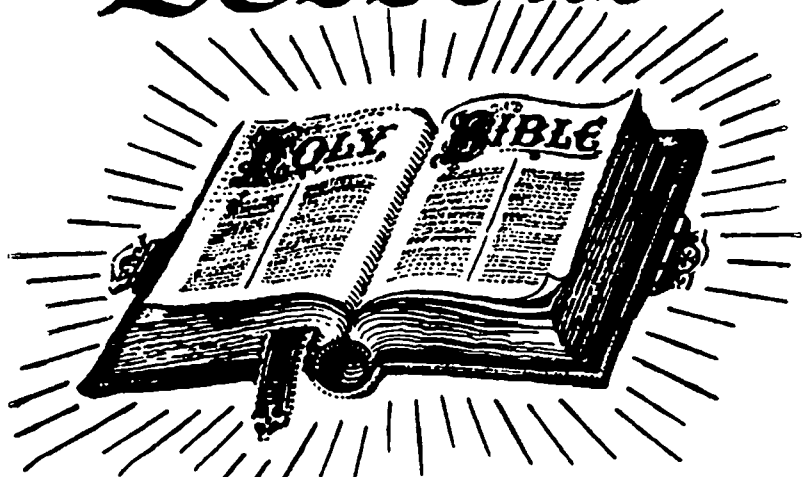


# Bible Lessons



**Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
we are CHANGED . . . .” II Cor. 3:18**

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Vol. 3, No. 1  
Jan., Feb., Mar.,  
1971**

**Faith Pub. House  
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# **Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People**

**Vol. 3,**

**January, February, March, 1971**

**No. 1**

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Jesus Christ and His Church.**

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## **THEME FOR THIS FIRST QUARTER, 1971**

In 1969 we started our lessons beginning with the first chapter of Genesis. In 1970 we left Genesis and studied the life of the Apostle Paul and part of his writings. Now we will take up where we left off in Genesis for this quarter. We feel it is important that Bible students become acquainted with the "Holy Scriptures," as Jesus called the Old Testament. Much of our help in understanding the New Testament teaching hinges on our knowledge of the Old Testament. In this first quarter we will finish the study of the life of Abraham.

Again we want to remind you that our lessons give more material than can be discussed in a short Sunday School time. We urge you to make it a home study, also. Many times thoughts are given for your deeper study and to challenge your curiosity or desire for a greater understanding of the greatest Book of all books, the holy Bible.  
—Sister A. Marie Miles

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**January 3, 1971**

### **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

**Matt. 22:29; 2 Tim. 3:13-17; Luke 24:44-48; John 5:46**

**Matt. 22:29** Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

**2 Tim. 3:13** (Paul wrote Timothy) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

**14** But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

**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.

**16** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Luke 24:44 (Jesus said to his disciples) And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

**Memory Verse:** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 2 Peter 2:21.

**Central Thought:** The holy Scriptures are true and unfold to mankind God's will, and reveals Himself while dealing with them down through the ages.

**Word Definition:** The terms "scriptures" and "holy scriptures" often used in the Bible, here mean, literally, the holy writings. The word "scripture" is used to mean a single quotation (see Luke 4:21), "And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." But "scriptures" used collectively includes all the inspired books of the Bible.

—D. O. Teasley

## **LESSON BACKGROUND AND FACTS TO REMEMBER**

The book of Matthew was written in 38 A. D.; Luke in 63 A. D., and 2 Timothy in 66 A. D., which are the chosen Scriptures for today's lesson.

Today we will study about the most wonderful book in the world. Jesus called the Old Testament the "holy scriptures." Our Bible is divided into two parts. The word "testament" means the same thing as covenant. It goes a little beyond the meaning of "Scripture." It gives us the idea of the character of the writings of the Bible. God made a covenant with Noah, then Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, with the Israel-

ites, and finally with all men through Christ. This covenant is found in both books of the Bible.

The Old Testament tells us about a nation (the Israelites) and the New Testament gives us an account of a man (Christ). That nation was founded and cared for by God to bring Christ, the Man, into the world. When Jesus was here on earth they had the Old Testament books as we have them today. "The canon (complete collection of the books that are accepted as of Divine authority) of the Old Testament was practically fixed sometime between 457 B. C. and 277 B. C." Since it was a gradual process it was brought together over a period of years. In our lesson today we find Jesus referring to the Old Testament as the "holy Scriptures." The New Testament canon was not settled until three or four hundred years after Christ's birth. Many attack the genuineness of certain books of the New Testament, but those who honestly investigate will find that every book of the New Testament holds unmistakable proof of its divinity. There are 639 direct and indirect quotations from the Old Testament found in the New Testament.

The Bible is called Holy Scriptures, Testament, or Covenant. Its form came to us through oral traditions, (Exod. 20:1; Matt. 5:2), tables of stone, (Exod. 31:18), ancient roll, manuscripts, and finally was printed as a whole book by Miles Coverdale in 1535 A. D.

The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language, but some books in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek. About 200 years before Christ the Old Testament was translated into Greek, the language of the days of Christ, which He and the apostles used. Some of the ancient manuscripts are still in existence. In 1603 A. D., 54 scholars were appointed to make the translation of the Bible into the English language and it appeared in 1611 A. D. This is the one we use today, called the King James version. We believe it to be the one that we should follow, and not the new translation called the Standard Revised Version of recent years.

In our lesson Jesus mentioned the Old Testament books that spoke of Him. First, He spoke of the "law of Moses," which are the first five books of the Bible and were written by Moses. Jesus said if you did not believe those, you would not believe in Him. Genesis tells of the creation and the beginning of all things. We must believe the Bible and not accept man's account or theories which conflict with it. Jesus said "they do err" because they do not believe in the "power of God." There are eight books designated the books of the prophets, and twelve other books, including the Psalms that speak of Jesus' coming (25 in all).

The Bible has 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New. Neither the books in the Old nor the New Testament appear in the order in which they were written. We should remember this. Originally the Bible did not have chapters and verses. It might help us to remember this, as expressions might be divided into chapters that should appear together. In 1250 Cardinal Hugo divided the Bible into 1,189 chapters, and in 1551 A. D., Sir Robert Stephens divided the Bible into 31,173 verses.

There are three ages to remember in Bible history. The Pre-Mosaic Age reaches from the beginning to the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. The Mosaic Age reached from there to the New Testament. The Gospel Age reaches from the beginning of the New Testament, in the early years of Christianity, to the end of time. There are three dispensations of Bible history. The dispensation of the Son, Jesus Christ, begins with His birth and ends with the day of Pentecost. The dispensation of the Holy Spirit reaches from the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to the end of time. In this day the Holy Spirit is man's only opportunity to be reconciled to God. (See Matt. 12:31, 32.)

I trust that you will study and remember these facts about our wonderful book. —M. Miles

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Hold steadfast your belief and faith in God and His written Word, the holy Scriptures. We are living in a day of unbelief and people are living carelessly. Our nation is fast forsaking the Bible and is headed for certain ruin. Without faith in God and His Word, a person is like a ship without an anchor, a bird without wings, a fish out of water. Today "men's hearts are failing them" because of what they see coming upon our nation because they do not have an anchor beyond the grave or in heaven. Jesus has told us "fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28. The "fear of God" is the beginning of wisdom. Keep the fear of God upon your soul and your faith firmly anchored in God and His Word. The Scriptures will make us "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" and by obeying it we will be ready in the hour of death to enter into a place that is beyond our expectations or greatest imaginations. Jesus will be there and all that is wonderful. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Scripture, the written Word of God, stands apart and alone from all other literary endeavor. It is not the work of

human intellect, but instead is the result of divine inspiration upon the souls of those who wrote it. Thus, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, they wrote the mind of God to man. The words any man can read, whether he be saved or unsaved, but anyone who has been genuinely converted will quickly tell you after his conversion the Scriptures became a different book. Salvation, when it comes to a heart, works a change in that heart and life. A genuine experience with the Lord will cause an individual to measure up to ALL he knows the Word requires of its followers. To fail to measure will doom that experience to failure.

Measuring all the way brings an assurance and a confidence toward God that we are His children, having been born of His Spirit. Old things are passed away. Ideas, opinions, attitudes, conduct, patterns of thinking and living—all change, and in their place come qualities that belong to a child of God. Pursuing on to a complete surrender of all to His will brings the sweet abiding presence of His Holy Spirit within our hearts. He it is who interprets the written Word to us and makes us able to understand it as God intended it to be understood. John 16:13. A holy man who is filled with the Holy Spirit is in a good condition to be able to understand the written Word of a holy God. This is why the saved man can understand the Word so much better than the unsaved. —C. W. Wilson

## QUESTIONS:

1. Tell the meaning of the word "Scriptures." When were they each collected? 2. What version of the Bible do we have that has been proved to work since it has been lived by since 1611 A. D.? 3. What division did Jesus give of the books that spoke of Him? When was the Bible put together? 4. Name the three ages in Bible history. 5. Name the three dispensations. Which one are we living in? 6. Why do people "err" and become deceived today? 7. What are we to continue in because we have been "assured" it is correct?

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D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier, or other means	35	36
E. Total Distribution	874	868
F. Office use, Left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	231	252
G. TOTAL	1105	1120

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

L. D. Pruitt, Publisher



**January 10, 1971**

**GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH**

**Genesis 16:15; 17:1, 5, 10, 19; 18:1-4, 8;**

**Hebrews 13:2; Genesis 18:10, 13, 14**

Gen. 16:15 And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old, and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

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.

18:1 And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

Heb. 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Gen. 18:10 And he [the Lord] said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door which was behind him.

13 And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

**Memory Verse:** He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. Romans 4:20.

**Central Thought:** Faith means simply taking God at His Word.

**Word Definition:** Circumcision is the cutting off of the male prepuce or foreskin. Covenant—a free promise of God's blessing; a written agreement; deed; bargain.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

"As Hagar was an Egyptian, . . . conjecture is very probable that she was one of those female slaves which Pharaoh gave to Abram when he sojourned in Egypt; . . . the slave being the absolute property of the mistress, not only her person, but the fruits of her labor, with all her children, were her owner's property also. . . . On this grounds Sarai gave her slave to Abram." —Clarke's Com. Hagar bore a son for Abraham and the Lord said his name would be called Ishmael and he should beget twelve princes (Gen. 17:20) and he would be a great nation. The descendants of Ishmael are the Bedouins and Arabs who are still a powerful people. Thus the Jews and the Arabs are both descendants of Abraham, but only through Isaac, the child of promise, was Christ to be born through the Jews, God's chosen people. Ishmael was the son of the bondwoman.

Notice in our lesson God's command was given for circumcision. This was a sign of being a Jew and part of the covenant between God and Abraham. Through Christ this was done away with. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." (Gal. 6:15) "Circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Romans 2:29.

"One of those three persons was Jehovah, and as this name is never given to any created being, consequently the ever-blessed God is intended; and as He was never seen in any bodily shape, consequently the great Angel of the covenant, Jesus Christ, must be meant." —Clarke's Com.

The first verses of chapter 18 show us the hospitality of the primitive household. The people of those countries wore sandals and it was a great refreshment to have their feet washed at the end of a day's journey.

At this time Abraham was 99 years old and the promise was fulfilled when he was 100.

**Lesson References:** Gal. 3:7-9; 1 Pet. 4:9; Heb. 11:19; Jer. 32:17; Gal. 4:28-31.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God had spoken. He had promised that Sarah would have a son. She looked at nature and not to the One who had spoken. She was 90 years old, and it was impossible for her to have a son, she reasoned. But faith must aim beyond this present life. The things that God promises may be contrary to our present experiences. Nature and the possibilities of things, and even human hopes may seem to be against us, but our faith must rise above it all. When God speaks we must believe that His promises are true and we must cast our all entirely upon God's Word and trust Him to bring it to pass.

The Apostle Peter refers to Sarah and says that she was "afraid with amazement." 1 Peter 3:6. For a while fear seemed to take hold of Sarah. This caused her to lose her presence of mind, but she soon regained her control, after being rebuked with loving correction. She found favor in the eyes of Him "who knoweth our frame and remembereth that we are dust." Psalms 103. God repeated His promise with authority, and said, "I will return unto thee . . . Sarah shall have a son." Oh, how precious it is to have faith in a Living Will up and beyond this present world and its onward course of things that touch our lives. We, too, must completely let go of human reasonings and by faith cast ourselves willingly upon God. Jesus said, "All things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23.

The sinner must come to his end and literally be "without strength," then God's grace is able to save him. (Rom. 5:6) He then is "born again" and when once he was dead he is quickened and becomes a "new creature in Christ Jesus." It should not be thought a thing incredible for God to bring new life to those who were as good as dead.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Promise:** "A declaration, written or verbal, made by a person to another, which binds the person who makes it to do or forbear a certain act specified; a declaration that something will be done or given for the benefit of another; ground or

basis of expectation.”—Webster. God, of His own free will and volition made a commitment to Abraham for two reasons: (1) Because He loved Abraham and wanted to reward him for his faithfulness in believing God, and (2) Because God knew that Abraham would teach his children to fear and love and serve the Lord, and God was willing to encourage that. (Gen. 18:19.) God’s promise provided a basis of expectation for Abraham to build upon. To build what? Hope, of course. Hope for the eventual recovery of mankind from the curse of sin. Hope for a plan of salvation that would reach everyone, for the promise said, “In thee shall ALL NATIONS of the earth be blessed!” Praise God! This was fully and completely fulfilled with the advent of Jesus Christ who came to bear the sins of the whole world and to make a full atonement for all. St. John said, “This is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” Not one is missed, not one neglected, not one is short-changed. The promise said to all nations. The Saviour carried it to every individual of every nation. No one will be able to meet God in the judgment and tell Him, “I am not saved because I had no opportunity,” for He lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Men are not consigned to hell because they had no opportunity, but rather because they refused the means provided. —C. W. Wilson

## QUESTIONS:

1. Explain what is meant in the Bible by “the first shall be last” in the case of Ishmael and Isaac.
2. The rite of circumcision was commanded by God to be administered to every male that was connected to the house of Abraham and those of his lineage. When did this rite cease?
3. Discuss the duties of hospitality.
4. Could not angels appear in the flesh since Jesus, the Son of God appeared in the flesh, ate, and took our infirmities and necessities upon himself?
5. Can faith endure, even for a brief space, a loss of humility in receiving miracles, without being damaged?

## DOING MY THING

For ten years my thing was drug addiction and crime. It was something I liked to do, and I was good at it. So good in fact that it cost me four years of my life in penitentiaries and federal prisons.

My thing had caused me to lose my identity, my pride, and above all my desire to live. Many of my friends had left the scene behind an overdose of heroin, and I had many close calls myself. Desperately seeking help, I checked out doctors, psychiatrists, and various rehabilitation programs, but nothing

helped me. It was a merry-go-round, except it wasn't merry anymore; it was just a go-round.

My thing had become a monster that haunted and plagued my life. A force greater than I was doing its thing by enslaving my mind and eating away at me physically, mentally, and spiritually.

My mother, however, was persistent in her campaign to get me out of this bag, but I was stubborn and rebellious. Finally she succeeded in getting me to at least talk with a friend of hers who told me about the "new thing" that God was doing. In the Bible, God promises through one of His prophets, "Behold, I will do a new thing." Isaiah 43:19.

Jesus Christ is God's new thing. The angel said to Mary, "Therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35. At the time I heard this good news, I was paying my habit dues, which means I was sick, frustrated, and in desperate need of a fix. I was using between \$25 and \$100 a day. It was while I was in this miserable condition that I fell upon my knees and repented of my sins, and asked God to do a new thing in my life.

I had spent many hours waiting to take someone off for their bread, or waiting to make connections with a drug pusher, or waiting to get high, or waiting to be sentenced. But I did not need to wait this day, for God was waiting for me.

Instantaneously God did something new in my life. The pains and craving for narcotics left me, and I became a different person. Jesus Christ, God's Son, said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. I was only looking for freedom from the bag, but I found truth, reality, and liberty from the power of sin.

Jesus Christ not only paid the penalty for my sin, but His death on the cross made it possible for you to be free, also. The Bible says, "Who [Christ] his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness." 1 Peter 2:24.

If you are tired of the old things and the consequences that follow, and desire a dramatic change in your life, repent of your sins now and receive Jesus Christ into your heart. If you do, you will be doing the best thing you have ever done in your entire life.

—Herb Green

**January 17, 1971**

**SIX EARNEST PRAYERS ANSWERED**

**Genesis 18:17, 19, 20, 22-33; Luke 18:7, 8a**

Gen. 18:17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

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.

20 And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

22 And the men turned their faces thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

23 And Abraham drew near and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for fifty righteous that are therein?

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

26 And the Lord said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:

28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall be thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

33 And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Luke 18:7 (Jesus said) And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8a I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

**Memory Verse:** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16b.

**Central Thought:** Our heavenly Father grants us the privileges of sons, yet as He is Lord of all wisdom, power, justice, and divine sovereignty, we must recognize that He knows best and has designs He is working out in this world, as well as in our lives.

**Word Definition:** Dust and ashes: In the Hebrew the thought means "dust is my origin and ashes is my end." Dust means the lightest particles of the earth and ashes is the residuum of consumed substances. Grievous sins means heavy, great and heinous.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

"Shall I hide anything from Abraham?" That is, I will not hide. A common mode of speech in Scripture—a question asked when an affirmative is designed.

"I will go down now and see"—speaking after the manner of man. God's door of mercy is left open to the very last moment and God wants us to know that. He wanted Abraham to know this. No one will stand before God without all being done for his salvation.

Abraham had an interest in Sodom because his nephew Lot and his family lived there. We also read in the 14th chapter of Genesis about other kings making war against the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, taking Lot and a large number of people, also goods. Abraham pursued them with his armed

servants and took the prisoners and much goods and brought them back to the king of Sodom. He refused to take anything for his good deed. Abraham recognized at that time that God had blessed him in recovering the people.

**Lesson References:** 1 John 3:22; Prov. 15:29; Psa. 34:15; Ex. 34:6, 7. God's justice puts a difference between righteous and wicked. Read Num. 16:19-22, 26, compare 2 Sam. 24:17; Psa. 11:4-7. Ordinary calamities fall upon good and bad alike, yet God cares for His own.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There is great value in intercessory prayer. It touches our hearts as we read about the humility that Abraham had in his intercessory prayer. He recognized with whom he had an audience, His power, and His majesty. The very thought of our position as mere man should make us humble, yet should not overcome us to the point that we would not ask with intercessory prayer. Paul instructs us to "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16) In other words, do not be timid in coming, but come with humility and faith. We do not need to feel that we can command God to do anything. God is God, but there is a way to touch His heart, and our lesson brings it out. Even the boldness permitted in prayer must be tempered by a fear lest we incur God's anger for any rash or inconsiderate demands. Yet as a child of God, we can pour out our heart to God, our Father, who is compassionate. God has made promises to us and we have a right to believe them and call God's attention to them. Six times Abraham asked a petition of God and six times that petition was granted. Sodom was not spared in answer to Abraham's prayer because ten righteous people could not be found, but the principle upon which Abraham urged his petition was granted. Intercessory prayer will finally bring our souls to a position of repose, in which we can resign to God's will. Then we should leave the whole matter there, as Abraham did. We know that Jesus prayed three times saying, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass. Nevertheless, Father, not my will, but Thine be done." Surely this is an example such as Abraham's. Elijah prayed seven times for rain and his faith took in an abundance of rain when he saw a cloud as big as a man's hand. (1 Kings 18:41-46.) Intercessory prayer moves God on His throne.

The righteous are the "salt of the earth." God will spare the worst of communities for the sake of the righteous. This truth is very humiliating to the enemies of the righteous, but it is true, nevertheless. Abraham's deep concern and burden



for the wicked is an example for us. We need to plead for the ungodly person as long as we know he has not sinned against the Holy Ghost. "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death . . . there is a sin not unto death." 1 John 5:16-18.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The outstanding thought we encounter in studying the lesson is the object and pattern of Abraham's concern. Sodom and Gomorrah were no doubt wealthy cities for the revelry and wickedness they were engaging in is not usually found among people who have to fight hard for a living. Prosperity seems to lend itself favorably to the propagation of evil. Folks who are well off have a tendency to feel secure without the Lord, for they trust in their riches. A generation or two later finds a people who have little or no regard for the Lord for they have not known Him in any personal relationship, and so of course, they abandon themselves to the things riches provide, such as pride, lust, envy, etc.

Abraham's concern was not for the wealth of the place, but rather for the souls involved. Whatever of material goods would be destroyed was of no consequence or concern to him, for he realized that it is the soul that endures forever, and He was immediately concerned about that. We of today will do well to realize that it is only the souls of men that God is willing to salvage out of this globe upon which we live. All else will be consumed by His wrath and judgment fire. He is willing to save all who will to be saved, and destroy all who refuse His offer.

Notice for a moment the pattern of Abraham's concern. The number started high and progressively dwindled downward as he proceeded. The closer the approach to impending destruction, the fewer the number he pled for. Oh, fellow laborer, what a lesson this holds for you and me! We know the end is near and awful destruction is at hand. Are we also willing to labor and plead the more earnestly for just a few to be saved? May God help us!

—C. W. Wilson

## QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Abraham told about the visit of the angels to Sodom?
2. Note and discuss the attitudes Abraham had toward God, such as humility, etc.
3. Name some other Bible characters who were examples of intercessory prayer.
4. Can we command God to do anything? If not, how are we to resist the devil and his workings that we see?
5. How are we the "salt of the earth"?
6. When are we to cease praying?

## PREVAILING PRAYER

To prevail means to gain the victory, and to prevail in prayer is to "pray through" as some express it—to be an overcomer. It is to get hold of the promises of God, and with unwavering faith, claim them as your own, not merely hoping that some time you will gain the victory, but exercising faith that brings the victory now.

It does not always necessarily require a long continuous supplication and battle in order to gain advantage over the power of Satan. Sometimes a few words, accompanied by definite faith, will rout the enemy or bring about the desire of the heart. However, when it becomes necessary to prolong the petitions and earnest supplications, do not give up the struggle, but take courage by what others have accomplished by prevailing upon the Lord at times when the responsibilities were great and failure means disaster.

A few years ago, while at a campmeeting in Louisiana, one Sunday a few of the ministers were invited to take dinner at the home of a brother, which was only a few steps from the campground. While there, a boy of about twelve years of age, who was the son of the brother we were visiting, fell several feet from the end of a porch, striking his head and shoulders on the hard ground. He was taken up in seemingly lifeless condition and was carried into the house. As soon as he was placed upon a cot, seeing that he was still alive, we gathered around for prayer. Several prayers were offered, but there seemed to be no change for the better. News of the accident was soon spread throughout the camp, and people gathered to witness the scene. A physician, who was in attendance at the meeting that day, being a friend of one of the ministers, and knowing that those present believed in faith and prayer, offered to come and examine the child without further interference in the case. He was permitted to do so, and found that the boy had received a concussion of the brain and was paralyzed. He pricked the child's body in several places with pins, but there was no flinching. He stated that there was no hope for the boy, and that should he live, he would be a paralytic and cripple for life. Brother R. H. Owens, the minister who had principal charge of the meeting, went with me into a grove near by to pray. There we earnestly plead with the Lord to know His will regarding the restoration of this child. In much earnestness we prayed, and finally said that if he was alive when we returned, we would take it for granted that it was the will of God to heal him. Upon our return to the house, we found him in the same condition as when we left. Again we laid our hands on him and prayed,

expecting that he would be raised up within a very short time, but he continued in the same condition. This was beyond our understanding, yet we believed that God would in some way raise him up that He might get glory out of it. Soon the people from the campground began passing through the house as they would to view a corpse, until almost everyone on the grounds had seen him in his critical condition. He was not able to move any part of his body. When it became time for the evening service, we left the room, believing that God would yet glorify His name. As services were begun, earnest prayers were offered by the church, then for a short time there was a song service. That evening, as I arose before a large audience, and after reading a few texts of Scripture, began the presentation of a message on faith and confidence in God; in walked the boy who had suffered the accident, and, with a smiling countenance, took a seat in the back of the pulpit. He was made every whit whole. This was truly a time of great rejoicing, and had a wonderful effect upon the people, nearly all of whom had seen him while he lay helpless upon the cot. We could then understand why the Lord did not immediately restore him. It was His will that the people of that country, who had been opposing the truth on divine healing, should themselves witness a manifestation of His power.

—E. E. Byrum from "The Secret of Salvation"

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January 24, 1971

### KEEP THYSELF PURE

1 Tim. 4:12; 5:22b; 2 Pet. 2:7b, 8; Gen. 19:1-11; Rom. 1:28

1 Tim. 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.

1 Tim. 5:22b Neither be partakers of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

2 Pet. 2:7b Just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

Gen. 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even: and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

3 And he pressed upon them greatly and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. (Deeds against the use of nature.)

6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

9 And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

Rom. 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.

**Memory Verse:** Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. Titus 1:15.

**Central Thought:** God loves the sinner, but He hates impurity of mind, body, and soul. A nation full of Sodom-

ifes will be punished if they do not repent.

**Word Definition:** The words "pressed" used by Lot and the wicked men of Sodom in the Hebrew "implies an earnestness . . . amounting almost to violence." "Know them" is "a well-known euphemism for a foul crime which derives its name from this infamous place." —Hom. Com.

**Purity** means "being pure; specifically from adulterating matter, cleanness; freed from sin; innocence; chastity."

### LESSON BACKGROUND

While the Lord talked to Abraham and he pled for the righteous ones in Sodom, the two angels, looking like men, went on to the city of Sodom.

The customs of the Orient were that a guest in a home was to be defended, even if to the point of giving one's own life. In the great pressure Lot did not seem to be master of his words in offering his virtuous daughters, yet he possibly knew they did not want them because their wicked desires were of the most vile intentions. He was wanting to stall them off some way. A polluted atmosphere is dangerous to the most righteous. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Cor. 15:33.

Our lesson today is touchy for open discussions, yet all of us recognize that we are living in the day of the same evils all around us and we must face it with knowledge so we can take a stand against all evil and be informed so we can warn others.

**Lesson References:** Lev. 18:22-25; Rom. 1:24-27; Isa. 3:9; Jude 7; Judges 19:22-24; Luke 17:28-30.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The mind is the gateway to the heart and actions. The Apostle Paul has instructed us what to think on. He said, "What so ever things are pure . . . think on these things." (Phil. 4:8) God has created these bodies for a pure and holy purpose. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (Heb. 13:4) Evil people have corrupted themselves and misused their bodies to their own destruction. The beginning of this misuse comes from evil thoughts. There are some people who can't seem to talk decently, let alone think pure thoughts. You should not keep company with people like this. Love their souls, but hate with a perfect hatred evil and impurity. Dirty jokes and degrading talk should never be listened to. That kind of talk hangs an ugly picture upon the walls of

your mind that is hard to take down. "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks, For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, . . . hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." Eph. 5:4, 5. "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." (Eph. 5:12) We are to feed on pure things in our minds and our conversation.

Our lesson brings out the wicked intentions of the people of Sodom. Notice that the aged were not restraining the young, but were leading them on in their course of evil. When the young of a nation become defiled, that nation is doomed for destruction. Today the elders are seemingly determined to turn loose all restrictions upon morals in literature, and even desiring to teach it to our children in school. The spirit behind this is to break down the morals of our children and young people which will bring swift destruction to our nation as it did to Sodom and Gomorrah. I have seen some of the material they want to offer and it is evil, yet they try to hide it under education. We need to pray more about these things. We are glad for the recent report that our president and some of the senators are against pornography. This is an answer to prayer and our nation might be spared a little while longer if more will take a stand against it. Young people, as well as the elders, need to fight with a vehement desire for God's purity to work in your mind, soul, life, and body. Only the holy and pure will make it into heaven. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The memory verse stands out as the high point of the lesson. Notice what effect the condition of the heart has upon the conditions surrounding an individual. To those who are pure in heart, all of God's creation is viewed with awe and admiration and they worship Him with pure hearts for all His mighty and wondrous works. The sea and sky, the fields and mountains, the streams and trees, the living creatures, all are the handiwork of God and give glory to God accordingly. Even to our own anatomy, there is nothing degrading or defiling about the way we are made, it is part of God's handiwork, too. The defilement comes when we disregard God's rules that He gave for us to follow in regard to the matter. Some things He declared to be sacred and instructed us to be shame-faced and discreet about, and taught us to keep our bodies covered. Pure minds obey God's instruction and refuse to allow the enemy to make something vile out of what God created sacred and holy.

Oh, how it grieves our hearts to be around those who have impure minds and to witness the way they will twist things around so as to make something filthy out of what could have been casual conversation. There seems to be no qualm of conscience at all in their frivolity, making us know that mind and conscience are both alike defiled. How sad! Bro. D. A. Gibson's advice on how to receive a smutty story was simply, "with a straight face." Pure Christians find no amusements in ridicule of what God created sacred and holy. —C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. What virtues are the young as well as the old to display? 2. How can a person keep pure in mind and actions? 3. Should we, as Lot, be "vexed" with the evil around us? 4. Discuss the nations of the past who have gone into heathenism and compare the downward trend in our country. 5. Will God help those who will stand for righteousness and purity?

### CORRUPTION IS ABOUNDING

Oct. 15, 1970, "The Daily Oklahoman"—New York (AP)—The miniskirt, fighting against the moguls of fashion, has met another opponent; an efficiency expert accused it of reducing office worker efficiency by some 15 per cent.

"The miniskirt has had a disastrous effect on employee output," said Robert E. Nolan, a vice president of Serge A. Birn Co., a Louisville, Ky., management consulting firm.

The male office worker spends at least one full hour a day observing the lower half of the miniskirted female torso as it winds its way to the water cooler or filing cabinet, Nolan said in an interview. [Read Matt. 5:28.]

Nolan, who was in New York for a convention of efficiency experts, said he based his analysis on some 1,500 observations of male employees in four insurance companies and one bank.

He estimated that the "normal, healthy American male" experiences at least 10 or 11 such distractions an hour, which reduces his work day by about 15 per cent.

To remedy the situation, Nolan recommends that clients either insist on longer skirts or change office layout so that all desks face walls and file drawers open toward walls only.

God in the heart is the remedy.

### TOUGHER LAWS URGED IN FIGHT AGAINST SMUT

Oct. 25, 1970, Washington (AP)—President Nixon described as morally bankrupt and totally rejected Saturday the conclusions and major recommendations of a commission that urged lifting many curbs against pornography aimed at adults.

Far from embracing that recommendation of the National Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, Nixon called for increased restrictions, saying in a statement:

"Smut should not be simply contained at its present level; it should be outlawed in every state in the union. And the legislatures and courts at every level of American government should act in unison to achieve that goal."

The commission, appointed at the request of Congress during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, made public its disputed report Sept. 30.

"I have evaluated that report and categorically reject its morally bankrupt conclusions and its major recommendations," said Nixon. "So long as I am in the White House, there will be no relaxation of the national effort to control and eliminate smut from our national life."

The presidential commission, discounting harmful effects often attributed to the distribution of pornography, urged repeal of curbs on such material where adults are concerned, although calling for continued restrictions where younger persons are involved.

"In an open society," said Nixon, "this proposal is untenable. If the level of filth rises in the adult community, the young people in our society cannot help but also be inundated . . ."

Arguing that pornography can corrupt civilization, Nixon said: "The warped and brutal portrayal of sex in books, plays, and magazines and movies, if not halted and reversed, could poison the well springs of American Western culture and civilization.

"The pollution of our culture, the pollution of our civilization with smut and filth is as serious a situation for the American people as the pollution of our once-pure air and water."

Rejecting the thesis that dissemination of pornography among adults has no lasting harmful effect, the President said:

"If that were true, it must also be true that great books, great paintings and great plays have no ennobling effect on a man's conduct. Centuries of civilization and 10 minutes of common sense tell us otherwise . . .

"American morality is not to be trifled with, the Commission on Pornography and Obscenity has performed a disservice, and I totally reject its report."

The chief executive said he is "well aware of the importance of protecting free expression," but continued:

"Pornography is to freedom of expression what anarchy is to liberty; as free men willingly restrain a measure of their freedom to prevent anarchy, so must we draw the line against pornography to protect freedom of expression."



He said the Supreme Court long has held "that obscenity is not within the area of protected speech or press . . .

"Moreover, if an attitude of permissiveness were to be adopted regarding pornography, this would contribute to an atmosphere condoning anarchy in every field—and would increase the threat to our social order as well as to our moral principles."

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January 31, 1971

### LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

Genesis 19:13-19, 22-26, 28, 29b; Luke 18:28-30, 32

Gen. 19:13 For we [two angels] 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.

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

28 And he [Abraham] looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29b God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities.

Luke 18:28 (Jesus said) Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

**Memory Verse:** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. 2 Pet. 2:9.

**Central Thought:** The world is the city of destruction, and we must separate ourselves from it or we cannot be saved.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34. The sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were great and God destroyed them but saved the righteous, just as he saved Noah and his family. The heinous crimes and the vilest forms of sensuality were prevalent in Sodom and Gomorrah. History shows us that the fall of great nations has been brought about by their own corruption. Jesus spoke about the Israelites' ungodliness and said, "Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers." Matt. 23:32. There seems to be a certain measure of sins or capacity that wicked nations must fill before God's great judgments come upon them. History makes us know that the Canaanites as a nation were pun-

ished by God. God took the land of Canaan from the people because they were filled with sin. God told Abraham that "in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." Gen. 15:15. Let us "cry aloud and spare not." Let us pray for our nation as we see it going deeper in sin and farther away from God. Today, on a scale never before known in history, greed, brutality, beastliness, and criminal instincts are manifested by people and it does not require much imagination to see the end we are heading for.

Ancient writers have had the thought that these two cities were buried beneath the Dead Sea. Recently some who have investigated the regions closely observed that evidence of a great population ended abruptly about 2000 B. C. At the southeast corner of the Dead Sea there were great quantities of potsherds, flints, and other remains dating between 2500 B. C. and 2000 B. C.

"Slime" mentioned in Gen. 14:10 was bitumen, asphalt, pitch, a lustrous black petroleum product, which melts and burns. On both sides of the Dead Sea there is much of this and at the bottom of the Sea. "Brimstone" (19:24) "Kyle said that under Mt. Usdom there is a stratum of salt 150 feet thick; and above it a stratum of marl mingled with free sulphur; and that at the proper time God kindled the gases; a great explosion took place; the salt and the sulphur were thrown into the heavens red hot, so that it did literally rain fire and brimstone from heaven. Lot's wife was encrusted in salt. There are pillars of salt at the south end of the Dead Sea."

Lesson References: Gal. 3:1; 4:9; 1 Tim. 1:14; Eph. 2:4, 5.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God is calling for you and me to escape for our lives. We are living in a world that is abounding with sin, but as the Apostle Paul has told us that "grace doth much more abound." (Rom. 5:20) If it were not for the "magnified" mercy of God toward us as He showed it to Lot, we would never make heaven our home. God will take us by the hand and lead us if we will let Him. Through God sending His Son to live, die, and arise again for our salvation, we can have mercy, grace, and power through the Holy Spirit to live acceptably in the sight of God in the midst of wickedness. Not many today are willing to leave the world. They are as those of Lot's loved ones whom he tried to warn. His warning had no effect upon them. All things around them were as they had been. They loved the ways of least resistance and sensual pleasures. This teaches us the tremendous power of evil. Many love darkness rather than

light. But we who are in the kingdom of light know that God requires us not to partake of the spirit of the world. We must escape for our eternal life. We must "lay hold on eternal life." (1 Tim. 6:12) We must "fight the good fight of faith." We must be willing for a separation. We must leave all to follow Jesus. We can't look back. We must keep our eyes upon Jesus who said He was not of the world, and run for our lives. "Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." Heb. 10:38, 39. We must not be like Lot's wife. She looked back. We must leave all to follow Jesus.

Are we not living in the last days? Isn't wickedness abounding more and more as it was in the days of Sodom? Jesus has warned us that He will come when the cup of iniquity is full in the world. Jesus said, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." Luke 17:33. "Remember Lot's wife." M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The offer to escape the impending destruction was first offered to all the people of the city. Upon their refusal to accept, a special plea was made to relatives and loved ones who were involved in the wickedness about them. When this plea was refused, preparation was immediately made for the evacuation of those who were to be spared. It is a sad fact that all who started did not reach the realm of safety. Here is a sobering thought: If one more chance had been granted to "flee this city" five minutes after the fire and brimstone started falling, all would have certainly been ready and willing to obey the call! Why are men so hard to convince? How is it that so few are willing to believe? World population is increasing at alarming rates, and fewer and fewer willing to seek the Lord! How long, O Lord! how long until your great wisdom says, "it is enough," and the whole thing be brought to a close?

It seems that the appeal from the saints is and has been for some little while now directed toward our relatives and loved one—folks who are acquainted with the truth and know what salvation is, but few, oh! so few are willing to turn and be saved.

Jesus will appear one of these days before long, not as a mediator and a Saviour, but as a judge. Whatever preparation is made toward that appearing must be made before it transpires, for no opportunity will be given then. Multitudes will be willing to pray when they see Him coming, but it will

be too late! Today is the day of salvation, behold, NOW is the accepted time.

—C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God's judgments, though deserved, tarry long for Sodom? 2. Do people of today believe the warnings of a final destruction of this world? 3. How can we compare Lot and his wife in leaving Sodom to our leaving all for Christ's sake? 4. Is it dangerous after once having tasted of God's love, to turn back? 5. Is Youth the time for earnest, steady advancement, without looking back? Compare Lot's wife and daughters in their leaving the doomed city.

### FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness loosed the chain that sin was binding

About my soul to cast it into hell.

Oh, wondrous word from heaven that came ringing

Such joy no human tongue could ever tell!

A debt of sin I owed my Lord and Master—

I had transgressed against His holy will.

I did not have the means to pay my ransom,

And so my soul must be consigned to hell!

But Love looked down in pity on my problem,

And Mercy recognized my state in sin.

Great Wisdom knew that I was poor and helpless,

And did not have the price to pay for sin.

"But I can well afford to make your payment,"

Cried One whose love for me was strong and true.

"If you will turn to me in true repentance,

The debt you owe for sin I'll pay for you."

I quickly gave my heart in sweet submission,

"Have mercy on my soul," I cried to Him.

The debt I owed He'd paid upon Mount Calvary,

His all-atoning blood was shed for sin.

He turned upon my cruel, binding master,

And with these words He broke the awful spell—

"This is My child that's come in faith repenting,

And I forgive, his soul is saved from hell!"

—C. W. Wilson

## **YOUNG ADDICT FOUND TOO LATE HE COULDN'T HANDLE IT**

The last years of Jeff's life was a time of deep torment for his parents. He became very thin, couldn't sleep nights, and had little interest in anything. Like thousands of other parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stewart agonized over their inability to understand why their child turned to drugs.

"Yes, we knew he was taking drugs, but we didn't know what to do," Mr. Stewart said. "Last summer he was in a hospital's psychiatric unit, but they discharged him after a week. That was after he took LSD."

Ann Stewart, a small gray-haired woman whose sunshine yellow dress did little to relieve her grief, broke in to say: "On the way home from the hospital he said he wished he were a little boy again so he could start life over. He told me he wished he'd never started taking drugs. The problem is he wanted to stop, but he thought he could do it himself. We tried to get him into Dutchess County Health Center, but he wouldn't go. 'I can handle it myself,' he said."

Born in Rome, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1952, Jeff moved to Hopewell Junction nine years ago with his family.

The Stewarts said their son was a handsome boy, about 6 feet 1—"if only he didn't have that long hair." They said he was about a B student "when he wanted to study," interested in music and art.

"We used to ask him why he took drugs and the only answer we ever got was, 'I like them,' " Mr. Stewart said.

"I guess he started to lose his incentive about two years ago. His grades slipped. He dropped out of school. He started going around with different friends. Up until then, he used to go to church. Before he died, he told us he prayed that he'd made his peace with God."

Most of Jeff's friends said they, too, experiment with drugs. Some said they "smoke" marijuana and "drop acid" (LSD) regularly.

One of Jeff's friends explained why he likes drugs: "You see people who aren't there, and they're colored, man, like pink, lavender, and lime—and you're talking to them, like me and you are talking and your imagination is working overtime doing flip-flops—now don't that beat sitting here on the curb looking at the fire hydrant?"

On Saturday night, Aug. 22, Jeff and a friend went to the clubhouse, apparently planning to share some "downers."

The next morning at about 9:30, two youths are reported to have stopped by. They found Jeff stretched out on the floor, dead, his buddy asleep beside him.

One youth said, "What does Jeff's death mean to me? Well, some kids will probably stop dropping flippies for a while. I mean, you got to watch that stuff and know what you're getting so you don't take some with too much rat poison in it."

—Sunday Oklahoman Newspaper

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February 7, 1971

## **ANALOGY BETWEEN BIRTHS OF JESUS AND ISAAC**

**Gen. 17:19; 21:2, 5-7; Matt. 1:1, 2a, 21; Luke 1:32, 35, 46, 47; Luke 2:11, 20; Matthew 8:11**

Gen. 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.

21:2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age.

Matt. 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2a Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob;

21 And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

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:

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord.

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Matt. 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.

**Memory Verse:** And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:29

**Central Thought:** Throughout the history of Abraham's family, God was working out His way to bring His "only begotten Son" Jesus Christ into the world.

**Word Definition:** **Analogy:** comparing of something point by point with something else. —Webster's dictionary.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

After the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, Abraham left Mamre. He dwelt for a short time at Kadesh and then in Gerar. Sarah was taken here by King Abimelech, but God rebuked him for it and he gave her back to Abraham. This is the second time she had been taken. Abraham prayed for Abimelech and the people and God healed them of the disease they had for the sin they committed.

In studying our lesson today we desire that you take into consideration the following comparisons of the births of Isaac and Jesus: 1. Both births were announced long before they came to pass. 2. Both occurred at the time fixed by God. 3. Both persons were named before their births. 4. Both births were supernatural. 5. Both births were the occasions of great joy. 6. Both births are associated with the life beyond.

The main purpose of having our lesson on these points is to establish the fact that Jesus is the "promised seed" of Abraham "through whom all the nations will be blessed" by receiving the opportunity to be saved from their sins and accept salvation. Today we rejoice because we are living in the gospel age, the day that God promised would come through Abraham's family.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Isaac was born thirty years after the call of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4) after his parents had lived for sixty years in a fruitless marriage union. At the call of Abraham God promised



him that through his children Jesus would be born. Thus both the births of Jesus and Isaac were announced years before they came to pass. The date of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, also was prophesied by Daniel. (Dan. 19:24-26.) "Seventy prophetic weeks are 490 years. The re-establishment of the theocracy began 13 years before the rebuilding of Jerusalem, 457 B. C. This number subtracted from 490 years will give 33 years, to be reckoned from the commencement of the Christian era. Thus the Messiah was to be cut off in the middle of the last week. All this is now a matter of history." —Hom. Com. Jesus was crucified at the age of 33. He was born in the year Daniel prophesied, and was "cut off" as foretold. Isaac was born "at the set time of which God had spoken." God never lies, but keeps His promises.

Each was named by Divine command. Both births were supernatural and in a miraculous manner. Today many would like to discredit the fact that God was the Father of Jesus Christ, but we want to impress upon the minds of our young people that this is a fact, and it makes our salvation perfect through Jesus Christ, who was born without the inherent sin nature, which comes down through Adam on the father's side.

Notice the joy of Sarah on the birth of her son. Her song has been called the first cradle hymn. Her joy was beyond expectation, yet she was filled with wonder at the miracle that had been performed. Such is our joy when we see the miracles that God does for us and the gifts He gives us. "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes." She laughed with joy, confident that others who knew about it would rejoice with her. "All . . . will laugh with me." Today we rejoice with her because through Isaac, Jesus, the Saviour of the world came, and we can be partakers of salvation. Just as these two births were miracles, just so our spiritual birth is a miracle. We are "born again" and become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

Some day when our toiling is over here and we are called to our eternal home, we will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Christ forever. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is without question a recognizable parallel between not only Isaac and Jesus, but also between many of the old Patriarchs and Christ. Moses and his works were without a doubt a fitting representation of Christ and His works. Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt just as Christ leads souls out of the bondage of sin. David and his exploits beautifully typifies the conquering power of the Christ and His gospel. Many, many more can be called to mind, and a parallel recog-

nized, all of which points out to us the greatness and the magnitude of God. It has been a matter of wonderment just how much the writers of old were able to comprehend of their own writing. Paul said that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." Things written and even preached under the inspiration of the Almighty would not necessarily be understood by the vessel being used. Bro. H. M. Riggle in his book, "Pioneer Evangelism" wrote thus on page 52: "I opened my Bible, and with stammering tongue read the text. That instant it seemed the windows of heaven were opened, and the Holy Spirit fell upon me. My mouth was opened, my tongue unloosed, and I was changed into another man. For more than one hour the truth went forth like thunder-peals . . . My wife afterwards told me that the language used was most eloquent." He seems to have little recollection of what he actually said and testifies that, "it was the Holy Ghost using the vocal organs to please Himself."

The writers of old were conscious of nothing but their own lives as they met them from day to day. I seriously doubt they discerned the future much more than you and I do today. We who have lived since the fulfillment can look back and readily find the parallel for we have both the beginning and the end to view. But God who is from everlasting to everlasting and who knows the end from the beginning designed and carried out the entire process that we might be convinced of Him and believe. I wonder, I wonder how much of what we have before us now will have application and find more complete fulfillment somewhere ahead! —C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. How are Jesus and Isaac children of faith and promise?
2. Was the old Bible written before Jesus was born or after? As Scriptures were fulfilled then, will they also be fulfilled today?
3. Compare the occasions of joy associated with both births and what they mean to us today.
4. Both births were supernatural. When we are "born again" or become children of God, is that a supernatural spiritual birth?
5. What does Jesus say about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

### MY CLOSET

Within the silent walls of secret chamber,  
Secluded from the din and stir without,  
With girded mind and heart to seek His splendor,  
The wonders of His grace to learn about.

He meets me there and woos me by His Spirit—  
Such waves of ecstasy no tongue can tell!  
My being thrills, my heart goes out in worship—  
I hear Him whisper, "Peace, my child, 'tis well!"

With heavenly atmosphere my soul is bounded!  
His presence seems to almost fill the air  
With sacred holy fellowship surrounded  
Until I almost see His face so fair.

What bliss to feel Him fold me to His bosom  
And smooth the wrinkles from my troubled brow!  
My problems look so small when He has spoken;  
The waves that rolled so high are nothing now.

I rest in peace, contented in His presence—  
Such consolation man has never known.  
The wonder of His blessing is resplendent!  
What must it be around the great white throne?

With laggard feet I leave my secret chamber.  
I hesitate to break the heavenly spell.  
But duty calls, and life must still continue—  
Refreshed in soul, I know that all is well.

Some day, when toil of earth has all been ended,  
And time has come for ties to severed be,  
Please let me enter once again my chamber  
And there come face to face, my Lord, with Thee.

—C. W. Wilson

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February 14, 1971

## ALLEGORY OF FREEDOM AND BONDAGE

Genesis 21:8-13; Gal. 4:22-31

Gen. 21:8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.

Gal. 4:22 (Paul wrote) For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

**Memory Verse:** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Gal. 5:1.

**Central Thought:** Those who are saved are children of promise and are free from sin. We are heirs and joint heirs with Christ but while in this world will be persecuted by the worldly minded, or children of bondage.

**Word Definition:** Allegory signifies a "thing that is representative of another." In this case it is the literal being representative of a spiritual meaning.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We are noticing in our studies of the Old Bible that it links up with the New Testament teachings. It is important to have a good knowledge of the Old Bible.

Our lessons in Genesis were written by Moses as were all of the first five books. Our lesson in Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to the Galatian church who wanted to cling to some of the Mosaic law teachings and incorporate it in with the teachings of Christ and the Christian church. Paul wanted to point out that by so doing they would bring themselves back under bondage to circumcision and a lot of oppressive rituals, which they could not keep, and therefore live under fear of the pronounced curse.

Ishmael was fourteen years old when Isaac was born.

One thought we should remember is that we are children of Abraham through the coming of the promised Saviour, Jesus Christ. God gave the law to Moses, which the Bible says, was "our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." Now, that Christ has come, we no longer need the schoolmaster, which was the law of Moses.

Mt. Sinai is where God gave Moses the law.

Hagar was Sarah's maid, whom she had given to Abraham, who bore him a son named Ishmael. But God gave Sarah and Abraham a child of promise which was a miracle in their old age. Therefore through Isaac, Jesus came to the world. He was the child of promise through the freewoman. Hagar's children are of the bondwoman. The children of Jesus of the freewoman are free from the bondage of sin. The children of the bondwoman are under the bondage of sin. The children of promise are the spiritual offspring of the Messiah, the seed of Abraham. They are persecuted by the children of the world who are under the bondage of sin.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The comparisons in our lesson in allegorical manner are Ishmael and Isaac, Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion, Jerusalem which now is and Jerusalem which is above, the flesh and the spirit, the law and the gospel, sin which is bondage of Satan and freedom which comes through Christ.

Thank God for the New Jerusalem which came down from God out of Heaven and is the Mother of us all. (Rev. 21:2) She brought freedom to us through the promised Child, Jesus

Christ. We are no longer under bondage of sin and the flesh, but have been set free through believing on Jesus Christ as our Saviour and forsaking the ways of the world. We are a separate people and are filled with the Spirit of God. We no longer live in harmony with those who are under bondage. We are heirs and joint heirs with Christ because the power of bondage has been broken and we are children of promise. We are in Mt. Zion, the Church of God. We no longer live under the laws given on Mt. Sinai which could not forgive sins nor make those who obeyed them perfect. They had to have an offering made again and again by the blood of bulls and goats for their sins. But Jesus made an offering once and for all for sin by His own blood.

Today there are many more children of the desolate or the bondwoman than there are of the freewoman who hath an husband. Those children of the bondwoman, or of the desolate and of the flesh, are today persecuting those who are born after the Spirit and are children of promise. Jesus said, "And the servant abideth not in the house forever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed . . . Ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you." (John 8:35-37) They sought to kill Jesus and they will persecute us today because God's Word does not have any place in them.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What a beautiful, beautiful picture this lesson presents to the child of God today! The promise was to Abraham's seed. God's design from the beginning was one man for one woman, they two becoming one flesh. It would take that completeness of union to produce Abraham's true seed. Thus we see that no one else but Sarah would be able to deliver to him his true seed as long as she was alive, for no one else was one with him. To present to him a handmaid could be nothing else but the work of the flesh and of course it was not eligible to receive the benefits of the promise. Study reveals that Hagar rose up against Sarah, her mistress, feeling no doubt that since she had borne Abraham's child, she must be at least equal with or perhaps even above Sarah. But not so! Only Sarah by virtue of marital vow was one with Abraham, and that position could not be set aside. God stepped in and with His power honored the virtue of marital oneness that He had designed and brought it to fruition abnormally, thus producing one eligible to inherit the promise. The child of the bondwoman came first, and was older by several years than the child of promise.

Now, let us make some comparisons. Paul applied the relationship to the two covenants, Mt. Sinai referring to the

old Mosaic law and determined that it "gendereth to bondage." The bondage involved was none other than that of sin. Now we can see how this included not only the old Jewish nation, but every other nation as well. At its very best, the old law was not able to deliver from the power of sin and so was not eligible to take a place equal with nor above the gospel. It was a literal law given to a fleshly-minded people and it had to fall in subjection to the gospel, just as Hagar did before Sarah. This is what Christ was teaching when He told the Jews, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Paul said, "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all." It is this "second child," the gospel dispensation, that inherited the promise and brought to all flesh the freedom and liberty of deliverance from all sin to whosoever wills to humble his heart and be saved. The Holy Ghost himself came into oneness with the purity of virginity and produced an offspring eligible to be called the Son of God. Upon this true Son was bestowed all the abundance of God's promise and that Son made the estate of sonship available to all men. Praise God! —C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why would you think Ishmael's mocking had a deeper meaning than just jest or light fun? Would verse 30 substantiate Sarah's feelings as being from God? 2. Discuss the points of allegorical interpretation between bondage and freedom, Mt. Zion and Mt. Sinai, spirit and flesh. 3. How can this apply today to us who are saved and feel the separation in the spirit from the world? 4. Discuss why the new Jerusalem, which is the church and spirit of Christ, came down from above. (Rev. 21:2)

### WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

"The law of truth was in his mouth" Mal. 2:6.

When George Washington was sixteen years of age he was appointed public surveyor. Lord Fairfax sent him to measure and map out his large estate in Virginia. It was a new country filled with Indians and wild beasts. There was a great deal of danger connected with it, but Lord Fairfax knew that he could trust the lad. George might have said, "I'm here where no one can see me. Why should I risk my life? I'll just stay near the edge of the wilderness and draw a map as I think it ought to be. Nobody will ever know the difference, and I'll get my pay just the same." But he didn't do that.

He took a companion with him and tramped all over the land. He had exciting times and almost lost his life, but he

did his work so well that some years ago, when Government men were re-surveying the land, they found that George Washington's measurements were absolutely correct.

Lord Fairfax knew that he could trust George and was not disappointed. I wonder if people know that we are truthful?

He was also very fond of horses. His mother had a beautiful colt, which was very wild. One day he rode the colt, and in trying to throw his rider the animal fell over backward, broke a blood vessel and died. George went into the house and told his mother all about it, and didn't try to defend himself at all.

At another time a liveryman offered to give a fine horse to anyone who could ride him to the next town and back without being thrown. George mounted and rode away and soon came back still on the animal. The man said, "The horse is yours," but Washington refused, saying that he had been thrown once and had remounted.

Some young people are afraid to tell the truth at times because they dread the consequences. We should tell the truth, no matter what happens. Falsehoods may appear to help us for a while, but the truth will come to light some day. What will happen then?

A certain firm bought a large quantity of damaged beans. They put them into barrels and put a layer of the finest beans on top, and marked each barrel, "First Class Beans."

They employed a young man to work for them who said to the manager, "Do you think it is right to mark them that way?" The manager said, "Do you think you are the head of this firm? It is none of your affair, all you have to do is to sell these beans."

Soon a customer came in who wanted to buy several hundred barrels. The low price surprised him and made him suspect that something was wrong. He asked to see the beans. The clerk was ordered to take him to the warehouse. While there the buyer said, "Are these beans as good at the bottom as they are at the top?" The young man said to himself, "Shall I lie for the firm or shall I tell the truth?—I'll tell the truth no matter what happens." He replied, "No, sir, they are not."

The man did not buy, and as soon as he had departed, the manager, who had heard the conversation, said to the clerk, "Here is your pay, we don't want a man like you."

He lost his job but he told the truth and his conscience was clear. A few weeks after the same manager sent for him and begged him to come back at a larger salary, for he realized that the young man could be trusted and that the business would be safe in his hands.



The Bible advises us to tell the truth. "Let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay." We should say what we mean and mean what we say. That made Washington great. That is why the Colonies trusted him with the first presidency, and that is why he became the father of his country. —Sel.

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February 21, 1971

## GOD OPENED HER EYES

Gen. 21:14-21; John 4:14; Luke 24:31, 32, 45

Gen. 21:14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

16 And she went and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice and wept.

17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.

18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.

19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

John 4:14 (Jesus said) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him [Jesus]; and he vanished out of their sight.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart

burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

**Memory Verse:** And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see. Luke 10:23.

**Central Thought:** Our souls are blessed and nourished, not by the creation of new facts and truths, but by opening our eyes to see those already given.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

We must not think of Abraham acting in a cruel and unkind manner in sending Hagar and her son away. We must acknowledge that he acted under Divine command, yet it was painful to him. God's plan was that the lineage of His chosen people through whom He was to bring Jesus was from Abraham and Isaac. We note that Hagar had been a slave, but by this act, she and her son obtained their freedom. Hagar and her son were not excluded from the Covenant nor excluded from visiting Abraham's house. (Gen. 25:9) In those days it was not hard for one to find a livelihood in the course of such a journey.

In Gen. 26:16 we see that Ishmael chose to live in the wilderness and in time to come his tribe became a bandit band, which are the Bedouin Arabs of today. (Gen. 25:12-18)

Ishmael was 14 years old when Isaac was born and according to some historians, Ishmael was judged to be about 17 when he was sent away, with his mother, from Abraham's house.

**Lesson References:** Num. 22:31; 2 Kings 6:17, 2 Kings 13:4, 23

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our lesson we see a mother and her son who have come to the end of their own solutions to their problems and seemingly were facing death. Both were thoroughly humbled and in despair. They had not conducted themselves in a way so they could continue to dwell in Abraham's house. But even though they had sinned, God still loved them. How often we see people adding sin to sin, habit to habits, grudge to grudges, hate to hatred, and wandering on in the wilderness of sin. They are lost, but yet, on they go, looking for something to satisfy them. Not far from them is the help they need, but their eyes are blinded by sin and deception. God calls to them in

various ways, but they do not listen. How sad! Not far from Hagar and her son was a well of water, but they did not see it. Not far from the sinner who is dying of thirst for his inner being to be satisfied is that fountain opened in the house of God. That fountain is eternal life. There they can plunge in and be washed clean and pure and live. There is power in the blood of Jesus to dry their tears and wipe away their despair. But lo! we see them still sitting there weeping in despair. God is calling, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," but they do not hear. They need their eyes opened so they can see and understand that God's way is best. Many take dope and drink a little more to drown their fears, despair and distress, but when the effect wears off they are still in the same condition. Oh! dear ones, if you are in this condition, let God open your eyes. Let God help you to understand that He has everything your soul is longing for. There is a well of water for you to drink of where you will never thirst again. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I see in this lesson a stark and glaring example of the futility and hopelessness and despair of clinging to something that must give way to the reality of divine truth. All man-made, fleshly-initiated systems of religion must ultimately bow down and acknowledge that only the truth in all its purity and completeness will be eligible to inherit the promise. They may wander on and find sufficient moisture to keep alive for a while, but what a meager existence! Those poor souls who are born into these systems soon find themselves wandering in a wilderness, spiritually, and their mother marries them off down in Egypt where there is bondage. They soon find themselves companions of much false teaching and darkness. What a sad and lamentable condition for the noblest of God's creation to abide in. His plea and command is to "come out of her my people, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you." If you have tasted a little of the water of life down there and found it sweet to your soul, then turn to Him with all your heart and let Him place within you "a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." Cut loose from all false teaching and join yourself by perpetual vow unto the lover of your soul. Let Him be your provider, protector, healer, shelter, and comfort, yea, your all in all. Become one with Him by allowing His holy Spirit to flow into your soul and thus you will receive of His likeness and be transformed into His image. Oh! Lord, reach down from heaven and cause honest hearts to perceive where the well-spring from on High is, and help them to find their way to it and plunge in. No need

to be satisfied with a nearby well, there is available to everyone a fountain opened that will satisfy to the utmost the yearning of every honest soul. Won't you come? —C. W. Wilson

## QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss Abraham's feelings and reasonings for sending Hagar and Ishmael away. 2. What advantage did Hagar and Ishmael gain through leaving? 3. Compare Hagar and Ishmael coming to the end of their way and wandering in the wilderness to one in sin. 4. Discuss the advantages in being born again and living for God. 5. Explain the background of the disciples as they walked along with Jesus on the road to Emmaus that day. (Luke 24:13-32)

## FURNACE OF AFFLICTION

Isaiah 48:10

Tears flowed freely down the cheeks of the young girl as she listened to the song, "Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!" Quietly, she left her seat and hurried to an altar of prayer. Her aching heart prayed to God as she told Him of her sins and the need she felt of forgiveness. "Feeling better," she arose to face the coming days. Her heart hoped to rejoice; but, another day brought fears and heartache. Day after day, conviction troubled her young heart. The things God spoke to her about, it seemed everyone else was doing; even the preacher and his wife saw no harm in them. When she prayed at the altar, no one helped her see there was something more than just "feeling better." No one spoke of praying clear through, and she did not realize her restless life was because of conviction.

Years passed, and the young girl grew into womanhood. This sense of needing God lingered in her heart through those years. Shortly she met a fine young man, whom she loved, and they were married one beautiful fall day. Life seemed to bloom with new beauty and new joy in her happy married life. But, how faithful the Spirit was. Amidst all her joy of companionship, yet buried in her heart, was a vacant spot. Soon she was blessed with the joy of giving birth to a beautiful baby boy. Oh! the joy of that day when her arms enfolded him close to her heart. Her baby! Her joy! The little bundle of love drew the young couple even closer together.

As a young girl, her mother had taught her many good morals. These things she kept hid in her heart and practiced them daily to mold a happy home. Her mother had taught her to cook and keep a clean home, to teach her child manners,

to be kind and thoughtful to others, and to keep the door of her mouth at all times—because it takes two to make a quarrel. All this and much more she had obeyed and she had what seemed to be happiness.

Their baby grew to be a healthy boy. Often she would sing to him before bed time, "No one ever cared for me like Jesus, there's no other friend so kind and true, no one else could take the sin and darkness from me, O how much He cares for you." As she sang, tears again ran down her cheeks. Oh! that longing was there again, yes, the same feeling that she had felt that night years ago at the altar. Quietly she put the tired boy to bed—kissed him tenderly and slipped away to her room. She was troubled in the night, but soon she fell asleep. She had a dream and saw her boy in a little blue casket. Oh! the fear, the tears. Surely not her boy, her joy, her happiness. Days passed and the Bible became dearer to her. She searched the Scripture, yet failed to reach out and realize that God was trying so faithfully to reach her: this she could not grasp.

Closer and closer, she kept the boy to her. Fears now filled her heart. What if Jesus did call him home? How could she go on?

The sun shone brightly that day, but the fears in her heart were causing her body to become sick and frail. The boy was kind to his mother and loved her tenderly, as she loved him. Always, he tried to please her. To keep her from going to the mail box, he asked if he could get the mail for her. Tenderly she watched him, his little shoulders growing broader. Just think, he'll go to school in three months. Time has surely passed. Her thoughts wandered on. Soon his happy face looked back to her from the road and he called, "A letter from Grandma, Mommie." And then! a car struck her precious boy. There he lay on the hot road; he was gone, gone. Oh! the tears, the sadness, and grief that filled the young mother's heart. It had happened; he was gone. Her first thoughts, "I must see him again, I must!" The neighbors were kind. The flowers that surrounded his little blue casket were beautiful. But, Oh! that empty spot in her heart grew so big. Then it was time to lower him into Mother Earth. The sad, weeping mother laid her hand upon his little, cold, lifeless hand; and, God tenderly embraced her in her sorrow as she promised, "Son, by God's grace, Mommie will meet you again some sweet day."

The home seemed vacant now, but soon her longing heart began to reach higher and deeper into God's tender heart. The feeling of fear began to grow dimmer, and one day the poor broken-hearted mother shut herself alone in her room,

and she began to pray. Yes, prayed as she did years ago, when they sang, "Just As I Am." But this time it didn't matter what the preacher did. It didn't matter if others could live in sin and profess. This time she was reaching through to a brighter world; she was reaching the throne of God. With outstretched hands she saw Him; she felt His sweet presence, and yes, that longing was fulfilled. Her sins were gone, a new day was born; a new heart was open to God. He gave her the assurance of forgiveness; He gave her assurance of seeing her boy again. He wiped the tears of sorrow away. Peace was hers after all these years. What a price it was to pay because she had failed to turn to God sooner! But what a faithful Saviour to woo her to Himself. No cost is too great—no, not even to give her son, as He gave His that souls may be saved.

What if we gain the whole world and lose our soul? Are you unhappy today, dear heart? Does your heart feel lonely, afraid? Will you come to Him while He pleads with you? Remember, many have been brought home to God as a chosen vessel; and, a good work of grace has been begun in the furnace of affliction.

—Sister M. J.

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### Lesson 9, February 28, 1971

## SIMPLE OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSINGS

### Genesis 22:1-14, 16-18

Gen. 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.

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 tell thee of.

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.

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

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.

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.

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?

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

9 And they came to the place where 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.

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

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

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.

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.

14 And Abraham called the name of the place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.

16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies:

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

**Memory Verse:** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? James 2:21.

**Central Thought:** The most distinguished of God's servants are often subjected to the greatest trials.

**Word Definition:** "We do not understand the word 'tempt' in the unfavorable sense in which it is used of Satan. The meaning is that God proved the faith and obedience by putting them to a severe test. The teachings of this account is to be the judge of the issue." —Hom. Com.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Abimelech and Abraham made peace in Beersheba and Abraham planted a grove there. Truly Abraham was content to be just a pilgrim and stranger on the earth. He did not have a permanent place—his home was elsewhere. This is an image of the Church in the midst of the world. It behooves those who belong to God to remember that this world is not their true home, and they should not let their minds and hearts rest here. We are traveling to our eternal home.

Mt. Moriah was 42 miles distance from where Abraham dwelt in Beersheba. "Mt. Moriah is the elevation on which Solomon built the temple, where God appeared to David 'in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' It is the eastern eminence of Jerusalem, separated from Mt. Zion by the Tyrophoneon valley. The top was levelled by Solomon, and immense walls were built around it from the base to enlarge the level surface for the temple area. A tradition which first appears in a definite shape in Josephus (the historian) and is now almost universally accepted, asserts that the 'Mt. Moriah' of the Chronicles is identical with the 'mountain' in the 'land of Moriah' of Genesis, and that the spot on which Jehovah appeared to David, and on which the temple was built, was the very spot Abraham took Isaac to be sacrificed." —Smith's Bible Dictionary.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Every parent or even a young person can surely understand the feelings of Abraham as he took his son of promise in his old age up to the hill to keep the commandment of God. The distress that filled his heart is almost indescribable. God had even reminded Abraham that Isaac was "thine only son," and the one "whom thou lovest." We can understand fully his feelings at the command that Isaac was to die at his own hand. But Abraham was a great man. He had obeyed God's commands before. His faith had been tried many times. The first trial was when he left his father's home at the call of God. When God looked upon him he could say, "Here am I" in the



land of Canaan where you told me to go. He was found faithful, doing the right, when he had to part with Lot, and he suffered another trial at the thought of Lot and his family perishing in Sodom. He was found doing what God commanded him to do, although deeply grieved when he had to send Hagar and his son, Ishmael, away. When he was looked upon by God in each successive trial, God heard him say, "Here am I" obeying your command. Abraham was outwardly a prosperous man, and yet what a life of trials and struggles he had to endure. Now in our lesson today it was "after these things" (verse 1) that God put him to another severe test.

When God called to Abraham he answered, without fear, "Here am I." Ready to obey. Ready to listen with humble submission. When he left the young men who had gone with him we hear him say, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." What faith! He did not know how it would come to pass, but God had promised that through Isaac the promised Messiah would come. But on they went in obedience to the command of God.

Now we find Abraham with Isaac bound and his knife raised when God calls again. This is the part that touches the very deepest part of our emotions. Again we hear obedient Abraham saying, "Here am I." Here he was found by God, doing what he had told him to do. Have you ever been living an obedient life, with humility and great sacrifice, when your whole devotion has been misunderstood? Even through temptation you might want to quit, give up the fight, but you hold steady. When God calls you, can you say, with Abraham, "Here am I" obeying even though you don't understand all that touches your life or that you are called upon to do? Dear faithful one, God will say to you as He did to Abraham, "Because thou hast done this thing, I will bless you and make you a blessing."

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Obedience:** the act or habit of obeying; compliance with a command; prohibition or known law and rule prescribed; submission to authority.

Abraham's conduct in the circumstances of the lesson has passed on to us a classic example of submission to Divine authority. Along with it comes a better understanding of what God expects and requires of each of us. Abraham was going in obedience to God's command to offer a sacrifice. 1 Sam. 15:22 says, "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." Abraham's obedience rendered the sacrifice unnecessary.

Let us get hold of something here. A sacrifice in this sense is made to atone for some form of wrongdoing. Complete obedience would have not allowed the wrongdoing in the first place. Without any wrong done, no sacrifice would be needed to correct it. Certainly the Lord would be much better pleased with us obeying to the point where we did not offend than for us to carelessly blunder along until we become offensive and then have to go through all the performance necessary to correct it. Wrongs need to be corrected, and we are obligated to do that, but we are also obligated to do all we possibly can to avoid the need for correction. Many hearts have been wounded and bruised, crushed and shattered by someone's wrongdoing, all of which could have been avoided if all had obeyed. Apologize? Fine. Forgiveness asked? Necessary. But the fact still stands out in bold face appeal—prevention is better than cure; obedience is better than sacrifice. Regardless of how eloquently an apology is made and how humbly a forgiveness is asked, it is still basically and essentially a patch to cover a break. Better for the break never to have been made. The fat of rams was a rich sacrifice, but the Lord would much rather we have no need for a sacrifice.

—C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. Name some of the severe trials Abraham went through before he was tested by the one in our lesson. 2. What did he prove by his perfect obedience? 3. If God should call upon each of us today would He find us doing what He asked us to do? Name some of the commands of God to us. 4. Can we obey God even if His requirements cross every depth of emotion that we have and can we be willing for self to be crucified? 5. What blessings came from this perfect obedience and what will be our blessings in perfect obedience?

### A BOTTLE OF TEARS

(Written from a true story)

A happy young bride came to her new home,  
In love there to reign like a queen on a throne;  
But not far away the bar-keeper smiled,  
Her darling was soon deep in sin so defiled.  
He left her alone on the cold, darkest nights,  
While he spent his time in drinking and fights.  
Then one day they carried him to his own door,  
The one that she loved now lay dead on the floor.

The sweet baby girl for Daddy then cried,  
The mother said, "Why could we not all have died?"  
They laid him to sleep 'neath his favorite tree,  
A wreath of wild flowers read, "From Baby and Me."  
The bar-keeper sent a short message one morn,  
It said, "All the farm, the mules, and the corn  
Belong now to me, for a mortgage I hold."  
The mother wept so, such a sadness of soul.

A dish that she loved was catching her tears,  
With no one to share all her sorrow and fears,  
She poured all the tears in a bottle of blue,  
To the bar-keeper wrote, saying, "This is for you.  
My happiness gone by your own greedy heart,  
My darling was slain while you played a part,  
The sorrow and hunger all through the past years,  
You'll find it all here in this bottle of tears.

"Each thing in our home is yours now you say,  
The dress that I wore on my own wedding day,  
I've cherished the memories all through the years,  
You'll find it all here in this bottle of tears.  
You ask for the key now to our little home,  
While we are turned out in sadness to roam,  
The widow, the orphan that you've made this way,  
Will meet you again on that great Judgment Day."

—Eva Mae Withaus

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March 7, 1971

### THOU HAST APPOINTED

Gen. 24:1-4; 2 Cor. 6:14; Gen. 24:10b, 11-21

Gen. 24:1 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant [Eliezer, chapter 15:2] of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

3 And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

2 Cor. 6:14 (Paul writes) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Gen. 24:10b And he [Eliezer] arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahob.

11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.

12 And he said, O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: Let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.

18 And she said, Drink, my lord; and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.

20 And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for his camels.

21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.

Memory Verse: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6.

**Central Thought:** The will and design of God should be the ultimate aim of our desires and prayers.

**Word Definition:** Appointed means one ordained; named; arranged or furnished; to set.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Sarah was 127 years old when she died. Abraham bought a cave in the field of Machpelah before Mamre in the land of Canaan and buried her.

Abraham had been told that his brother, Nahor, had eight children. (Gen. 22:23)

In Gen. 15:2 Eliezer of Damascus is mentioned. He now had been with Abraham for 54 years and had been a faithful steward of all Abraham had.

Remember God had promised to give Abraham and his family after him the land of Canaan but not until the Canaanites had sinned to the point of punishment. Then the land would be taken from them. Abraham saw the increasing wickedness from generation to generation.

**Lesson References:** 1 Cor. 7:10-15; Rom. 7:2, 3.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Eliezer was a faithful servant and Abraham was greatly blessed to have a man whom he could trust to take care of one of the most important duties of his life—that of getting a wife for his son. He did not want him to take one of the Canaanite daughters, as they were idol worshippers and did not worship the true and living God. How important it is to make the right choice in marriage! This is one of the most important matters of prayer that our young people can pray about, as well as older ones who feel the need of a companion. Much suffering has come from making a mistake in choosing a companion. Notice the prayer that Eliezer prayed. He wanted “she that thou has appointed.” What a perfect example for each young person to follow in praying for a companion. The Bible tells us to marry “only in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 7:39) We are not to be “unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” If you are, it is just a fleshly union, but the perfect union is a union to be fleshly as well as spiritually yoked together.

Divorce is prevalent in the world today. We must cry out against this trend. When you marry, it is for life, for “better or worse.” God’s grace is sufficient if your marriage comes to worse. “If it be possible, as much as it lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” (Rom. 12:18) Sometimes you

might have to be willing to be walked on, so to speak, but if it brings peace, be willing.

Adultery is the head of the catalog of sins. (Gal. 5:19-21) In our day and age the world is full of this wicked spirit. It will be the cause of the fall of our nation. We must cry out against it. One preacher said that it is so terrible that every message preached should expose this wicked spirit. Keep yourself clean and pure and love holiness. God has grace for you.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

According to the Word of God, no man is fully complete within himself. If he were then he needed nothing else, helpmate, or whatever. But God looked and recognized that "it was not good for man to be alone" and so from man's own side God took material from which He produced a woman. Talk about plastic surgery, here was the Master at work, and it makes man's efforts look pale in comparison. But the thought we wish to dwell upon is that a part of the man went into the making of the woman and in return the man and woman together were to become one flesh. One woman was all it took to make the man complete and that was all God designed that he should have. He was not to become "one flesh" with any other woman, just that one.

The sacred vow that is exchanged before the Lord between two, a woman and a man, is the link that God accepts which binds them to become one with each other so long as both live. Folks say, "I don't believe the Lord was ever in my marriage in the first place and so I am not obligated to stay." But wait. The Lord may not have willed that you marry the one you did, and would have prevented it if He could, but when you went on and gave your vow anyway, God honored that vow then, still does now, and always will. You are not eligible to become one with anyone else so long as that one lives. Oh, how important it is that folks give careful consideration to the choosing of their life's companion! You are not complete alone, neither of you, but will this one you are now considering be able or suitable to make you completely whole? Will you be able in uniting, to make them complete? Marriage is not two separate lives continuing in two separate pursuits, but rather two separate lives being cast aside and two individuals being blended together in the bond of holy love to live one combined life. You who are familiar with the truth and know what it means to be saved, how can you ever become one with the disbelieving? You cannot complete his life in his pursuits, nor can he complete your life in your worship of God. Though you be not saved now, if you expect to be some day, better

seek out someone who also knows and will perhaps also turn and serve the Lord. Better still, both of you give your hearts to the Lord in earnest before you even start looking for companionship. Then He can lead you until there will be no mistake.

—C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss why Abraham did not want a Canaanitish woman to marry his son. 2. Why does God teach that those who are saved should marry saved ones? 3. Discuss Eliezer's prayer and how quickly it was answered. 4. Discuss the womanly virtues that Rebekah manifested that made her attractive. 5. What would be the beginning of the hideous sin of adultery?

### BIBLE TEACHINGS ON COURTING

Saved young women ought never to marry unsaved men. 2 Cor. 6:14. They should refuse to be yoked to any companion who refuses the yoke of Christ. Let a young woman observe how a professing Christian friend treats and respects his mother. If he is kind and attentive to her, he probably will be also to the needs of a wife. Is he a good worker and able to support a wife and family? Wrong tendencies and debased morals are handed on to the third and fourth generation (Ex. 20:5), but goodness and its results are everlasting. Young people should take plenty of time to become well acquainted. True love will keep a long time. It kept fourteen years for Jacob before he gained Rachel for his wife.

It is better never to marry (1 Cor. 7:34, 35) than to disobey God's Word and marry an unbeliever. Those who enter the unequal yoke may find their home one from which the shadows will never be lifted. Sin separates from God and disobedience interferes with God's close supervision and protection. Young men and women should study Samson's married life experiences (Judges 14 and 16) and observe the results of not marrying in the Lord.

A girl should know that after marriage she will be under the law of her husband. Gen. 3:16b; 1 Cor. 11:3. She should choose a man whom she loves and respects enough to be willing to submit her will to his.

### PETTING

We find no examples in the Bible for Christian boys and girls to indulge in kissing and hugging before they are married, and those who do so may suffer bad moral and physical results. Many a girl has lost her virtue and health as a result of letting young men kiss and caress her. And, however in-

nocent it may seem, a kiss between a man and woman is never sexless and always constitutes an intermediate step between desire and possession, so those who indulge in petting are at a dangerous practice. Promiscuous petting is liable to prove more or less damaging to subsequent affection and respect after marriage.

If a Christian young woman finds that the young man to whom she has given a date makes improper advances, she should tell him that she is reserving such favors for the one who shall become her husband.

There is a time to embrace (Eccl. 3:5) and that is when a young man has become her husband and she is his bride.

### **PURITY AND POWER**

Until Christ gets control of the minds of young men, many have a tendency to use profanity and to tell dirty stories. God's Word forbids Christians indulging in filthiness of speech and in foolish talking. Eph. 5:4; 4:29.

God speaks to young men and women today just as surely as He did to young Timothy, telling them to flee youthful lusts. 2 Tim. 2:22. This term includes all irregular and sensual desires, lustful cravings and passions. Eccl 7:25, 26.

All the records of lewdness and impurity recorded in the Bible were put there for our learning (Rom. 15:4) upon whom the ends of the world are come, to warn us not to do as they did. 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Let young men practice the Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12) and do unto other men's sisters and daughters as they wish done unto their own. Would they be willing for other men to treat their sisters and have the same thoughts and desires toward them that they have toward someone else's sister? Or, some day when they shall have daughters, would they be willing for young men to use them as they use the girls they call upon?

True, there are many forward girls today. If a girl seems to lack modesty and to encourage familiarities by wishing to be hugged and kissed, it may be well not to date her again, for she probably has behaved the same with other men. Young men and women should, while young in life, grasp the ideal of purity and master virtue. Each must decide between the high way or the low. These choices, made according to the set of the will, determine which way the life shall go.

Two extremes tempt youth. One is to live hilariously in dissipation, and the other is to become sophisticated through vain pursuits which leave out Christ. Morality is not enough. Spirituality which comes from salvation through Christ is imperative. Worldly conformity is spiritual adultery. James 4:4.



The iniquity of Sodom was pride, luxury, idleness, and a lack of mercy and purity. Psa. 74:20, Prov. 4:14-18.

Christian young people who remember their Creator have a responsibility before the world of youth who are ignorant of God's truth and righteousness. Amos 8:11-13. May the Lord help them in their tasks and give them joy and peace in accomplishments according to God's will. —W. R. Hofrichter

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**March 14, 1971**

## **THANKFULLY RECOGNIZING GOD'S LEADINGS**

**Gen. 24:22-27; Psa. 32:8-11; Gen. 24:28-32a**

Gen. 24:22 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold:

23 And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?

24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor.

25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.

26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord.

27 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren.

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

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Gen. 24:28 And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things.

29- And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

30- And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

31- And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the Lord; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

32a- And the man came into the house:

**Memory Verse:** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Rom. 8:14.

**Central Thought:** God's people should take no steps without first praying over the matter, nor receive any blessings without rendering thanksgiving and praise to God.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Abraham's servant, Eliezer, was sent to find a bride for Isaac in Mesopotamia.

Rebekah was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother, Nahor. Laban was her brother.

The giving to Rebekah of gold to wear is in direct opposition to our instructions in this New Testament dispensation. We read in 1 Tim. 2:9 that godly women are not to adorn themselves with "gold or pearls or costly array" and also in 1 Pet. 3:3, 4, which tells us that we are not to put on outward adornment "of wearing of gold . . . but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." But remember those that lived in that day did not have God's written Word to go by as we do today nor did they have understanding through the Holy Spirit, nor grace. It was a different dispensation. This was a custom since she was to be the daughter of Abraham whom God had chosen for a new lineage to bring Jesus to the world. Rebekah was to be the daughter of a prince.

**Lesson References:** Psa. 9:9-11; Phil. 4:6; Isa. 48:17.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The giving of thanks is like a magnetic power which draws blessings and love down from God into our souls. God, in the

beginning created us for His glory. He wanted communion with us. God loves to bless us so we can give unto Him thanksgiving. Could it be true that God has to let us have some dire troubles and then deliver us out of them before we can truly offer unto Him those deepest thanksgivings from our heart? How often it is true, that after a victory or deliverance we truly thank and praise our Lord with tears of joy, which are more than just words but come from the depths of our souls.

Notice in Luke 7:35 that Jesus combines "the unthankful" and "the evil." Those who are evil do not feel any praises in their souls for God. Abraham's servant was faithful to follow the leadings of the Spirit of God. What a precious thought he expresses in his prayer of thanksgiving when he says, "I being in the way, the Lord led me." He was going the way that God led him. He went slowly and carefully. He was not hard to lead. He recognized his great dependence upon the Lord and sought His guidance. He was willing to be led. He did not have it all planned out that he would go to Abraham's family and present the case to them and let them point out a girl, but he wanted God to direct in this. We should not be, as our lesson tells us, like the mule or horse that does not have any understanding of God nor how He will lead us, but we want to be so gentle and easy to guide that God can guide us with his eye. When I was a child and any of us children got out of order in front of company, my mother only had to give us one of those looks which meant that we straighten up or we would receive the consequences after company left. She guided us with her eye. I am sure Peter never forgot that look from Jesus when he had denied Him three times. (Luke 22:60-62) That look was no doubt full of grief. It touched Peter's heart and he went out and wept bitterly. He repented. He was guided by Jesus' eye. Through severe temptation he had fallen, but he did not let his heart become hardened. He rushed to God for forgiveness and help.

Let us go God's way and with a tender heart which is easily touched by the gentle touch of God which will come to us through His Word or through those strong impressions that agree with His Word.

—Sis. Marie Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Here is the key to the beginning of spiritual downfall. Read Deut. 6:10-13, 8:10-20. When we as real true Christians commit our lives, our will, our all into His hands and He begins to lead and direct our lives, it is inevitable that we will begin to prosper. His wisdom knows how to guide us around those pitfalls and snares that others fall into and consequently

we are able to progress more rapidly. His way is a straight and narrow way that leads from earth to glory and only by following Him are we able to remain in it. If human endeavor were sufficient to elevate us to and keep us upon this way, we needed no Saviour. Suppose, after having attained to salvation and having lived a victorious life for some time we begin to tolerate the idea that it was our own alert mind and capabilities that allowed us to progress as we have. Right there is the foundation for our downfall! If our Christian experiences are the result of our own capabilities, then the need to honor God for them becomes obsolete and so we begin to "cool off" in our relationship with Him. We become sufficient within ourselves and peculiar as it may seem our activity in the "Lord's work" begins to speed up. We begin to find more and more things that need to be done and less and less need to seek the Lord for what He would have us do! Our lives become full of works but void of His will. See Matt. 7:21.

How much more satisfactory is the example of the lesson where God's help is needed, sought, received, and then appreciated and acknowledged. Christian friend, let us never lose sight of the fact that we are nothing, absolutely nothing, without Him, and let us honor and praise and adore Him with all our hearts, recognizing that without Him we perish. C. Wilson

#### QUESTIONS:

1. Is the wearing of gold in direct opposition to the teachings of the New Testament? 2. Whose daughter was Rebekah? Who was her brother? 3. Discuss the meaning and how it applies spiritually to us today the part of the servant's prayer which says, "I being in the way, the Lord led me." 3. Discuss the way horses are led in comparison to the look Jesus gave Peter or the look from a mother in correcting her child and God's way of guiding us. 4. What two people in our lesson fulfilled the saying, "Joyful feet make haste"? 5. What does thanksgiving unto God do for us and how often should we thank Him?

#### WORTH TRYING

She was a woman whose life had been lived in difficult places; sickness, disaster, loneliness, poverty—she knew them well. Yet there was no shadow in face or voice, only gladness in the gift of life and a beautiful and self-forgetting sympathy for the joys and sorrows of others. One day a friend asked her about it.

"How do you keep so bright? I have not half so hard a life as yours yet I am fighting the blues all the time. You must have a happy temperament to help you."

The woman with the "happy temperament" smiled.

"On the contrary," she said, "I was born with a very unhappy temperament, and all through my childhood was discontented and miserable. Finally the day I was ten years old, mother had a long talk with me. She told me that unless I cured myself of my gloominess, I should ruin my whole life, not only growing constantly more wretched myself, but making all those about me miserable, and in time destroying my health. Then she made me promise that every morning as long as I lived, I would spend ten minutes thanking God for blessings He had given me. It was hard at first, very hard, but mother helped me, and after a while it grew into a habit; I began to look forward to my early thanksgiving, and before I knew it the blessings far overbrimmed the ten minutes; and now—why, I should no more think of missing my morning thanksgiving than of going without my breakfast. Sometimes I think that promise to my mother when I was ten years old was the most important thing in my life." —Sel.

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March 21, 1971

### FAITH MEETS FAITH

Gen. 24:33-35a, 36, 40, 49, 50, 58-60, 63-67; Matt. 19:6b, 9

Gen. 24:33 And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on.

34 And he said, I am Abraham's servant.

35a And the Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great:

36 And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.

40 And he said unto me, The Lord before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:

49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.

58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.

59 And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.

60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant said, It is my master; therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Matt. 19:6b (Jesus said) What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

**Memory Verse:** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6.

**Central Thought:** As meditation and prayer are the right improvement of mercies past, so they are the best preparative for mercies yet expected.

**Word Definition:** Meditate means to hold converse with one's own thoughts prompted by events of past or God's Spirit enlarging to our minds His thoughts and ways.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Before Abraham's servant would eat he related how God had guided him to Rebekah. And in his telling about Abraham we are sure there was much more told than is in our text. No doubt he told what we have already studied about what had happened in Abraham's life. He convinced Rebekah's father, mother, and brother that she was indeed to become a member of an important family because of God's having chosen Abraham's lineage to be His chosen people. They said, "The thing proceedeth from the Lord."

This was a primeval marriage. We see in it simplicity, purity, godliness, love, prayer, trust, and faith.

It would be well for someone to read aloud the whole text in Gen. 24:33-67, which includes the verses we chose for our printed lesson.

In Bible times in the betrothal the girl is called the man's wife from the time she consents to be his wife, but he takes her to himself after marriage. During this time if she is untrue, he can put her away.

Deborah was the name of Rebekah's nurse. (Gen. 35:8) She died before Rebekah, and was taken care of in love.

Lesson References: Mark 12:11; Psa. 119:15.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Faith is a wonderful possession. Every person in this world faces many problems and has many decisions to make. There are those lingering problems that would bring many anxious fears if it were not for faith. It takes faith to step out on the promises of God and faith to move in the direction that we are assured that He is leading. It takes faith to go forward with a heart that is resting and trusting in a God that never fails.

Our lesson is full of faith meeting faith. Abraham's servant had faith in God. When he told Bethuel, Rebekah's father, Laban, her brother, and Nahor, her grandfather how God had led him, he met faith in them. They said, "This thing proceedeth from God." When Rebekah was asked to go, she had faith to believe God would go with her. She was like Abraham, and was one of the children of faith. Like him she obeyed what she believed to be the voice of God, and went out, not knowing whither she went. She followed the guidance of a man who was charged to carry out the divine purpose. She had faith in God's messenger.

It was a tiresome journey for Rebekah, but it was to receive a good husband. Traveling through this life, we need faith in

God to take us to the end of the journey. If we suffer with Christ and for Him, we will "be glorified together with him," (Rom. 8:17) when our marriage shall be consummated. Heaven will pay for all. We are riding, maybe on a tottering camel through the heat and may face many hardships, but what a joyous thought that it is being done to be crowned.

What a meeting on that calm summer's night! It is faith meeting faith. Isaac was in meditation and prayer. Important interests were pending. Maybe he thought about his father taking him up the mountain side that day in the past when he had asked his father where the sacrifice was, and the answer, "The Lord will provide." His faith in this mission no doubt was prompted by his father's answer that day. Isaac with faith was meditative and meek. Rebekah was coming, by faith, very venturesome and brave. Faith brought them together and love sealed their union. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We as Christians today have been given an important and responsible position. Committed unto us as His servants is the command to go and "say to them that were bidden, come; for all things are now ready." (See Luke 14:16-24.) The purpose was "that my house may be filled." Isaac of old was seeking someone to fill his house, just as Christ is seeking souls who will yield to Him today. The servant Abraham sent went out in the strength and wisdom of the Lord to perform his duty faithfully for his master. He was upright in all his dealings, straightforward and honest in presentation of his purpose and faithful to his responsibilities before his master. But above that, and most important of all, he sought and obtained the help and guidance of the Lord. All of this put together so completely won the confidence of the whole family until they were willing to allow their loved one to go with this stranger, and she was willing to go.

Oh, may the Lord help us as His messengers to be able to so present our cause and plead our case before those bidden with such earnest sincerity and honesty of purpose and faith in God until they will be willing to yield themselves to Him and come help fill His house. God has faith in people that if they can once see Him as He really is, they will desire to come and be united to Him. Our approach to them must somehow convince that He is all they have ever fancied and more and well worthy of their vow to become His very own. If they can believe in Him, He already believes in them and they who believe can be saved—faith meeting faith. Fellow laborer,



there is still room at Father's table for many, many more. Let us not be weary, but be busy doing all we can to rescue perishing souls for Him.

—C. W. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:

1. Can you mention some things in the past of Abraham's life besides riches that the Lord had blessed him with that the servant could have told Rebekah's family? 2. When God's will is made clear, what is one to do? 3. Tell about the faith the servant of Abraham had, also Rebekah and her family. 4. When did faith meet again in two people? 5. How was Rebekah to be the mother of thousands of millions? 6. What can break the marriage that God seals?

### BETROTHAL IN BIBLE TIMES

The choice of the bride devolved not on the bridegroom himself, but on his relations or on a friend deputed by the bridegroom for this purpose. . . . The selection of the bride was followed by the espousal, which was a formal proceeding undertaken by a friend or legal representative on the part of the bridegroom and by the parents on the part of the bride; it was confirmed by oaths, and accompanied with presents to the bride. The act of betrothal was celebrated by a feast, and among the more modern Jews it is the custom in some parts for the bridegroom to place a ring on the bride's finger. The ring was regarded among the Hebrews as a token of fidelity (Gen. 41:42) and of adoption into a family. Luke 15:22. Between the betrothal and the marriage an interval elapsed, varying from a few days in the patriarchal age (Gen. 24:55) to a full year for virgins and a month for widows in later times. During this period the bride-elect lived with her friends, and all communication between herself and her future husband was carried on through the medium of a friend deputed for the purpose, termed the "friend of the bridegroom." John 3:29. She was now virtually regarded as the wife of her future husband; hence faithlessness on her part was punishable with death (Deut. 22:23, 24) the husband having, however, the option of "putting her away." (Deut. 24:1; Matt. 1:19.) The essence of the marriage ceremony consisted in the removal of the bride from her father's house to that of the bridegroom or his father.

—Smith's Bible Dictionary

**March 28, 1971**

**ABRAHAM DIES IN THE FAITH**

**Gen. 25:7-9a, 10, 11; Heb. 11:9a, 10-16; Gal. 3:7-9**

Gen. 25:7 And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.

8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

9a And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field.

10 The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.

11 And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi.

Heb. 11:9a By faith he [Abraham] sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their

God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Gal. 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**Memory Verse:** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were to be dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor. 5:1.

**Central Thought:** The Bible says that we are children of Abraham if we are in the faith. Then let us act, think, and live as pilgrims and strangers journeying to our eternal home.

**Word Definition:** Abraham being "full of years" would mean that he was satisfied with his experiences in life and ready to depart.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Abraham survived Sarah 38 years and Isaac's marriage 35 years.

Abraham married Keturah and she bore him six sons. Before he died he gave all of his children gifts and sent them away from Isaac his son to live. Isaac alone was the son of promise and to whom the land of Canaan was promised and to his lineage through whom Jesus Christ was to come to the world.

Our lesson printed from Galatians was written by Apostle Paul to the Galatian church. Hebrews was written to the Hebrews or Jews. We notice that the Apostle Paul points us back to Abraham, a man of faith instead of the law of Moses.

Remember that Abraham had the gospel preached to him through the promise made to him of a Saviour to come through his lineage. Because his faith took this in, it was imputed or accounted to him for righteousness before God. Even if the promises were "afar off" he was justified through faith, by looking forward to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the remissions of sins. He believed them, embraced them and confessed. We are justified through faith as he was, which is accounted or imputed to us for righteousness, by looking back to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Read Romans 4:21-25.

—M. Miles

**Lesson References:** Acts 13:36; Rom. 4:19; Phil. 3:20; John 8:56; Heb. 13:14; Rev. 2:10-27.

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Abraham, the father of the faithful, a venerable patriarch, died after having sojourned as a stranger and pilgrim in the land of Canaan, which was the land of promise. Abraham was called of God to leave his home and family and go to a land that he knew not. He began his wanderings in the land of Canaan. During a famine we find him going to Egypt. He returned to Canaan, and there parted with Lot, his best earthly friend. God found him with an honest devotion and love for Him, through the trial of asking him to offer Isaac, the dearest object of his heart, as a sacrifice. When Sarah died, he was startled to find he did not own a foot of ground to make his wife a grave. Thus throughout his life he was a pilgrim. This is a lesson for us. We are on our way to our eternal home. We are not setting our affections on things of this earth. Material things will perish and friends or loved ones will forsake and disappoint us. We are going to our eternal home that will last forever and are setting our affections upon Christ, the lover of our souls. He will never forsake nor disappoint us. (Matt. 19:27) We are on our journey and are strangers to those of this world. Our spirits do not blend and our aims and ambitions in life are not the same. We are misunderstood by them, but blessed of God. If we build here in this life we are building too low. We need to realize that we must have heavenly wisdom and divine guidance in this life that will take us to that eternal city.

Age has dignity only when the person has lived a life for God and is filled with a hope of immortality. By our spiritual diligence we become "right toward God" and not by any claim derived from the honours of life. Every day should be filled with holy feelings and deeds. We should not look back to the world of sinful pleasures from whence we came but ever press onward to that city prepared for us by God, eternal in the heavens.

"Life's more than breath and the quick round of blood;

"Tis a great spirit and a busy heart.

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on the dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs.

He most lives, who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best." —Festus.

We, the children of God, are in a city, traveling to an eternal city. When we are "born again" we are no more

strangers to God's people. Eph. 2:18-22. We are no more pilgrims because "ye are come . . . unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem," which is the church of God "to the spirits of just men made perfect," who are sanctified people. (Heb. 12:22.) But to the world we are strangers and are pilgrims on our way to our eternal home. —M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Here is the crowning feature of our entire walk with the Lord. Memory will look back over the life and loved ones left behind will remember its high points and good deeds. Some will remember some things and some others, but so far as the individual himself is concerned, to die in the faith was the purpose and aim for it all. It is impossible to die in the faith without possessing faith. To have once been in the faith and then lost out will not answer before the Lord; it must be a present active experience on hand at the moment of departure to be recognized of the Lord.

Since no man knows at what day or hour he will be called upon to meet the Lord, it is only wisdom to be ready at any day or hour for that event. Any practice performed regularly over a long period of time will become somewhat automatic. Believing God works the same way and when practiced for many years the force of its own momentum will carry on into the sunset years. God's grace is sufficient, that is true and folks can enter the vineyard at the eleventh hour and be saved, but a lifetime spent for God will not lose any of its reward. Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. —C. W. Wilson

## QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the meaning of the phrase that Abraham was "gathered to his people." 2. Would Sarah's faith mentioned in verse 11 be an example for us today in believing God's promises? 3. What comparison can we make of Abraham and God's children today being pilgrims and strangers? 4. How can we be mindful of worldly things and return after them? 5. How are we children of Abraham?

## "ROCK 'N ROLL?"

"The term 'rock and roll' has a sexual connotation—rock-in' 'n rollin' originally meant fornicating. But the word 'jazz' once a verb, meant the same thing." —Fidelity Mag. Nov. 1967. In November 1968, this same magazine stated: "The music business is a whore. It will make and market any-

thing whatsoever that it thinks will sell, as witness its processing of propaganda for drug use. It does very little for purposes of honor. It does what its public, particularly its young public, wants it to do."

Can we not understand the reason 25,000 to 30,000 young people came to what is termed a "Rock Festival" held in Cincinnati? Does it not also make us know that evil is openly displayed and the very foundation of the purity of our nation is crumbling? Our young people are the future generation to carry on our government. At this Festival the papers declared that thousands of dollars damage was done, besides a number of young people being arrested and several of the 250 policemen were injured. Fornication was prevalent.

We are not against our young people. We love them, but we see many of them blindly being controlled by a wrong spirit. Many are led under its influence very slyly. They do not mean to do wrong, but soon they are caught in the spirit of evil and then they can't get out. We feel it wise to forewarn all our young people to be wise and be aware. It would be wise to eliminate all of the "rock" music from your listening. Mike Quatro, who is a leading producer of "rock" says that the heavy music now in style "motivates you internally gives you a sensual feeling. A girl can be turned on by the music." I believe if you are forewarned, you are forearmed.

Those who are saved and desire to please the Lord want to live clean and pure lives, not only outwardly, but have clean minds with pure and holy desires. They will bring their bodies under subjection to the holy principles of the Word of God. We appreciate such people deeply. They would not want to listen to such songs as "Let's Spend the Night Together," "I Wanna See and Hear Everything," etc. May God give sufficient grace to our young people today to be courageous and stand firm for right.

—M. Miles



