" or "claim the blood of Jesus" over a situation, a problem, a place, or a person. They might have heard someone saying for example, "I plead the blood of Jesus over brother Johnson, who is sick," "I claim the blood of Jesus over my unemployment," or "We claim through the blood of your Son, deliverance." Some people even sing "I claim those precious blood stains." It is unbiblical to "Plead" and "claim" the blood of Jesus.

1. What purpose does the word of God serve? 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2. How do we ensure that we use the word of God correctly? 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Acts 17:11 These 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.

3. What did Paul write about doctrines in the latter times? 1 Timothy 4:1

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

4. Why was the blood of Jesus shed? Mark 14:23, 24; Matthew 26:28; Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22

Mark 14:23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

Mark 14:24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Note: Remission of sins means forgiveness of sins.

5. How does a person accept the remission of sins? Acts 2:36-38; 1 Peter 3:18, 21, 22

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Answer: Repentance and baptism.

6. What was established by the shedding of Jesus blood? Luke 22:19, 20

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Luke 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

7. Did the seventy plead or claim the blood of Jesus so that the devils (evil spirits) would be subject to them? Luke 10:1, 17

Luke 10:1 After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

8. Did Jesus teach us to cast out devils by claiming or pleading his blood? Mark 16:17

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Answer: In my name shall they cast out devils.

9. How did Jesus instruct us to make our requests? John 15: 16

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Answer: We are to make our requests to God, in Jesus' name, but not by pleading or claiming the blood.

Conclusion: Pleading or claiming the blood of Jesus is not a sword against the devil: we have the sword of the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:17**). Pleading or claiming the blood is not a shield against evil: we have the shield of faith (**Ephesians 6: 16**). Pleading or claiming the blood is not a spear: we have prayer (**Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17**). Pleading or claiming the blood is not a protective covering: we have the whole armour of God (**Ephesians 6:11, 12**). The practice of pleading or claiming the blood of Jesus is not found in the scriptures. For further study on the blood of Jesus, you might want to review the following list of verses. None teach us to plead or claim the blood. **Matthew 26:26-28, (Mark 14:23, 24, Luke 22:19, 20, John 6:53-58), 1 Corinthians 10:15, 16, 1 Corinthians 11:25-29, John 19:33-35, Acts 20:26-28, Romans 3:23-27, Romans 5:8-10, Ephesians 1:6-8, Ephesians 2:13-16, Colossians 1:12-14, 20-22, Hebrews 9:11-14, Hebrews 10:12-20, 28, 29, Hebrews 12:23-25, Hebrews 13:9-12, 20, 21, 1 Peter 1:2, 18-20, 1 John 1:6-8, 1 John 5:5-8, Revelation 1:4, 5, Revelation 5:6-9, Revelation 7:13, 14, Revelation 12: 10, 11.**

BINDING SATAN (Has God Given His People The Power To Bind Satan?)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, July 04, 2020

Scripture Reading: Revelation 20: 1-10

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:8-9

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 4:5-7

Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Introduction: When some people pray or perform other acts of worship, it is not unusual to hear expressions such as "I bind you, Satan, in the name of Jesus," "We bind the forces of darkness in your name, Lord," "I bind every evil spirit," or "I bind the forces of darkness." This lesson will show that this practice is unbiblical.

1. When Christ was tempted by Satan, did he bind Satan or did he resist him? Matthew 4: 1-10

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Matthew 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Note: Jesus responded to the temptation by quoting scripture. Deuteronomy 8:3, Deuteronomy 6:13, 16.

2. Before the trials of Job, God asked Satan, "Whence comest thou?" What was Satan's response? Job 1 :7

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

3. Why is it biblically unsound for human beings to believe that they can bind Satan, or that God will bind him at their request? 1 Peter 5:8; James 1:2; Matthew 24:13

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Answer: Peter says that Satan "walketh about." He is loose.

Note: If Satan, all the forces of darkness, and every evil spirit, can be bound now, then where is the endurance that Christ spoke about?

4. Instead of binding Satan, what does the word of God command us to do? James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10, 11

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

5. Is there something in the teachings of Christ that contradicts the practice of people verbally binding Satan, or requesting God to bind him? Matthew 10:34; Luke 12:49-53; Revelation 12:17

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Luke 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

Luke 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

Luke 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Luke 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

Luke 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Note: If Christ did not have an enemy, there would be no reason to speak of a sword. Matthew 10:34. The enemy will be bound at the appointed time (Revelation 20: 1, 2) and not before. If people were able to bind Satan, the forces of darkness, and every evil spirit, there would be no temptation (Revelation 20:3).

6. How should we interpret Jesus' teaching about binding the strong man? Matthew 12:29; Revelation 20:1-3; John 12:31; Revelation 12:10

Matthew 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

7. When will Satan be bound? Who has been appointed to bind him? How long will he be bound? Revelation 20:1-3, 6

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Conclusion: If we were able to bind Satan, or if God were to bind Satan before the appointed time, then we will not be able to enter God's kingdom. Because "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." **Acts 14:21, 22.**

REBUKE THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU(Is That What The Bible Teaches Us To Do?)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, July 11, 2020

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20; Mark 9:14-29

Memory Verse: James 4:7

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 3:13, 14

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Proverbs 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Introduction: Some individuals, who claim to believe in God, have adopted the curious habit of speaking to the devil by saying to him, "I rebuke you, Satan, in Jesus name," or "Satan, we come against you through Jesus name." This lesson will show that this is unbiblical.

1. How intelligent is our enemy the devil? Revelation 12:7-9; Genesis 3:1, 9-13; II Corinthians 11:14, 15

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Note: Satan was cunning enough to deceive a substantial number of God's angels and then wage war in heaven. When God cast him down to earth, Satan turned his attention to mankind.

2. In order to enter God's kingdom, will the Saints have to bind and rebuke Satan, or resist and overcome him? James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8, 9; Revelation 12:17, 10-12

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3. What did Jesus tell the disciples when they asked why they were not able to drive out a certain evil spirit? Mark 9:25, 28, 29

Mark 9:25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Mark 9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

Mark 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Note: If the disciples were to rebuke the evil spirit, it would not have worked because that is not what Jesus taught them. He told them to pray and fast.

4. Did Christ give his people the power to rebuke Satan, the forces of darkness, and every evil spirit? Luke 10:1, 17-20; Mark 16:17

Luke 10:1 After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Answer: No. He gave them power to cast out devils.

5. Did the archangel rebuke the devil, or did he leave that job to the Lord? Jude 1:9; Zechariah 3:1, 2

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

Zechariah 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

Note: Not even the archangel, who never sinned, rebuked the devil, so who are mortals to believe they have the power to do it?

6. If the Saints are to stand against Satan, what is the first thing to do? James 4:7

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

7. Is our warfare carnal or spiritual? Ephesians 6: 12; 2 Corinthians 10:3

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

8. In whose power do we fight against the devil? 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:10

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

9. How has God equipped us to resist and overcome the devil? Ephesians 6:11, 13-18

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Answer: The whole armour of God, faith, the word of God, and prayer.

Conclusion: Who gave mortal man the power or the right to speak to the devil? Persons who rebuke Satan might appear to be exercising power over him, but this is just an invention to impress an audience.

WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

Sabbath Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 9

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:14

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:12

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Introduction: Far too many Protestants believe that when the Messiah died, the law of God, the Ten Commandments, had been done away with. Their church leaders have never realized that this perfect law will never be changed in heaven, and therefore not on this earth. These same leaders will object to someone giving false testimony against them in court; they will want justice if someone murders a member of their family because they know the Ten Commandments condemns both of these acts. It is clear that because they do not want to keep the Sabbath, they pretend that Christ abolished the Ten Commandments.

1. What was one of the last words of the Saviour on the cross? John 19:30

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

2. What happened in the temple at that time? Matthew 27 :51

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

3. Which law was made obsolete? Acts 6: 14

Acts 6:14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

4. Who was the author of that law? John 1: 15-17

John 1:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Note: Is this referring to the Ten Commandments?

5. What did the apostle Paul say of this? Colossians 2:8-17

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

6. What was this law symbolically doing? Galatians 3:19-29

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

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

Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

7. Were these the Ten Commandments? Ephesians 2:13-15

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

8. What was one of the changes? Acts 15:24; Galatians 6:15

Acts 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

9. What part of circumcision will never be altered? Deuteronomy 10: 16

Deuteronomy 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

10. What did Paul say to the Hebrews? Hebrews 9:9-12

Hebrews 9:9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 9:10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Conclusion: When the Lord died on the cross of Calvary, He said, "it is finished." Many Protestants believe that the holy and perfect law of God, the Ten Commandments, was abolished by this statement. But this law, which the Lord wrote with his finger in stone tablets, nobody in his right mind would think of abolishing. But false ministers have convinced many to accept a lie instead of the truth. The law of Moses was written by a man, and in a book. Only they who are sincere and investigate God's holy word, will understand that this mosaic "handwriting" has been done away with. There are many verses to prove that the Lord's everlasting Ten Commandments cannot and will not be altered in any way, by anybody.

DREAMS AND VISIONS (Prophecies To Be Fulfilled)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, July 25, 2020

Scripture Reading: Joel 2

Memory Verse: Joel 2:28-29

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Weekly Proverb: Ecclesiastes 9:4

Ecclesiastes 9:4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

Introduction: God communicates with men. He wants us to know His will. He has done it in the past through dreams and visions, and in the future he will communicate with us in the same way.

1. Jerusalem is besieged and taken, its citizens are taken captive, they are carried to Babylon. Who is taken to Babylon among the captives? What was so special about one particular captive? Daniel 1: 1-6, 17

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

Daniel 1:2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

Daniel 1:3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Daniel 1:4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 1:5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Daniel 1:6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

2. Immediately God puts his servant to work. God had a lifelong mission for Daniel. Who had a dream that needed to be interpreted? What was so difficult about this dream? Daniel 2: 1-9

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Daniel 2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

Daniel 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

Daniel 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Daniel 2:6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 2:7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

Daniel 2:8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

Daniel 2:9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

3. How is Daniel set apart from all the wise men of Babylon? How was God with His servant? What was the purpose of Daniel's interpretation? Daniel 2:24-30

Daniel 2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

Daniel 2:30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

4. How does God reveal world history? What is the connection between dreams and visions, their interpretations, and identifying who the servants of God are? Daniel 2

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Daniel 2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

Daniel 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

Daniel 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Daniel 2:6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 2:7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

Daniel 2:8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

Daniel 2:9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

Daniel 2:11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

Daniel 2:15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

Daniel 2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

Daniel 2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Daniel 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Daniel 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Daniel 2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

Daniel 2:30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

Daniel 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Daniel 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Daniel 2:37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Daniel 2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Daniel 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Daniel 2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

Daniel 2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Daniel 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

5. After a few years, Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten Daniel's interpretation. What did he have to learn all over again? Daniel 4:4- 7

Daniel 4:4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

Daniel 4:5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

Daniel 4:6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

Daniel 4:7 Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

6. Was Daniel given the interpretation? Daniel 4:19, 24, 25

Daniel 4:19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

Daniel 4:24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

Daniel 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

7. This vision was not about world history, it was about the coming years of the King's life. How long did it take for this dream and prophecy and interpretation to be fulfilled? Daniel 4:28-31

Daniel 4:28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Daniel 4:31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

8. Some messages are for the distant future, some for years to come, and some are for now. How long did it take to fulfill this prophecy? How did it affect world history to come? Daniel 5:1-9, 17, 23, 25-31

Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Daniel 5:2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Daniel 5:3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

Daniel 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Daniel 5:7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 5:9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

Daniel 5:17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

Daniel 5:23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

Daniel 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

Daniel 5:26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 5:29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

Daniel 5:31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

9. The Almighty communicates with men through dreams and visions. (Yes, he has spoken to some through his Son.) How important are these visions to all men down through the centuries? Daniel 7:1-4

Daniel 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

10. How important is the interpretation of these visions in these last days before the return of the King? Daniel 7:21, 22

Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

11. The world has not experienced dreams and visions from the Almighty for generations. (There have been false dreams and visions from false prophets.) What is prophesied for our days? Joel 2:28, 29

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

12. These signs will happen before what great event? Joel 2:30, 31

Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

13. Dreams, visions, and preaching will serve what purpose? Joel 2:32

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Conclusion: In these last days, God will speak to men. Dreams and visions will be used to benefit the church before His coming. Is Pentecost an example of what is to come? Acts 2:16-18

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

PROPHESED DESTRUCTION

Sabbath Date: Saturday, August 01, 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 8:7-15

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 33:11

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 19:20

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Introduction: The prophecy in this lesson speaks of war against Israelite cities. But deeper still, it speaks of the destruction of a man. Did he have to accept the prophecy? Could he have rejected it?

1. Elisha was a popular prophet. He was known by the kings of Israel, Judah, and the surrounding nations. When Elisha was in Damascus, what did the king of Syria want to know? 2 Kings 8:7, 8

2 Kings 8:7 And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither.

2 Kings 8:8 And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and enquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

2. Surely the king could have summoned his own prophets. Surely he could have accepted their prophecy. Instead, whom did the king send to speak to the prophet of the God of Israel? What gift did he send along with his spokesman? 2 Kings 8:8, 9

2 Kings 8:8 And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and enquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

2 Kings 8:9 So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Benhadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

3. It is the prophets duty to deliver the truth. The truth isn't always desirable. The prophet had good news and bad news for the king. What was the good news? What was the bad news? 2 Kings 8:10

2 Kings 8:10 And Elisha said unto him, Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die.

4. The Spirit continued speaking to Elisha. What emotion could be seen on his face after seeing these visions of the future? 2 Kings 8:11

2 Kings 8:11 And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.

5. What visions did he see? What evil would be done? Was this prophecy given because God had a special love for Syria or because God wanted to execute judgement on his people? 2 Kings 8:12, 13

2 Kings 8:12 And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.

2 Kings 8:13 And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria.

6. When Elisha said, "I know the evil that thou wilt do," Hazael thought that he meant Benhadad the king of Syria would do the evil. What statement must have surprised Hazael? 2 Kings 8:13

2 Kings 8:13 And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria.

7. Hazael returns to Syria and to his master the king of Syria. He gives him the words of the prophet. Does he tell him the truth? Does he tell him the whole truth? 2 Kings 8:14

2 Kings 8:14 So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And he answered, He told me that thou shouldest surely recover.

8. The king of Syria, and his messenger Hazael, had faith in Elisha. Hazael believed the words of Elisha. How did he use them? 2 Kings 8:15

2 Kings 8:15 And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

9. Did Hazael accept and execute the prophecy? II Kings 10:32, 33

2 Kings 10:32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;

2 Kings 10:33 From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.

Note: By accepting this prophecy: killing the king of Syria, taking the throne, and waging war against Israel, Hazael chose his own fate. He considered the throne of Syria more important than worshipping the true God that he had experienced when speaking to the prophet.

10. God gave the prophecy to Elijah; but did Hazael have a choice? Could he have rejected the prophecy? Ezekiel 33:11-16

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 33:12 Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.

Ezekiel 33:13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

Ezekiel 33:14 Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right;

Ezekiel 33:15 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 33:16 None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

Conclusion: Many people in the scriptures seem to have been destined for destruction. But they all could have acknowledged the God of Israel as the living God and have saved their souls for eternity. Pharaoh saw ten miraculous plagues fall on Egypt and never considered accepting the God that was destroying his country.

THE GENTILE MILLENNIUM

Sabbath Date: Saturday, August 08, 2020

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 24

Memory Verse: Isaiah 24:6

Isaiah 24:6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 22:4

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Introduction: The Saints are not the only people to benefit from the reign of Jesus. The Gentiles will also experience peace and prosperity for many years. It will not be their choice, but they will benefit from the commandments that they have rejected for six thousands years.

1. Just as in the days of Noah, they knew not until the day that Noah entered the ark. As with Noah, so it was with Sodom. What sudden event will surprise the Gentiles of the earth? Revelation 6:13-17

Revelation 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

2. Punishment has been ordained for a wicked planet. Noah's flood and Sodom were examples. What must the world suffer before the one thousand year reign of Jesus and the Saints? Revelation 16:1-21

Revelation 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

Revelation 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

Revelation 16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Revelation 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Revelation 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Revelation 16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

Revelation 16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

Revelation 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Revelation 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Revelation 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Revelation 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

Revelation 16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Revelation 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Revelation 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

3. Two or three plagues are severe. Seven plagues are extreme. As if seven isn't enough, what comes after the seven plagues. 2 Peter 3:10.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

4. Will anyone possibly escape the destruction of the earth? How can they survive total destruction? Revelation 6:15, 16; Isaiah 24:21, 22

Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Isaiah 24:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Isaiah 24:22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

5. The seven last plagues will devastate the earth, the trees and plants will be burned, the buildings and structures will be destroyed. Of those that do survive, how many will survive? Isaiah 24:7-21

Isaiah 24:7 The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh.

Isaiah 24:8 The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth.

Isaiah 24:9 They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.

Isaiah 24:10 The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in.

Isaiah 24:11 There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone.

Isaiah 24:12 In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

Isaiah 24:13 When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.

Isaiah 24:14 They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea.

Isaiah 24:15 Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea.

Isaiah 24:16 From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

Isaiah 24:17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.

Isaiah 24:18 And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

Isaiah 24:19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.

Isaiah 24:20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

Isaiah 24:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

6. Billions have died and few are left. For those who survive, what future do they have to face? Who do they have to face? Isaiah 24:22, 23

Isaiah 24:22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

Isaiah 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

7. Who will be reigning alongside the Lord? Revelation 5:10

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

8. Will the one thousand year reign of the Saints be a joyous event for the Gentiles? Revelation 2:27; Revelation 12:5; Revelation 19:15

Revelation 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Revelation 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

9. It is understood that they will be forced to keep the commandments. What other laws will they have to keep? Zechariah 14: 16-19

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

10. Life is a struggle. We labor to extend our lives to eighty years. How will the King's gentile servants be blessed? Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 65:18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Isaiah 65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Isaiah 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Isaiah 65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

Isaiah 65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isaiah 65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

Isaiah 65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Isaiah 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

11. The King commands, His servants have no choice. What is being forced on the Gentiles? What is so terrible and dreadful? Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

12. Peace will be enforced for one thousand years. How will they benefit from so much peace? After one thousand years without war, what have they learned? Anything at all? Revelation 20:7, 8

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

13. Satan is now their licing. The final rebellion is staged. What is the outcome? What do they have to look forward to? Revelation 20:9, 11-15

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Conclusion: There is no sorrow in serving the King. There will be prosperity for everyone. If there is any sorrow, it will be for unrealized selfish thoughts, desires, and schemes. From a few men to multitudes as the sand of the sea is how the Gentiles are blessed by the rule of a King that they have rejected.

JANNES AND JAMBRES

Sabbath Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:8

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

2 Timothy 3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 23:23

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Introduction: The names of the magicians who contended with Moses while the plagues fell on Egypt are not given in the Old Testament. However, Paul mentions their names while writing to Timothy. In the face of such great miracles these men defied the power of God. They eventually had to admit that they could not contend with God. The same is true for those who have access to the sixty-six books of the Bible. Those who contend with the words of the Bible to prove false doctrine will be judged.

Definition: Reprobate means to be rejected and without hope.

1. What did God tell Moses and Aaron to do to convince Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go? Exodus 7:8-10

Exodus 7:8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Exodus 7:9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

Exodus 7:10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

2. How did Pharaoh and his magicians accept this act of God? Exodus 7:11, 12

Exodus 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Exodus 7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

3. Was God determined to send a message to Pharaoh? Exodus 7:12

Exodus 7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

4. How did the king of Egypt take this message? Exodus 7:13

Exodus 7:13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

5. Was God finished with Egypt? Exodus 7:17, 18,21

Exodus 7:17 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

Exodus 7:18 And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.

Exodus 7:21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

6. In the face of such a great miracle, what did the magicians do? What effect did these events have on Pharaoh? Exodus 7:22, 23

Exodus 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exodus 7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

7. Should Pharaoh have known that these were not tricks? Exodus 7:24, 25

Exodus 7:24 And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

Exodus 7:25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.

8. How persistent were these magicians? Exodus 8:6, 7

Exodus 8:6 And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

9. What proved to be too challenging for them? Exodus 8:16-18

Exodus 8:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:17 And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:18 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

10. What became so obvious (or manifest) to them that they had to admit defeat? Exodus 8:19

Exodus 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

11. Did the king admit defeat? Exodus 8:19

Exodus 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

12. Who does Paul compare these magicians to? 2 Timothy 3:7, 8

2 Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

13. What is the benefit of false doctrine? 2 Timothy 3:9

2 Timothy 3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was.

Conclusion: All living people have some chance of salvation. However, Paul calls those who resist the truth reprobate. Once someone has learned false doctrine and will contend with the truth in an effort to defend their false doctrine, there is little chance of salvation. The only salvation for them is to persuade them to open the scriptures and read for themselves.

WHAT IS VAIN AND WHAT IS PROFIT?

Sabbath Date: Saturday, August 22, 2020

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:33

1 Corinthians 10:33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 13:2

Proverbs 13:2 A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

Introduction: In these last days it appears that a profitable church should be a church with many people, a big building, and money coming in. Is this profit? This lesson will clarify what is vain and what is profitable.

Definition: Profit means to gain or increase. Something that is vain is something that does not profit.

Section: Vain

1. By preaching the word of life we will be rewarded with eternal life. If we preach an altered doctrine, what is the result? Philippians 2:16

Philippians 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

2. What is the result of keeping Old Testament feasts? Galatians 4:10, 11; Galatians 2:18

Galatians 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

Galatians 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

Galatians 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

3. Doctrine is not based on the teaching of the Early Church Fathers, such as Justin Martyr and Eusebius. Forgetting the teachings of Paul leads to what? 1 Corinthians 15:1, 2

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1 Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

4. Our work, which is not in vain, benefits who? It is not overtly stated, but does this verse imply that it benefits the teacher and the student? 1 Corinthians 15:58

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Section: Profit

5. What is the profit that we should be concerned with? Matthew 16:25, 26

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

6. What is the cost of being profitable? Matthew 5:27-30

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Note: This verse refers to removing temptations and distractions from our lives. Do not cut off any body parts!

7. What did Paul say was profitable? Acts 20:20

Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

Note: Paul kept back no teaching that was profitable for their salvation.

8. Again, what profit does he stress to the Corinthian church? 1 Corinthians 10:33

1 Corinthians 10:33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Conclusion: In the first four questions in this lesson, it should be clear that vain labor means that someone will not enter into the kingdom of God. In the last four questions, it should be clear that profit is to enter that kingdom. A large financial and religious organization is vain if it is left out of that kingdom.

TIMOTHY

Sabbath Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 1:10-19

Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Proverbs 1:11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Proverbs 1:12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Proverbs 1:13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

Proverbs 1:14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

Proverbs 1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

Proverbs 1:16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

Proverbs 1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

Proverbs 1:18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

Proverbs 1:19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Introduction: Paul had many traveling companions. One stands out in the scriptures. This lesson reviews what we can find in the scriptures about Timothy.

Definition: Feign means to put on the appearance of, or to imitate deceptively. Unfeigned means to be truthful and genuine.

1. While visiting Lystra, who was highly recommended to Paul? Acts 16:1, 2

Acts 16:1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

Acts 16:2 Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

2. Did Timothy, a Greek, have to be circumcised? Why was he circumcised? Acts 16:3

Acts 16:3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

3. How beneficial was this young man to Paul? Romans 16:21; 1 Thessalonians 3:2

Romans 16:21 Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

4. What type of work was Timothy doing for Paul and for the church? 1 Corinthians 16: 10

1 Corinthians 16:10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

5. How deep was the relationship between Paul and Timothy? 2 Corinthians 1: 1

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

6. Paul wrote many of the New Testament letters. Who was by his side when he wrote some of those letters? Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon 1:1

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Colossians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

7. Paul commends his family with what words? How did his family affect his work in the church? II Timothy 1 :5

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

8. Timothy was actively raised on the scriptures from what age? II Timothy 3:15

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

9. And the result of his mother's work? 1 Timothy 6:11

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Answer: Paul calls Timothy a "man of God."

10. And his sincerity? His faith? 2 Timothy 1:5

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Answer: Timothy did not assist Paul for any reason other than to teach and spread the gospel. Paul says that his faith is unfeigned.

11. Timothy traveled with Paul for years. Did Timothy share in Paul's persecutions?
Hebrews 13 :23

Hebrews 13:23 Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

Conclusion: In Timothy we can see the result of being raised in the scriptures and being taught by faithful parents (and grandparents).

JOHN'S DISCIPLES

Sabbath Date: Saturday, September 05, 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3

Memory Verse: John 1:29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:16

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Introduction: The job of a prophet is a serious one. A prophet's job is to give his life. Some prophets gave their lives by preaching from their youth until their old age. And some, like John the Baptist, literally gave their lives while still in their prime. Why did he have to give his life?

1. John was born six months before Jesus. Luke 1 :24, 26, 27. He started preaching before Jesus. What did John say his mission was? Matthew 3:1-3

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

2. Was he a well fed, well dressed, attractive evangelist? Was he teaching prosperity? What could John possibly offer the people? But still, how many came to him? Matthew 3:4-6

Matthew 3:4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Matthew 3:6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

3. Through the spirit, John knew what was to come. It was his duty to be the forerunner. What prophecy and warning did he have for the Pharisees and Sadducees? Matthew 3:7-12, 11

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Matthew 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

4. John, with the spirit, performs what ordinance for Jesus? Matthew 3:13-17

Matthew 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

Matthew 3:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

5. John has just been thrown into prison. The word of his imprisonment comes to Jesus. How do we know that John's ministry is ending and that Jesus's ministry is beginning? Matthew 4:12, 17

Matthew 4:12 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

6. It was time to start building His church. Jesus needed disciples. Whom did he call? Matthew 4:18, 19

Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

7. Some of Jesus's disciples came from which teacher? Would that teacher have taught them to look for the Messiah? John 1 :35-42

John 1:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

John 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

John 1:38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

John 1:39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

John 1:40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

John 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

John 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

8. John had prophesied of Jesus, baptized Him, and proclaimed Him to be the Lamb of God. But what question does he ask Jesus? While in prison, why did John still have disciples? Matthew 11: 1-6

Matthew 11:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

Matthew 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

Matthew 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Matthew 11:4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Matthew 11:6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Note: It is not clear why John was not sure that Jesus was the Messiah. 9. John has been in prison for many days. He knows that Jesus is the Messiah, he knows that he has fulfilled his mission. What happens to John on Herod's birthday? Matthew 14:3-12

Matthew 14:3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Matthew 14:4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

Matthew 14:5 And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

Matthew 14:6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

Matthew 14:7 Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

Matthew 14:8 And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

Matthew 14:9 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.

Matthew 14:10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

Matthew 14:11 And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.

Matthew 14:12 And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

10. Many had followed John. Many had followed Jesus. Now that John had been beheaded, what became of his disciples? What became of the multitudes? Was it necessary for John to die? Matthew 14:13, 14

Matthew 14:13 When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

Matthew 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

11. More than twenty-five years later, John still had disciples. What did Paul have to do for John's disciples? How was this approved by the Godhead? Through what agent? Acts 19:1-7

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Acts 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Acts 19:7 And all the men were about twelve.

Conclusion: John preached the word of God. His powerful preaching and righteous life drew disciples to him. But we know that his mission was to proclaim the coming Messiah. When his mission was complete, his life was taken. Then his disciples and all Jerusalem followed Jesus.

HEROD'S WRATH ON THE CHURCH

Sabbath Date: Saturday, September 12, 2020

Scripture Reading: Acts 12

Memory Verse: Acts 12:7

Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 26:1

Proverbs 26:1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

Introduction: Jesus had been crucified for His words. His doctrine began to spread from the mouths of those He had taught. The persecution soon followed those that spoke in His name. Acts 12 is a record of some of the earliest persecutions suffered by the church.

1. Who was king of Judea in 44A.D.? Acts 12:1

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

Note: The king mentioned here is Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great. He was a great friend of Caius Caesar.

2. What did Herod do against the church? Why? Acts 12:1, 2

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

Acts 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Note: This James martyred by King Herod Agrippa I was James the son of Zebedee, or James the Elder. Nothing is recorded of him in the Acts but his presence in the upper room at Jerusalem after the Ascension. Acts 1: 13. Being singled out by Herod for death is an indication of his zeal for the kingdom of God.

3. How securely was Peter held in prison? Acts 12:3, 4, 6

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Acts 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

4. In what season of the year did this event occur? Acts 12:3, 4

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5. What was the church doing on Peter's behalf? Acts 12:5, 12

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Note: There was great grief and consternation at the death of James. When Peter was also imprisoned, the entire church engaged in fasting and prayer. Meanwhile, the Jews were celebrating the memorial of their deliverance from Egypt.

6. How were the prayers of the church for Peter answered? Acts 12:7-10

Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Acts 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Acts 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

7. How did Peter come to understand what was happening to him? Acts 12:9, 11

Acts 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Acts 12:11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

8. How was Peter received when he came to where the brethren were assembled? Acts 12:13-15

Acts 12:13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

Acts 12:14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

Acts 12:15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

9. How did the church feel about Peter's release? Acts 12:16

Acts 12:16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

10. What instruction did Peter give? What did he do? Acts 12: 17; Matthew 10:23

Acts 12:17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

11. What was the reaction of the authorities to Peter's disappearance? Acts 12:18, 19

Acts 12:18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

Acts 12:19 And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

12. With what political difficulties did Herod now attempt to deal? Acts 12:20, 21

Acts 12:20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

13. To what idolatry was Herod a party? Acts 12:22

Acts 12:22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

14. How was Herod punished? Acts 12:23

Acts 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Conclusion: The Saints were persecuted for their words as followers of Jesus Christ. Herod is a type of all who have, who are, and who will persecute the Saints. That is to say, Peter was delivered and Herod received destruction.

WHO WERE THE PHARISEES?

Sabbath Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 23

Memory Verse: Matthew 23:3

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 9:9

Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Introduction: For three and a half years Jesus had to contend with the Pharisees. It was the teachings of these religious leaders that Jesus came to change. Who were the Pharisees?

1. There were a few Jewish sects during the time that Jesus was on earth. What was one of these sects called? Acts 15:5; Acts 23:6-8

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Acts 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Acts 23:7 And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.

Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

2. The Pharisees had a job to do. What was the profession of the Pharisees? Acts 5:34; Matthew 22:34:35

Acts 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

Note: Lawyer here means an expert in the laws of Moses.

3. What was the relationship between the Pharisees and the people? John 3:1

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

4. What was the relationship between the Pharisees and the scriptures? Matthew 23:2

Matthew 23:2 Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

5. When it came to devotion, what does Paul say about them? Acts 26:5

Acts 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

6. How strict were these rulers? Matthew 9:14; Matthew 23:23

Matthew 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

7. Did these strict rulers have any power over the people? John 11:55-57; John 9:1, 13, 19-22, 33, 34

John 11:55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

John 11:56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?

John 11:57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

John 9:13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

John 9:19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

John 9:20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

John 9:21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

John 9:22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

John 9:33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

John 9:34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

8. What comparison does Jesus draw between the Pharisees and His followers? Matthew 5:20

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

9. Is it difficult to exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees? Matthew 23:14; Luke 16:14

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Luke 16:14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

10. What were such "righteous," scholarly men guilty of? Matthew 23:30-35

Matthew 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Matthew 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Matthew 23:32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Matthew 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Note: Just in case people were wondering who murdered Zacharias son of Barachias, here we have Christ exposing the murderers church leaders. Public exposure of their secret crime did not prevent them from planning and carrying out another murder. John 11 :45-48.

11. What specific word did Jesus use to describe these church leaders? Matthew 23:13-15

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

12. What specific words did He use to describe their spiritual vision? Matthew 23:16, 24

Matthew 23:16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

Matthew 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Conclusion: The problem with religious leaders is that people have a tendency to follow them. It is not just the leaders' duty to lead. It is also their duty to set an example: a righteous example. The example of strict doctors of the law with the appearance of righteousness was not what the Father had in mind.

EVERLASTING DOORS

Sabbath Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Scripture Reading: Psalms 118; Psalms 24

Memory Verse: Psalms 24:7

Psalms 24:7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 25:21

Proverbs 25:21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

Introduction: Let's examine the pearly gates, the everlasting doors. Specifically, let's examine who will walk through the gates. In the near future, who will walk through these gates into their everlasting home?

Definition: Glory is victory and the praises and rewards that are given for the victory. It is great splendor, magnificence, or prosperity.

1. There is a first death and a second death. What does the writer mean when he says, "I shall not die?" Psalms 118:17, 18

Psalms 118:17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Psalms 118:18 The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

Answer: These verses speak of the resurrection. Once we are resurrected, we will not die again. For those who are alive at His appearing (some of us), we will never die. I Thessalonians 4:16, 17. The coming verses speak of events following the resurrection.

2. What are these gates? How many are there? Psalms 118:19; Revelation 21:12, 13

Psalms 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Revelation 21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

3. Who are these gates for? They are not for everyone. Psalms 118:20; Revelation 21:25-27

Psalms 118:20 This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.

Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

Revelation 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

4. Once inside the gates and inside the New Jerusalem, what will we do? Psalms 118:19-21

Psalms 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:

Psalms 118:20 This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.

Psalms 118:21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

5. What eternal memorial will be kept by the Saints? What day is this? What is the purpose of the day? Does this mean that this day will be kept forever? Psalms 118:24

Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

6. Who will we praise on the Sabbath Days? Psalms 118:22

Psalms 118:22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

7. The King of Glory is mighty in battle! What battle? Psalms 24:8; Revelation 16:12, 16; Revelation 19:11-21

Psalms 24:8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Revelation 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Revelation 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Revelation 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

8. A new monarchy will be established on earth. Before that happens, what descends to earth? Revelation 21: 1-3

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

9. What spectacular sight is waiting for the righteous? What are the everlasting doors made of? Revelation 21:21

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

10. How many gates does this city on earth have? Whom do the gates memorialize? Revelation 21:9-13

Revelation 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Revelation 21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

11. Whom are the everlasting doors prepared for? What is His title? Psalms 24:7, 8

Psalms 24:7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Psalms 24:8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

12. That battle staged at Armageddon will be won; the mortal armies of the earth will be destroyed; the New Jerusalem will descend to earth. Who will enter the gates of the city and be living in Jerusalem? Who is the King of Glory? Psalms 24:9, 10

Psalms 24:9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Psalms 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Conclusion: Jesus had a glorious entry into the old Jerusalem. He was hailed by the crowd, crying, "hosanna." Palm branches were waved; they expected to make Him king, That day would be delayed by approximately two thousand years. Jesus' entry into the New Jerusalem will be more glorious than we can imagine.

ARE WE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD?

Sabbath Date: Saturday, October 03, 2020

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3

Memory Verse: Romans 8:14

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 6:16-19

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Proverbs 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Proverbs 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Introduction: God created Adam and Eve. We are all children of the :first two people created by God. But are we all God's children?

1. After giving the parable of the sower, what two classes of people does Jesus separate the people of the world into? Matthew 13:38

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

2. What makes someone a child of God? Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:35; Matthew 5:9

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

Matthew 5:47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

3. Abraham had many children in the flesh. Are they all children of Abraham and therefore, children of God? Romans 9:1-13

Romans 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Romans 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Romans 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

Romans 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Romans 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Romans 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Romans 9:9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.

Romans 9:10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

Romans 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Romans 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

Romans 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

4. Many people are not of the seed of Abraham through Isaac or through Ishmael. What provision was made for them? Romans 9:23-26

Romans 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

Romans 9:24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Romans 9:25 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.

Romans 9:26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

5. In the paragraph you are about to read, there are two classes of children of the kingdom. Who are the two classes? Matthew 8:5-12, 11, 12

Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

Matthew 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

Matthew 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

Matthew 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Matthew 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Answer: In this passage, the children of Israel are referred to as the children of the kingdom. The Gentiles who accept God are also called the children of the kingdom. Israel was given the kingdom on earth in this age. That kingdom was based on inheritance in the flesh. The eternal kingdom will be inherited by the children of God. These are Gentiles and Jews who have accepted Christ. Galatians 3:27-29.

6. What special relationship is made between the Father and the children? Is this relationship made with others? Romans 8:10-16

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

7. What is the one most important thing that makes someone a child of God? Galatians 3:26

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

8. What is the visible and tangible evidence of the children of God? I John 3:4-10

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

1 John 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Conclusion: Physically we can say we are the children of God through Adam. Physically and by inheritance some can say they are children of God by Abraham. But, the eternal inheritance is by the spiritual adoption through faith. No one is born into that family. It is only by faith we can be adopted in. In other words, God's children are Gentiles and Jews who earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints, and who will endure unto the end.

GAIUS AND DIOTREPES

Sabbath Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020

Scripture Reading: 3 John 1

Memory Verse: 3 John 1:1

3 John 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 28:23

Proverbs 28:23 He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

Introduction: The two men that John speaks of in this lesson are opposites. One shows love to the church and to the brethren by giving out of his prosperity to finance the travels of the church. The other shows disrespect for the apostle because he wants to be the Big Boss. What lesson does John teach in this little epistle?

Pronunciation: Gaius is pronounced Guy-us. Diotrepes is pronounced Di-ot-rah-pheez,

1. John is preparing to travel. This letter will be sent ahead of him. Whom is it sent to? Whom is he going to visit? III John 1

3 John 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

3 John 1:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

3 John 1:6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

3 John 1:7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

3 John 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth.

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrepes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

3 John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

3 John 1:12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

3 John 1:13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

3 John 1:14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

2. Describe his relationship with Gaius. Is this a common relationship? What is this relationship based on? 3 John 1:1

3 John 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

Answer: The relationship is based on truth. It is not based on a denomination, a religion, or a common belief. The members of the church of God are joined together by the belief of the truth that can be found in the Bible.

3. What did the brethren have to say about Gaius? 3 **John 1:3, 4**

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Note: Notice how John stresses the word: truth, truth, truth.

4. It appears that Gaius was a busy man. Busy doing what? 3 John 1:5

3 John 1:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

5. How did the news of his works travel to John? 3 John 1:5, 6

3 John 1:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

3 John 1:6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

Answer: Gaius has sent brethren on various journeys. Some were sent to John, and they brought word of his good works and contributions.

6. Gaius' contributions sent many on their missionary journey. How did his works benefit the missionaries? 3 John 1:6, 7

3 John 1:6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

3 John 1:7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

7. When the faithful contributor provides, and the willing traveler is sent to us, what part do we play in the mission? 3 John 1:8

3 John 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth.

8. For over 1900 years, what has Diotrephes been known for? 3 John 1:9

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

Note: This verse appears to be saying that because Diotrephes wanted to be preeminent (or above everyone else) that he rejected John, a well-known apostle. If he had accepted John into his house or into the church, he would have felt subordinate to the apostle.

9. What methods did this villain use? 3 John 1:10

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

10. John, the teacher, sees his opportunity. Using Diotrephes as an example, what lesson does John teach? 3 John 1:11

3 John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

11. And another brother: What was the report on Demetrius? Did his report travel? What was John's report of him? 3 John 1:12

3 John 1:12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Conclusion: This little epistle teaches a big lesson. When someone must be sent, send them; when someone must be received, receive them. Another lesson taught by this epistle: What is the report on our actions? Do we have a good report? Is your report similar to that of Gaius? Or is it similar to that of Diotrephes?

CHARIOTS

Sabbath Date: Saturday, October 17, 2020

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14

Memory Verse: Exodus 15:4

Exodus 15:4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:28

Proverbs 11:28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Introduction: This lesson is about chariots. But the chariots are symbolic of any weapon, machine, or government. A strong army, with chariots or tanks or fighter planes, can create confidence in the soldiers and in the people of any country. How do chariots (and all other weapons) compare to the power of God?

1. The nation of Israel was born miraculously. Over many centuries, many enemies of Israel were miraculously destroyed. However, in Isaiah's time, what did the little nation come to trust in? Isaiah 31:1

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

2. They should have remembered their written history. If they had, who would they have ousted? Isaiah 31:1

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

3. The children of Israel had escaped Egypt and they came to the Red sea. What opportunity did God offer Pharaoh? Did God know that he would see the opportunity and take advantage of it? Exodus 14:1-4

Exodus 14:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exodus 14:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

Exodus 14:3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

Exodus 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

4. When Pharaoh saw that he had the military advantage and could get his slaves back, what weapon did he choose? How many of these weapons did he have? Exodus 14:5, 7-9

Exodus 14:5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

Exodus 14:7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

Exodus 14:8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.

Exodus 14:9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.

5. The Egyptian army boldly marches upon their target. What did Moses' people think of so many chariots? Exodus 14:10-12

Exodus 14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

Exodus 14:11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Exodus 14:12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

6. God and His prophet knew what the outcome would be. What did Moses and God think of so many chariots? Exodus 14:13, 14

Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

Exodus 14:14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

7. The purpose of the Almighty was not to just kill as many men as possible. What was God using the chariots for? Exodus 14:15-18

Exodus 14:15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

Exodus 14:16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

Exodus 14:17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

Exodus 14:18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

Bonus Question: Who was in this cloud protecting the people of Israel from the armies of Pharaoh? Exodus 14:19, 20

Exodus 14:19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

Exodus 14:20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

8. What escape route was prepared by God? Exodus 14:21, 22

Exodus 14:21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Exodus 14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

9. What trap had been laid for the Egyptian chariots? Exodus 14:23-26

Exodus 14:23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Exodus 14:24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

Exodus 14:25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

Exodus 14:26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

10. The trap had been laid and the unsuspecting Egyptians walked right into it. Who triggered the trap? Was it effective? Exodus 14:27, 28

Exodus 14:27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

Exodus 14:28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

11. Whom did the people put their trust in after such a spectacular event? Exodus 14:29-31; Exodus 15:4, 19

Exodus 14:29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Exodus 14:30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

Exodus 14:31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

Exodus 15:4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

Exodus 15:19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

Note: The victories of the Bible demonstrate God's power. The Israelites put their trust in God after this demonstration. We can rest assured that this battle is a type of that final battle.

12. We have found that we should not put our trust in the chariots of men. Whose chariots did the prophets trust in? 2 Kings 6:8-17

2 Kings 6:8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp.

2 Kings 6:9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.

2 Kings 6:10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.

2 Kings 6:11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?

2 Kings 6:12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

2 Kings 6:13 And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.

2 Kings 6:14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

2 Kings 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

2 Kings 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Conclusion: Chariots are the creations of men and are operated by men. They are used by governments and their armies to offer protection for those seeking victory in this life. However,

the final victory is won by the Creator who has power over all man-made weapons, machines, and governments.

AHAB BELIEVED, ACCEPTED, AND REJECTED

Sabbath Date: Saturday, October 24, 2020

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 20

Memory Verse: Acts 20:27

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 10:9

Proverbs 10:9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Introduction: God was with Ahab and the nation of Israel. God worked on behalf of them. How did Ahab destroy his relationship with the God of Israel, after God demonstrated His power in battle?

1. Ahab was king of God's nation of Israel, but what regard did Ahab have for God and the laws of God? 1 Kings 16:29-33. When King Benhadad of Syria besieged Samaria, what message did he send to King Ahab? 1 Kings 20:1-3. Without first seeking advice, what cowardly decision did Ahab make for the entire nation? How did this decision backfire? v 4-6. Finding himself in a jam, whom did Ahab call? What advice did they give? What message did he then send to Benhadad? v 8, 9. What threat did Benhadad make? What did Ahab answer? Proverbs 10:10, 11

Proverbs 10:10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

Proverbs 10:11 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

2. Having received Ahab's final message, what was Benhadad determined to do to Israel and Ahab? Proverbs 10:12

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

3. How did God talk to Ahab? Through whom? What did God determine to do to Benhadad? Proverbs 10:13, 14

Proverbs 10:13 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

Proverbs 10:14 Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

4. How do we know that Ahab believed what the prophet said? Proverbs 10:15

Proverbs 10:15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.

5. Was God's word accurate? Was the prophet's word accurate? How can we prove our answer? Proverbs 10:19-21

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

6. Ahab had a good reason to believe. Did the prophet have more instructions for him? What exactly did he tell him? Proverbs 10:22

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

7. Was the prophet's word true? How can we tell? Proverbs 10:26

Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

8. Did Ahab believe? Did he accept? Did he prepare for battle? Proverbs 10:27

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Answer: Ahab had a small army, but he still prepared for battle against an army that filled the country. Yes, he believed, he accepted, and he prepared for battle.

9. Again, how accurate was God's word? Proverbs 10:28-30

Proverbs 10:28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Proverbs 10:30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

10. More than three years later, who was Ahab seeking advice from? Were these trustworthy prophets? 1 Kings 22: 1-6, 7

1 Kings 22:1 And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.

1 Kings 22:2 And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

1 Kings 22:3 And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?

1 Kings 22:4 And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

1 Kings 22:5 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

1 Kings 22:6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

1 Kings 22:7 And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

Answer: Evidently not, since Jehoshaphat wanted another opinion.

11. What did Ahab think of a trustworthy prophet? v 13, 14, 8. What did Ahab think of his words? 1 Kings 22:15-18

1 Kings 22:15 So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

1 Kings 22:16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

1 Kings 22:17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

1 Kings 22:18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?

12. Should he have believed the prophet? 1 Kings 22:29, 34, 37

1 Kings 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.

1 Kings 22:34 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

1 Kings 22:37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

13. Why did he reject his words? 1 Kings 22:8

1 Kings 22:8 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

Conclusion: How can a man believe the word of God, accept it, and experience it, and then reject more truth? We cannot receive some truth and reject other truth, We cannot accept what we like and reject what we don't like. Ahab rejected God, therefore God rejected Ahab.

ESAU AND JACOB (A Sworn Agreement)

Sabbath Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25:19-34

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:34

Matthew 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 18:19

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Introduction: The tension, anger, and fighting between the Jews and their neighbors can be traced back to their twin fathers. The differences between them is based on a sworn agreement. If both peoples recognized that sworn agreement, there would not be wars between them. However, prophecy must be fulfilled.

1. Esau and Jacob (the Arabs and the Jews) have been contending with each other for centuries. When did the conflict between these two brothers start? Genesis 25 :21, 22

Genesis 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Genesis 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

2. What was the destiny of their descendants? Genesis 25:23

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

3. How were these two nations to be separate from each other? Genesis 25:23

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

4. Were these two ordinary siblings? Genesis 25 :24

Genesis 25:24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

5. How different was their appearance? Genesis 25 :25, 26

Genesis 25:25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Genesis 25:26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

6. How different was their life-style? Genesis 25 :27

Genesis 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

7. How different was their relationship with their parents? Genesis 25 :28

Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

8. In many cultures, the eldest son can have benefits that the other children do not have. At that time, the eldest son had the birthright and the inheritance. On a certain day, what was the condition of Esau the eldest son, who owned the birthright? Genesis 25 :29, 30

Genesis 25:29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

Genesis 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

9. If someone has it, someone else wants to take it from him. How did Jacob the younger son take advantage of his brother? Genesis 25 :31

Genesis 25:31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

10. What was Esau's extreme condition at the time when Jacob refused to give him food for free? What decision did Esau make? Genesis 25 :32

Genesis 25:32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

11. What sworn agreement did the two brothers come to? Genesis 25 :33

Genesis 25:33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

12. Of what value did Esau consider his birthright? Genesis 25 :32-34

Genesis 25:32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

Genesis 25:33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Conclusion: Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob. Yes, Jacob took advantage of Esau. Yes, Jacob violated the principles found in Proverbs 3:29, 30. And Esau made an unfortunate decision that God intends to enforce.

LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

Sabbath Date: Saturday, November 07, 2020

Scripture Reading: Acts 27

Memory Verse: Luke 1:1

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 22:22

Proverbs 22:22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

Introduction: Who was Luke? What do we know about his contribution to the early church?

1. Whose words is Luke writing down? Are these second-hand accounts that he is writing? Luke 1: 1, 2

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

2. Based on phrases like "a declaration of," "perfect understanding," and "the certainty of," what is the quality of Luke's writing? Luke 1:1-4

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

Luke 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

3. Did Luke have the education necessary to use such phrases? What was his occupation? Colossians 4:14

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

4. What other book did Luke write to Theophilus? Acts 1:1-3; Luke 1:3

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

Note: Both the book of Acts and the book of Luke are addressed to Theophilus. The former treatise mentioned in Acts 1: 1 is the book of Luke.

5. What does Luke mean by the word we? Was Luke traveling with Paul? Acts 16:10-13, (16)

Acts 16:10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

Acts 16:12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

6. Did Luke receive stripes and imprisonment along with Paul and Silas? Acts 16:23

Acts 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

Answer: In this verse Luke uses the word them. Luke would have been a witness, but did not suffer along with them.

7. Again, why does Luke use the word we? Acts 27:1-7

Acts 27:1 And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

Acts 27:2 And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

Acts 27:3 And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

Acts 27:4 And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.

Acts 27:5 And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

Acts 27:6 And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

Acts 27:7 And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

8. Was Luke shipwrecked with Paul? Acts 27:37, 39, 40

Acts 27:37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

Acts 27:39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

Acts 27:40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

9. Who was a companion of Paul and Luke? Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

Philemon 1:24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

10. What happened to Demas? What does this say about the faithfulness of Luke? 2 Timothy 4: 10, 11

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Conclusion: Luke was not a well paid physician writing in his comfortable home. He traveled with Paul, worked with Paul, suffered with Paul, and documented some of Paul's journeys as they traveled.

SHEM

Sabbath Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11

Memory Verse: Genesis 11:10-11

Genesis 11:10 These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:

Genesis 11:11 And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 8:13

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Introduction: The Bible does not say much about Shem. There is only one act of Shem mentioned. He saw many of the great events of the Bible. He was a witness of a new world.

1. Today, six and a half feet is tall for a man; a seven- foot tall man is extremely tall. Few men are taller than seven feet. What would Shem have seen in his youth? Would he have known them? Genesis 6: 1-4

Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

Genesis 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Genesis 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

2. Noah was the only righteous man before the flood. Shem would have been in the only righteous family on earth. What would he have seen in the neighborhood, in school, in the marketplace? Genesis 6:5

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

3. (What was the expected life span in his day?) His father, Noah, was five hundred years older than he was. His grandfather died at seven hundred and seventy-seven. Who else did he know? Genesis 5 :21-27

Genesis 5:21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

Genesis 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

Genesis 5:23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Genesis 5:25 And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech.

Genesis 5:26 And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:

Genesis 5:27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

4. His neighbors may have built rowboats and rafts. What did he think when his father told him and his brothers they would be building this? Had he ever seen such a thing before?
Genesis 6:14-18

Genesis 6:14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Genesis 6:15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

Genesis 6:16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

Genesis 6:17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

Genesis 6:18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

5. Disasters and pestilence are sorrowful events. When disaster strikes our friends and family, it stresses our emotions. How emotional would this have been for Shem? Genesis 7:15-22

Genesis 7:15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

Genesis 7:16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

Genesis 7:17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

Genesis 7:18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

Genesis 7:19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

Genesis 7:20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

Genesis 7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

Genesis 7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

6. After the flood, did Noah or Shem become a king? Were they patriarchs of their own families? Would Shem have seen the seeds of all false religion being planted? Genesis 10:8-10

Genesis 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

Genesis 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

Genesis 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

7. The Bible does not say what language Shem spoke before the flood. What language did he speak after this event? Genesis 11 : 1-9

Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Genesis 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

8. There would have been cities and a culture of lawlessness before the flood. Would civilization (with laws) have been completely new to him? Genesis 6:5; Genesis 9:4-6; Genesis 10:8-12

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 9:4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Genesis 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Genesis 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

Genesis 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

Genesis 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Genesis 10:11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,

Genesis 10:12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.

9. Shem lived to be six hundred years old. He could have seen his sons, their sons, and who else? Genesis 11:10-32; Genesis 17:15-19; Genesis 25:19-26

Genesis 11:10 These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:

Genesis 11:11 And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:12 And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah:

Genesis 11:13 And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:14 And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber:

Genesis 11:15 And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:16 And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg:

Genesis 11:17 And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:18 And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu:

Genesis 11:19 And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:20 And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug:

Genesis 11:21 And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:22 And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor:

Genesis 11:23 And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:24 And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah:

Genesis 11:25 And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters.

Genesis 11:26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Genesis 11:27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

Genesis 11:28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

Genesis 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

Genesis 11:30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Genesis 11:31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Genesis 11:32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

Genesis 17:15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

Genesis 17:16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

Genesis 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

Genesis 25:19 And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:

Genesis 25:20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

Genesis 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Genesis 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Genesis 25:24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Genesis 25:25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Genesis 25:26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

10. The flood destroyed millions of people who lived before the flood, only eight people remained. After eleven generations of children, how many people would have been on the earth? Just a thought.

Conclusion: Shem lived in two worlds. He saw the old world and the destruction of its millions of citizens, he saw the new earth, washed of the unrestrained wickedness; he also saw the building of the new world.

Addendum: Some assume that Shem is Melchizedek. But they are not the same person. Hebrews 7: 1-3 clearly says that Melchizedek was without mother and father. We know that Shem had both.

NEW TESTAMENT FIG LEAVES

Sabbath Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:7

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 8:5

Proverbs 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Introduction: The first man and woman tried to use fig leaves to hide their nakedness. They did not understand the plan of salvation. Many today still do not understand God's plan. They are still trying to use fig leaves as coverings. What are these New Testament fig leaves?

1. Adam and Eve were just created; Satan was present in the garden; the tree of knowledge of good and evil was there; the stage was set. What evil did Satan persuade them to commit? Genesis 3: 1-6

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

2. The first sin was committed. Shame fell upon them both. How did they attempt to cover their shame and their transgression? What did they use as a covering? Genesis 3:7

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Note: They knew the commandment. They ate of the tree; gained knowledge and knew that they were naked. Something had to be done. They looked for something to cover their nakedness. But they did not acknowledge that they had broken the commandment. We do not know if they ever acknowledged their sin before their deaths.

3. Did their covering work? Genesis 3:8-10-19

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Note: They used their man-made covering, sewn together from whatever was convenient, from whatever was easy to do.

4. What covering did God give them? What sacrifice was acceptable to Him? Genesis 3:21

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Note: A blood-sacrifice is not convenient. Something has to die. But it is what the Creator accepted to cover their nakedness. Cain also attempted a convenient sacrifice and was rejected.

5. After so many years, sinners still seek fig leaves. What New Testament fig leaf did the children of Abraham use to cover themselves? Luke 3:8

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

6. Was this leaf a worthy covering? Luke 3:9

Luke 3:9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

7. What covering was acceptable to God's prophet? Luke 3:10-14

Luke 3:10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

Luke 3:11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Luke 3:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

Luke 3:13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

Luke 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

8. When the scriptures are twisted and broken by the readers, a fig leaf is needed. What popular fig leaf is celebrated every spring? What is the God-given sacrifice for our sins? 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1 Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9. If multitudes all wear the same leaf, surely their nakedness will be covered. Or will it?
Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

10. What value is there in the "prophesying-in-thy-name" leaf, the "casting-out-devils" leaf, and the "wonderful-works" leaf? Matthew 7:22, 23

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Question: What other leaves can you think of? Is Sunday a leaf?

Conclusion: Some fig leaves are plucked from a tree. Those created in the minds of men are false doctrines, also called doctrines of devils. There is no salvation in man-made sacrifices and man-made doctrines. The only salvation is the one defined by the Saviour.

UNDERSTANDING JUDGEMENT

Sabbath Date: Saturday, November 28, 2020

Scripture Reading: Exodus 18:13-26

Memory Verse: John 7:24

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 6:32

Proverbs 6:32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

Introduction: We are about to study a grossly misunderstood topic. Should we avoid judgement? Since the Bible is a book of laws and judgement, that seems to be a misinterpretation. We are about to explore God's word to unfold a seldom taught subject; Judgement.

1. We are faced with personal conflicts every day. Eventually, we have to judge. Is it wrong to judge? How are we to judge? John 7:24

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

2. Conflicts arise in the church. Who should be judges of the ungodly behavior of God's people? 1 Corinthians 6:1-3; Exodus 18:21-23, 26

1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1 Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Exodus 18:21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

Exodus 18:22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

Exodus 18:23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

Exodus 18:26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

3. We have God's knowledge, bible knowledge. Are God's people able to differentiate right from wrong? 1 Corinthians 2:14, 15

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

4. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus tells us that we should not judge. Should Matthew 7:1 be used to reject correction from the brethren? 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1 Corinthians 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1 Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

5. Specifically, what type of judgement was Jesus speaking of? Explain the judge and the judgement? Matthew 7:1-5

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Matthew 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Matthew 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

6. Explain the completely different characters of these two judges. Matthew 7:1-5, Leviticus 19:15.

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Matthew 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Matthew 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Leviticus 19:15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

7. What did Paul have to say to the Corinthian brethren about their lack of judgement? Why would they glory? Did they misunderstand judgement? 1 Corinthians 5:1-6

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1 Corinthians 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1 Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

8. If it was wrong to judge, would Paul tell them not to keep company with a sinful man who is "called a brother?"

Discuss.....

9. What did the apostle Paul tell the Corinthians about judging outsiders and brethren inside the church? 1 Corinthians 5:11-13

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1 Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

1 Corinthians 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Answer: Paul emphasizes that it was not his concern to judge non-believers. That is God's responsibility. It is the Saints's duty to carry out judgement in the church.

10. Why did Christ vehemently reprove the scribes and Pharisees who were teachers of the law? What is considered to be one of the "weightier matters of the law?" Matthew 23:23

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

11. What did God say of judgement? Isaiah 56:1; Deuteronomy 16:19; Hosea 12:6; Zechariah 7:9; Zechariah 8:16

Isaiah 56:1 Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.

Deuteronomy 16:19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Hosea 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually.

Zechariah 7:9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

Zechariah 8:16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

12. What is God's emotion toward judgement? Isaiah 61:8

Isaiah 61:8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Conclusion: God loves judgement. He loves righteous judgement. As kings and priests we will execute judgement in the near future. The Bible teaches that we can start that judgement now - in the church.

DID JESUS PREACH A FEEL GOOD GOSPEL?

Sabbath Date: Saturday, December 05, 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10

Memory Verse: Matthew 10:22

Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:23

Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Introduction: A prosperous business, a loving family, community activities, and a full social life. This kind of preaching is attractive to many. But what did Jesus Himself preach?

1. Surely Jesus wants every Saint to live a peaceful family life. And He does. But what can be the effect of the gospel on our families? Matthew 10:34-36

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Matthew 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Matthew 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

2. What could possibly cause such division within a home? Matthew 10:34; Ephesians 6:17

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

3. When it comes to the gospel, the truth, and eternal life, what should our priorities be? Matthew 10:37

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

4. If a man must forsake his biological family, what consolation has Jesus provided? Mark 10:29, 30

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

5. Being hated by our families is not good. Does this conflict end at home? How widespread can it get? Matthew 10:22

Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

6. Does our misfortune end with hatred? Matthew 10:23-25

Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Matthew 10:24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Matthew 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

7. Why can we expect such cruelty? John 15:20

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

8. Were a couple of the prophets persecuted? Were a few? Were many? Or were all persecuted? Acts 7:52

Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

9. Has some cruel curse been placed on the followers of the Messiah? Matthew 5:10, 11

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

10. Surely this is a time for weeping, sorrow, mourning, and exceeding grief, right? Matthew 5:12

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Conclusion: The true gospel does not bring peace, joy, love, happiness, and picnics in the park. Today's popular religion is not based on the whole of the scriptures. However, the true gospel does bring eternal peace, joy, love, and happiness in our future kingdom. And yes we can have days of joy in this life.

ACTS 15 - CLARIFYING THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW

Sabbath Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020

Scripture Reading: Acts 15

Memory Verse: Acts 15:20

Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 16:28

Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Introduction: There must be scripture proving why we believe or do not believe certain doctrines. The Church of God teaches Old Testament doctrines of the Ten Commandments and the law of the clean and unclean meats. Why? At the same time we reject circumcision and animal sacrifices. Why? Acts chapter 15 documents a meeting of apostles, elders, and brethren at Jerusalem. This meeting tells us why.

1. While Paul and Barnabas were visiting Antioch, what was being taught by other visitors? Acts 15: 1

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2. Did Paul and Barnabas agree with these visitors teaching circumcision? How did they plan to resolve their differences? Acts 15:2

Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

3. When they came to Jerusalem, did everyone agree with them? Did some agree with those who were teaching circumcision? Acts 15:5

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

4. How did they approach this question? Acts 15:6

Acts 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

5. How did Peter acknowledge the acceptance of the Gentiles? Acts 15:7-9

Acts 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Acts 15:8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

Acts 15:9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

6. How does Peter describe circumcision (and the Mosaic laws)? Acts 15:10

Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

7. What does Peter promote above the Mosaic laws? Acts 15:11

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

8. How did James state the acceptance of the Gentiles? Acts 15:13-18

Acts 15:13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

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.

Acts 15:15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

Acts 15:16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

Acts 15:17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

9. How does James describe circumcision? Acts 15:19

Acts 15:19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

Note: God accepted the Gentiles before they were circumcised or sacrificed an animal. Therefore, what is the value of circumcision and sacrifices?

10. What was his suggestion? Acts 15:20

Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

11. What part of this verse implies that the Gentiles must keep the ten commandments? Acts 15:20

Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

12. What part of this verse implies that the Gentiles must keep the law of the clean and unclean meats? Acts 15:20

Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

13. Why did James say they had to write letters to make these laws clear to everyone? Acts 15:21

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Note: It is James' intention to counter the teaching of circumcision with a letter to the Gentiles.

14. What was the result of these discussions? Acts 15:22, 23

Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 15:23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

15. What was the letter that was written? Acts 15:24-29

Acts 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

Acts 15:26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

16. How was the letter received by the Gentiles? Acts 15:30, 31

Acts 15:30 So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

Acts 15:31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

Conclusion: Paul, Peter, and James were all at this meeting. The chapter implies that there were many others there also. They were clarifying the law for the New Testament church. This is why we know we must keep the ten commandments and the law of the clean and unclean meats, but not circumcision and animal sacrifices.

THE IDOLATROUS IMAGE

Sabbath Date: Saturday, December 19, 2020

Scripture Reading: Luke 24

Memory Verse: John 3:14-15

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 30:11-14

Proverbs 30:11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

Proverbs 30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Proverbs 30:13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

Proverbs 30:14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

Introduction: There are many types in the scriptures. Many are related to the Saviour. Some of these types carry a deeper significance than we might imagine. You might be familiar with the story of the brasen serpent, but this lesson goes a little deeper.

1. Soon after Jesus was resurrected, what happened on the way to Emmaus? Luke 24:13, 27

Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

2. What is one of the scriptures that Jesus would have spoken to these two men about? Numbers 21:4-9

Numbers 21:4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

Numbers 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Numbers 21:6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

Numbers 21:7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

Numbers 21:8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

3. After God had brought this new nation out of Egypt, what was the attitude of some of these Israelites? Numbers 21:5

Numbers 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

4. Was God pleased with their complaining? Did He punish their complaining? Numbers 21:6

Numbers 21:6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

5. Was He sensitive to their request of repentance? Numbers 21:7

Numbers 21:7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

6. How did God provide for their deliverance? Numbers 21:8, 9

Numbers 21:8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

7. The Israelites were plagued by serpents in the Old Testament. What New Testament serpents plagued the Jews? Matthew 23:29-33

Matthew 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

Matthew 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Matthew 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Matthew 23:32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

8. That Old Testament event was a picture of what future deliverance? John 3:14, 15; Luke 24:27

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

9. After so many years, what had become of the brasen serpent? 2 Kings 18:1-4

2 Kings 18:1 Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

2 Kings 18:2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.

2 Kings 18:3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.

2 Kings 18:4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

10. After so many years, what has become of the Messiah who is the fulfillment of that type?

Discuss....

Answer: It's no mistake that today's image of Jesus is a handsome man with long hair down to his shoulders. Often in movies He even speaks in soft tones. This fictitious image of Jesus is today's idol. By the way, this image did not appear in history until the fourth century A.D. The true image of Jesus is his doctrine that we carry in our minds.

Conclusion: Many Christians will see the obvious type. Jesus Himself clearly points us to the Old Testament brasen serpent as a representative of Himself They might not see

the very subtle and deeper significance of the type, which teaches a most important truth about today's religious beliefs.

SEVEN, SEVEN, SEVEN

Sabbath Date: Saturday, December 26, 2020

Scripture Reading: Revelation 10

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:11-12

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2 Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 26:9

Proverbs 26:9 As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouths of fools.

Introduction: A prophetic pattern that was ordained from creation.

1. Immediately after the creation, men lived for centuries. How long did Noah's father, Lamech live? Genesis 5:28-31

Genesis 5:28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:

Genesis 5:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

Genesis 5:30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

Genesis 5:31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.

2. What was special about the number of the years that Lamech lived? Is it possible that his age was ordained by God? We will see. Genesis 5:31

Genesis 5:31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.

3. Lamech was the last of Noah's fathers to die before the flood. What happened five years after he died? How complete was the destruction of the earth? Genesis 7:11, 12, 21-24; Genesis 5:28-30; Genesis 7:6

Genesis 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Genesis 7:12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Genesis 7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

Genesis 7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

Genesis 7:23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 5:28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:

Genesis 5:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

Genesis 5:30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

Genesis 7:6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

4. The children of Israel had left Egypt forty years before. They have now entered the land of Canaan. How did God plan to start the conquest of their new home? Joshua 6:1-27

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

Joshua 6:2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

Joshua 6:3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

Joshua 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Joshua 6:5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

Joshua 6:6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

Joshua 6:7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.

Joshua 6:8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

Joshua 6:9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

Joshua 6:10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

Joshua 6:11 So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

Joshua 6:12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Joshua 6:13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

Joshua 6:14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

Joshua 6:15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

Joshua 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

Joshua 6:17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

Joshua 6:18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

Joshua 6:19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Joshua 6:21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

Joshua 6:22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.

Joshua 6:23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

Joshua 6:24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

Joshua 6:25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Joshua 6:26 And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

Joshua 6:27 So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

5. How many days were they told to march around the city? On the seventh day, how many times were they told to march around the city? After the last march, how many trumpets were to be blown? Joshua 6:3-5

Joshua 6:3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

Joshua 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Joshua 6:5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

6. How complete was the destruction of Jericho? Joshua 6:20, 21, 24

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Joshua 6:21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

Joshua 6:24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

7. What was special about these sevens?

Discuss...

Answer: These three numbers are similar to Lamech's age. Lamech lived seven hundred, seventy, and seven years: three descending degrees of the number seven. Joshua and the tribes marched around Jericho for seven days; within the seventh day, they marched seven times; after the seventh march, they blew seven trumpets; three descending degrees of the number seven. Both numbers (Lamech's sevens and Jericho's sevens) were followed by complete destruction.

8. What did John see in his vision on the isle of Patmos? How many seals were on the scroll? Revelation 5:1

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

9. What did the opening of the seals reveal? Revelation 6:1-17

Revelation 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

Revelation 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Revelation 6:3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

Revelation 6:4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Revelation 6:5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

Revelation 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Revelation 6:7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

Revelation 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Revelation 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Revelation 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

10. What did the seventh seal contain? Revelation 8:1-13

Revelation 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

Revelation 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Revelation 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Revelation 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

Revelation 8:9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

Revelation 8:11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Revelation 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Revelation 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

11. Before the seventh angel began to blow, he cried with a loud voice. What was revealed? What uttered their voices? Revelation 10: 1- 7

Revelation 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

Revelation 10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

Revelation 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Revelation 10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

Revelation 10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

Revelation 10:6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Answer: Seven thunders sounded. The seventh seal revealed the seven angels, the seventh angel revealed seven thunders: three descending degrees of the number seven. This pattern is a prophecy. The seven thunders is the complete destruction of the earth.

12. Are the thunders related to these verses? 2 Peter 3:10-12

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2 Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Conclusion: God's plan for mankind was preordained. This may sound sinister to men, but this plan of complete destruction leaves behind a perfect earth to be enjoyed eternally by a few Saints.