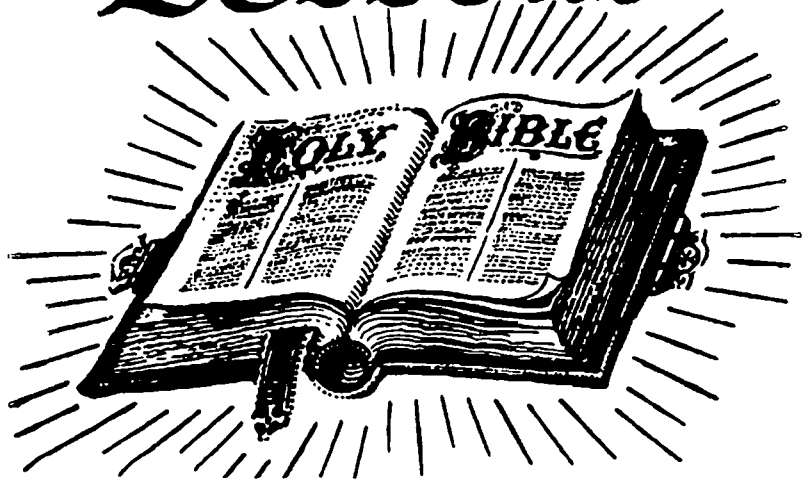


Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

**Vol. 5, No. 2
April, May, June
1973**

**Faith Pub. House
Guthrie, OK
73044**

Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

Vol. 5

April, May, June, 1973

No. 2

Table of Contents

	Page
April 1—The Pursuit By Old Enemies	1
April 8—Victorious in Difficulties	8
April 15—Song of Praise and Prophecy	14
April 22—Resurrection Is Key Note	19
April 29—The Lord Healeth Thee	24
May 6—Discontentment Magnifies Difficulties	28
May 13—Hidden Manna	32
May 20—Christ, The Precious Rock	37
May 27—Facing a Fierce Enemy	44
June 3—Sharing the Burden	50
June 10—Eagle Wings Bear Treasure	56
June 17—Prepared For An Appointment	61
June 24—Gospel Dispensation Privileges	66

**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
Jesus Christ and His Church**

Edited by Mrs. Marie Miles, and other co-workers.

**Subscription Price — 35c a copy for quarter of year, or
\$1.40 per year, issued quarterly.**

Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Published Quarterly By

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave.

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA 73044

April 1, 1973

THE PURSUIT BY OLD ENEMIES

Exodus 14:1-14

Exodus 14:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honored upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord. And they did so.

5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with a high hand.

9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-zephon.

10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord.

11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us to carry us forth out of Egypt?

12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians?

For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Memory Verse: The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. *Psa.34:17.*

Central Thought: God's way is the wisest, even though it may be the roughest.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Notice that the Israelites were commanded by God to encamp "before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon." They had traveled from Succoth to Etham which was at the edge of the wilderness. (*Ex. 13:20*). They had journeyed by a "place at that time deserted, but where Babylon was built afterwards." (*Josephus*) But now they were led south, in an opposite direction to the Land of Promise. God had commanded Moses to bring the children of Israel to Mt. Sinai to offer sacrifices. They were not in any condition to meet the new enemies of the land of Canaan, or the Philistines, their old enemy. They were a great multitude of liberated slaves and were not acquainted with war, government, or their God, to the extent of knowing all of His commands. They needed to sit at the feet of God and learn to obey. Israel was destined for a high calling. They were to be a channel through which God could speak to the nations of the world. They were His peculiar treasure.

They were pursued by the Egyptians. "War-chariots were frequently drawn by two or by four horses, and carried three persons." (*Clarke*) Six hundred chariots, "with 50,000 horsemen, and 200,000 footmen, all armed," pursued the Israelites. (*Josephus*) The huge mountains, which they could not climb, were on either side of them. Pharaoh and his enraged hosts were behind them. The Red Sea was before them. They were in a difficult situation.

Israel sojourned in Egypt about 1800-1400 B. C. in which time "Egypt grew to be a World-Empire. With Israel's departure, Egypt declined, and became, and remained a second-rate power." (*Halley's Bible Handbook*)

RUINS OF THEBES

The Ruins of Thebes, which Israelites helped to build, are among the grandest in the world. Thebes was situated on both sides of the Nile, in an amphitheater-like plain between the east and west cliffs. Its ruins cover an area about five miles wide east and west, and three miles north and south. No city had so many temples, palaces, and monuments of stone, inscribed in the most gorgeous and brilliant colors, and gleaming in gold. It became a great city in the 12th dynasty, 2000 B. C., time of Abraham. Was in its glory 1600 to 1300 B. C., the period of Israel's sojourn to Egypt; and many of its magnificent monuments, no doubt, represent the toil and sweat and blood of unnumbered thousands of Israelite slaves. It was destroyed by the Assyrians 661 B. C. Rebuilt, destroyed by Persians 525 B. C.

Two Obelisks of Queen Hatshepsut, one still standing, 97 feet high, weighing 150 tons, carry an inscription that they were towed on a barge of 30 galleys, by 960 oarsmen, from quarries 150 miles away.

Lesson References: God is for us: Romans 8:31. Good will come to us: Rom. 8:28. Spirit helps us: Romans 8:26, 27. More than conquerors: Romans 8:34-39. Blessings received: James 1:2-4, 12.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why didn't God lead the Israelites directly to the land of Canaan? 2. What position did Pharaoh see the Israelites in when he regretted his decision to let them go? 3. What was God's purpose in letting this come to pass? 4. Compare Israel's pursuers with those of the newly saved Christian. Name some of his pursuers. 5. What lesson can the young Christian learn from our account of God's deliverance?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

The Israelites went rejoicing on their march toward the promised land. Behind them, they had left Egypt, which is a type of sin, and Pharaoh, which is a type of Satan, who is a hard taskmaster. They were encamped after a three-days' march. How precious was the presence of God manifested to them in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. But remember, the devil is stirred when he sees the saints marching on toward heaven with victory. We now see Pharaoh, who had repented of his sin only with his lips and not from his heart, arising to go after the Israelites with the

eye of a warrior. With a gleeful heart, he states that "they are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in." Have you ever been "shut in" where no earthly help could assist you and it must be God who helps you, or you will perish? How did you act when you came to the "Red Sea" in your life? Did your imagination soar to heights of seeing even your death and open grave? The Apostle Paul must have known something about a fight of this kind when he told us, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5. Rebuke fears and doubts, and have faith in God. Remember, God is the God who can change the impossible.

Satan will gather his best chariots and captains and pursue the young Christian with all the energy and skill he can command. He will not let him go without a struggle. He will tempt him to sin or to come to despair. The young Christian will be pursued by wicked habits. (Habits of youth are not easily conquered, hence they should be carefully formed, or bad habits may impair one all his life.) The young Christian may be pursued by friendships of his wicked life. Their taunts and slanders are a terror, many times, to the godly soul. Pride, fashion, worldly amusements, after a three-days' march with victory, may pursue the godly with vengeance. But when you cry to God you can hear those words, "Stand still and see the salvation [or deliverance] of the Lord." Have faith in God. Deliverance will come if you will cling to the Lord and not give in to the enemy of your soul. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought He them out of it." Acts 13:17. "All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." 1 Corinthians 10:1, 2. As Moses and the hosts of Israel left Egypt that day the cloud of God's presence went before them as a guide. By night it was a pillar of fire to give them light. As the pursuing Egyptians pressed them closely, the cloud moved and was placed behind them. To Israel it was light, but to Egypt it was darkness. In this way they were baptized in the cloud, completely engulfed and shut out from their enemies. In reality, this alone was sufficient to keep the whole Egyptian army from touching them. But God had something more by which to show His



mighty deliverance. He purposed to destroy the entire Egyptian army and thus banish every fear that might linger in the hearts of His people.

They were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. The word baptized means to be completely whelmed or submerged. Two different writers said, "All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." One of these was Jonah who spent three days and three nights in the whale's belly. Also in speaking of Noah and his family being saved (that is, carried safely through) by water, Peter said that baptism was a like figure unto this, in that we are saved by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sum of these things is that through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we are saved from the power of sin and death. Being baptized into Christ, our sins are forgiven and cast into the depths of the sea. What a wonderful blessing is the deliverance that has come to us!

What a rejoicing it was to Israel to see their enemies overthrown in the midst of the sea that they had passed safely through! But should they not have rejoiced to know that the cloud was keeping Egypt from them even before their miraculous deliverance? Remember the cloud. It was their safeguard and protection until the Lord wrought their salvation. Can we not see the cloud in our own lives? Until the time that God delivers us, let us realize that the cloud is there standing between us and the foe. We can then rejoice, wait patiently on Him, and seek His faithful guidance. —L. Busbee

ENEMIES IN PURSUIT

No sooner is a soul sweetly saved and set free from the bondage of sin than the devil, our Pharaoh, sets out in hot pursuit with his hosts in a mighty attempt to recapture the delivered soul. Let us examine for a moment a few of the "Egyptians" from which the average soul must flee.

The tobacco habit is one that binds many a poor soul until the body seems unable to function properly without a cigarette or other form of this useless weed. Soon after one is saved, the nervous system, deprived of its usual diet of nicotine, begins to cry out. In my own experience, I had severe attacks of uncontrollable shaking and violent nausea. However, I found that by calling mightily on God, deliverance was mine. Drinking is another habit that affects the nervous system; but the most recent Egyptian added to Satan's host is Drugs, which is enslaving many of our young people. However, God is still our Rescuer in time of trouble.

The power of habit causes many people to have trouble with blasphemous and idle words. This old Egyptian is sneaky

and cruel, slipping up on the soul and trying to crush him into defeat. God can help us break this habit if we cling to Him and do not give up. The Psalmist David said, "He put a new song in my mouth, even praise to my God." I can testify that I found it so.

The advertising agencies know that what we see, we will most likely remember. A "good" movie is one in which the viewer can imagine himself to be the main character. Thus, children often believe themselves to have done something that in reality they only saw on television. What we feed our minds on before salvation, will often affect our thoughts later. At times the devil will even try to torment our dreams at night with memories of some evil movie we have seen, or some deed we may have done while we were in sin. This wicked Egyptian can be put to flight by filling our minds with the Word of God, which will leave no room for impure thoughts. "Whatsoever things are pure, . . . think on these things."

The old prideful "what will everyone think of me" Egyptian is a very persistent fellow. When a newborn soul has cultivated worldly tastes in dress and action, quite often he will find the change to a more modest, reserved way of life somewhat difficult. He may feel sloppy and self-conscious. He may think the world is staring and looking down on him. A persistent cultivation of simple and humble tastes will bring deliverance from this.

In today's world, there is a type of music that catches the very rhythm of heathenism. It is man's nature to have rhythm in his very being, and the love of this type of music and dancing can become greatly instilled in the heart. The transition from this music to the beautiful hymns that have been inspired by God Himself is a great one. In my own experience, at first, the hymns and singing of the saints were beautiful, but dull. The ear that has been accustomed to stimulating, deep-pounding rhythm blaring from high-pitched amplifiers finds there must be a calming of restlessness in order to fully enjoy the quiet purity of a sacred hymn.

Any soul coming out of the bondage of sin can expect to be pursued, for even as Pharaoh was unwilling to let the Israelites go, so is the devil unwilling to release souls today; but the same God who delivered the Israelites through the Red Sea will deliver us through the blood of His Son, Jesus. Deliverance is ours if we will cling to Him "who doeth all things well." The only way we can be overcome is to willingly make the journey back to Egypt's bondage.

—Carol Lasiter

April 8, 1973

VICTORIOUS IN DIFFICULTIES

Exodus 14:15, 16, 19, 21-25, 27a, 28, 31; Rev. 3:10-12

Exodus 14:15 And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them;

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

27a And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea.

28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

31 And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.

Rev. 3:10 [To the Philadelphia church] Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Memory Verse: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:6.

Central Thought: The good must go forward to obtain richer fields of truth, which by faith ripen into glorious experiences.

Word Definition: Angel of God—"This is most probably the Angel of the covenant, the Lord Jesus, who appeared on this occasion in behalf of the people; for as this deliverance was to be a type of the deliverance of man from the power of sin by His incarnation and death, it might have been deemed necessary, in the judgment of Divine wisdom, that He should appear Chief Agent in this most important and momentous crisis." (Clarke's Com.)

LESSON BACKGROUND

It will be well to read from the Bible the whole story of this wonderful deliverance. Notice that this was to be an opportunity for God to get honor to Himself upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. (verses, 17, 18) We also notice that when the Israelites saw the proud, stubborn-hearted Pharaoh and the Egyptians, dead, lying upon the seashore, they thanked God for saving them out of the hand of their enemies. (vs. 30)

Josephus, the historian of the Jews, said, "I found it in the sacred books . . . on the next day Moses gathered together the weapons of the Egyptians, which were brought to the camp of the Hebrews by the current of the sea and the force of the winds resisting it; and he conjectured that this also happened by Divine Providence, that they might not be destitute of weapons."

God blessed the Israelites and the Bible says, "there was not one feeble person among their tribes." Psalms 105:37.

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea, as by dry land; which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned." Hebrews 11:29.

In verse 15 the Lord asks Moses why he cries unto Him? "Though [Moses] . . . did not articulate one word; but the language of sighs, tears, and desires is equally intelligible to God with that of words. This consideration should be a strong encouragement to every feeble, discouraged mind; Thou canst not pray . . . weep . . . sigh" and God will hear. (Clarke)

According to Clarke's commentary the place they crossed at the Red Sea was about four leagues across. "In English-speaking countries it is estimated [that a league] is three miles" (Web. Dic.) The water's depth at that point was about "28 yards." (Clarke) What a glorious miracle! The Bible says the waters were "congealed" that stood up on either side. Exodus 15:8.

This took place in 1491 B. C.

The last verses of our lesson are a message given to John the Apostle on the Isle of Patmos to the church of God at Philadelphia in Asia. There are many glorious truths in those verses. The new Jerusalem is the Church, which Jesus purchased with His own blood, and is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:26. In the end Jesus will come for His bride, the church.

Lesson References: Sea overwhelmed enemies: Psalms 78:51-53; Psa. 106:7-12. Earth trembled, sent rain, etc. on enemies: Psa. 77:15-20. Redeemed them: Psalms 106:7-12. "Is anything too hard for God?": Genesis 18:14. Way of escape: 1 Cor. 10:13. We are come to the new Jerusalem: Hebrews 12:22. Pressed out of measure: 1 Cor. 1:8-12.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is it just as important to stand still as to go forward?
2. How can we know when we are to move?
3. Are difficulties meant to hinder progress, and how can they help us?
4. What promise do we have that we have the divine help of God at all times? (Hebrews 13:5, 6)
5. Is the way of salvation opened up to all, as was the path to the Red Sea?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

As we study our lesson today in every detail it causes our hearts to rejoice as we see the mighty workings of God

at this serious hour. The people had been instructed to be quiet, stand still, and wait with faith to know the next move. God spoke to Moses saying, "Raise your rod up over the sea, go forward." As he moved, God worked. The waters parted, the hot, east wind dried the bottom of the sea, and the Angel of God, who was none other than the Son of God, who had gone before the children of Israel, moved "and stood behind them." They stepped forward and thus went over to their liberation.

We might have some wilderness experiences. Sometimes our march through life becomes eventful. Problems arise. The way seems blocked. We do not know which way to turn. All may be dark. Sorrow may come. Oh, how we need a Guide! But how precious to know that Christ is with us. He is interested in the welfare of His people. He loves and cares for His own. When we become quiet before Him and rebuke all doubts and fears, He will then work. He cannot work when we are faithless and are letting circumstances block any help He wants to send us. We must look above the circumstances and see God as a God of the impossible. How wonderful it is that God makes safe paths in this wicked world for the righteous to walk in. The drowning waters are made walls to God's people. Praise God for the "way of escape" that He gives to those who are not permitted to be "tempted above that they are able to bear." God is faithful and we can safely trust Him.

The same cloud that gave light to the Israelites was a "cloud and darkness to the Egyptians." To the unholy crowd, salvation is a thing of sadness and foolishness. It is as gloomy and mysterious as a dark cloud. But thank God, to the Christian, it is a joy. It lights up the darkest night of the soul.
—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned." So often the way that God takes us is by way of the impossible. This is His way of manifesting His power and love to us. If all were just natural occurrences, His divine and miraculous Presence would be little realized. There is a scripture in Psalm 77 that tells us this. Verses 19 and 20 say: "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron." In considering the thought of His way in the great waters, we are reminded of Psalm

24:2 that speaks of the earth being founded upon the seas, and established upon the floods. Then Peter speaks about people being willingly ignorant that by the Word of God the heavens were of old and the earth standing out of the water and in the water. Whereby the world that then was being overflowed with water, perished. Then Psalm 104 reveals how that the waters stood above the mountains, but at the rebuke of God they fled and hasted away down into the place founded for them. "Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth."

God had a wonderful reason for leading His people by way of the sea. And He has a wonderful reason for leading us through the deep waters in our life. We will drown and perish except we believe and trust in God. The natural waters are bad enough, but, oh, those roaring waves of human trouble and woe, those troubled waters of sinful man endeavoring to cast up mire and dirt on the saints! Through these waters we must go, as it is God's gracious plan. Poor Jonah picked the worst route to try to get away from God. I have never been on the high seas, but I have heard that there is nothing that can quench the flame of hope and fill the heart with terror as much as a raging storm on the ocean. And Jonah doubtless had a great meaning when he told the men of the vessel that he feared the God that made the sea and the dry land! Dry land probably sounded like a pretty good place to those terror-stricken men. One part of Psalm 107 speaks of people doing business in great waters and the terrors they encountered in the deep. Paul knew something about this, too. So let us remember that the waves of sorrow and trouble are avenues for God to show Himself strong and mighty to deliver.

—L. Bushee

RESCUE

A boy found himself in a field, pursued by an infuriated bull. Conscious that his only chance of escape was to hasten to the gate, he turned and fled. Nearer the animal came, until he fancied that he could feel its hot breath. In a moment he realized that there would be no chance to open the gate in time to escape the angry animal's rage. On the point of yielding himself up as lost, he was surprised to see the gate suddenly open. Gathering fresh energy, he sped forward, and sped through the open way. Quickly the gate closed, and just as the strong bar fell in its place, the mad beast's head crashed against the wood-work. What an escape! A friend had seen his danger, had hurried along the road, and had reached the gate just in time to open it, and save the youth. God's Great

Hand [see verse 31] divided the mighty waters and opened the gateway for Israel's fugitive legions, who passed along as through towering walls of crystal. "The waters saw thee; they were afraid; the depths also were troubled." They moved aside to Israel's host, who trusted in God to deliver them.
—Sel.

"ALL THAT NIGHT "

(verse 21)

"All that night" that weary vigil
Passed; the day at last did break,
And they saw that God was working
"All that night" a path to make.

"All that night," O child of sorrow,
Canst thou not thy heartbreak stay?
Know thy God in darkest midnight
Works, as well as in the day.

—Sel.

PRESSED

(1 Corinthians 1:8-12)

Pressed out of measure and pressed to all length;
Pressed so intensely it seems, beyond strength;
Pressed in the body and pressed in the soul,
Pressed in the mind till the dark surges roll.

Pressure by foes, and pressure from friends,
Pressure on pressure, till life nearly ends.
Pressed into knowing no helper but God;
Pressed into loving the staff and the rod.

Pressed into liberty where nothing clings;
Pressed into faith for impossible things.
Pressed into living a life in the Lord,
Pressed into living a Christ-life out poured.

—Selected

April 15, 1973

SONG OF PRAISE AND PROPHECY

**Ex. 15:1, 2, 9-11, 16, 17; Ex. 40:33, 34; 2 Chron. 6:18;
2 Chron. 7:1; John 14:17; Eph. 2:19, 21, 22**

Exodus 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them [inhabitants of Canaan]; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in; in the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

Exodus 40:33 [Moses prepared habitation for God's Spirit.] And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

2 Chronicles 6:18 [Solomon built the temple] But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

2 Chronicles 7:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed

the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

John 14:17 [Jesus said] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Eph. 2:19 [Paul said after Jesus' resurrection] Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God,

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

Memory Verse: Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16.

Central Thought: We are blessed to live in this dispensation when the Spirit of God will dwell in our hearts.

Word Definition: Habitation: "place of abode; occupancy."

LESSON BACKGROUND

Never again would the Israelites be troubled with these Egyptians. No wonder they burst into song of praise to their God and Deliverer. It would be well to read it all as we took only parts of the song. (verses 1-19) Miriam, who was Moses' older sister, led the women in the song of Moses. (verses 20, 21) Notice the intents of the enemy in verse 9, but God took care of all their threats. Today we need to remember this and know that we are serving the same God today.

We chose to give you scriptures on the thought of God's desire to dwell in our hearts. Moses, through the spirit of prophecy sang, "I will prepare him a habitation." (verse 2) About a year later (1491 B. C.) our scripture verses tell us of God's glory filling the tabernacle that Moses made according to God's directions. Years later David wanted to build a house for the Lord to dwell in instead of a tent, but because he was a man of war God told him that his son, Solomon, would build the temple. Our verses in 2 Chronicles took place 487 years later in 1004 B. C. Solomon could hardly take in the thought that the God who was so great that the world could not contain Him would dwell in a house made by man,

but the glory of the Lord filled the temple. God wanted to be as close to His people as He could. Jesus came to prepare a habitation of God's Spirit by taking mankind's punishment for sin on the cross. Praise God, He is real and dwells in the heart of those who are "born again."

There is no stopping place to the wonderful truths in God's Word. In Rev. 15:2, 3, we read about those who "had gotten the victory over the beast [Catholicism], and over his image [Protestantism]," singing the "song of Moses . . . and of the Lamb." This great company of worshippers sang a great song of deliverance. They had been persecuted and many killed because they worshipped God and would not bow down to man's ideas and come under his rituals.

Lesson References: Our body the temple of God: 1 Cor. 6:19, 20. Cleanse body from filthiness of flesh: 2 Corinthians 7:1. Treasure in earthen vessels: 2 Corinthians 4:6, 7. Sing and make melody in your hearts: Ephesians 5:18-20. Veil rent in temple at Jesus' death: Matthew 27:51. On day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit moves into hearts, His temple: Acts 2:1-5.

QUESTIONS:

1. How can we exalt God in our lives as well as in songs of praise? 2. Is it possible to take some glory to ourselves when God gives us a wonderful deliverance or victory? 3. Before Jesus arose from the grave and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in hearts that were forgiven of their volitional sins, how close could God come to His people? 4. How does God dwell in hearts and in the church both? 5. Rehearse the steps God used through hundreds of years to come to dwell in His children's hearts.

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

The song of praise was sung in the spirit. God was exalted and glorified. No praise was taken to themselves, but God received the glory. God wants to work in our lives so He can receive the glory.

The second verse was a prophecy. Moses prepared a place for the Spirit of God to dwell among the people in a tent or tabernacle. Solomon later built a temple. These were types of a spiritual work God was going to work in the heart of all who would come to Him with godly sorrow and repent of their sins. Through Christ, God's Spirit took up His abode in the hearts of God's people. This is His dwelling place in the earth.

How precious it is that God would condescend to dwell in our hearts. We notice from the beginning God wanted communion with His people. When Adam and Eve sinned and shut Him out of their presence and heart, He sought to bring man back to the place where He again could dwell in their hearts. God told Moses to build the tabernacle by "the pattern shown him in the mount." Exodus 25:40. When he completed it God filled it with His presence. He wanted to get as close to the people as He could. Again when Solomon built a temple and the 120 priests were of one sound on the trumpets, in praising God, the Spirit of God filled the temple with His glory. This is a type of the 120, who, on the day of Pentecost, were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come and fill their hearts with His glory. (Acts 2:15; 2:1-5). Now the Spirit of God could move right into the heart of those who were forgiven of their sins and who had been redeemed through Christ. What a glorious thought!

The church is the body of Christ in the world today. It's the "household of God." It is made up of all those who are "born again" and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. The children of God are "fitly framed together." There are no divisions in God's church. It's a "habitation of God through the Spirit."

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, . . . brought in with Jesus [Joshua] into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool; what House will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not mine hand made all these things?" This was part of Stephen's address to the Jews in Acts 7:44-50. Jesus said, "A greater than Solomon is here," and David in spirit called Christ Lord. Psalms 110:1. It was their dark and stubborn hearts that kept Israel from looking beyond the literal sanctuary and seeing the true tabernacle that the Lord pitched and not man. Solomon built Him an house, the house David dreamed of and planned for. But the prophet declared that God cannot dwell in temples made with hands. Since Heaven is His throne, and the earth on which we move is His footstool, how utterly absurd to think that puny man could even begin to build a House for God!

Where is the House that ye build unto Me? The temple worship with all its sacrifices, ordinances, and services was condemned before the face of Him who built the true tabernacle of God. But the Jews were so blinded by pride and conceit that the Holy Spirit could not inspire and enlighten their souls. Theirs was a history of constantly resisting the Holy Spirit. The most blessed and endowed people on the earth proved the greatest prey of folly and evil. From the very start they could not perceive the up-lifted hand of the Lord. For this cause Stephen confronted them with stupendous evidence of their resisting the Holy Ghost. Their uncircumcised heart and ears kept them from perceiving the true habitation of God, and caused them to glory in an earthen tabernacle so cold and lifeless.

"Hath not mine hand made all these things?" It really is not even sound thinking to suppose that God would be interested in taking up His dwelling in an earthly tabernacle constructed by the hand of man. What made the Mosaic tabernacle accepted of God in its time was that Moses heeded the admonition when he went about to set it in order: "See that ye make it according to the pattern that I shewed thee in the mount." In this way the tabernacle became a shadow and prophecy of the greater and more perfect tabernacle which was to come, that was the spiritual dwelling of God in the hearts and lives of people washed and made pure in the blood of the Lamb.

—L. Busbee

THE FOUNTAIN OF SONG

John 4:13, 14, "Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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."

Again and again the child of God is exhorted to rejoice, to be glad, and to give expression to his joy. The poet has said, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Joy is more powerful than sorrow. Peace is more lasting than trouble. Sorrow is but transitory. God has balm for all our woes; light for all our darkness. Morning breaks after the darkest night. The sun shines after the fiercest storm. Spring's warmth and beauty return after the cruellest winter. In the normal life happiness is the rule; unhappiness the exception. Troubles will come. There are misfortunes to be endured, but these need not take out of life its beauty, its happiness, or its worth.

One conviction should ever be present with us. Our happiness does not depend upon our environment, our station, our circumstances, or any external thing. The songs come from within. They bubble up out of the heart.

There's no defeat in life save from within;

Unless you're beaten there you're bound to win.

It is what we are within that counts—our outlook on life, our purposes, our ideals, our hopes, our faith. They are joyful beggars. The most thankful, the most appreciative, are often those who have little. Some of the most contented, cheerful, and lighthearted people I ever saw were people whose situations seemed least tolerable. In my ministry I have gone into homes where poverty abounded, where sickness and sorrow existed, yet I found in some of those homes happy, trustful, rejoicing hearts.

—C. W. Naylor

April 22, 1973

RESURRECTION IS KEY NOTE

Acts 3:12-23; 4:1-4

Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus: whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

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

Central Thought: All of our hope of immortality is based on the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the grave, and is alive today.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Since Easter is a memorial day in remembrance of the day our Lord and Saviour was resurrected from the grave, we want to rejoice in studying the scriptures that refer to His resurrection. To the world this day is a day of revelry and displaying new clothes, but to the child of God it is a day of greatest importance.

Next Sunday we will return to our lessons in Exodus and the Israelites and their journey to the Promised Land.

The background of today's lesson is after the Holy Spirit had filled the temple of God, which was the hearts of the 120 on the day of Pentecost, and many had believed and were saved. Peter and John had gone up to the temple at the time of prayer. On their way, at the gate called Beautiful, a lame man asked for alms. After some conversation the lame man was healed. The people were "filled with wonder and amazement." (3:10) This caused a crowd to gather and Peter preached this wonderful sermon, part of which is printed in our lesson today. We chose this sermon because the very keynote of the whole sermon is based on Jesus' resurrection. Through the power of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, Peter and John had the gift of miracles that was seen in operation that day.

Lesson References: Jesus comes forth from the grave: Mark 16:1-12. Those, whose bodies are asleep, Christ will bring with Him: 1 Thess. 4:13-18. They "live and reign with Christ": Rev. 6:9-11; 20:4. "Rest from their labors": Revelation 14:13. Christ judge living and dead at His appearing: 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 22:12; Matt. 16:27. Mortal will put on immortality: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.

QUESTIONS:

1. Verse 13 speaks of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Are they alive today in heaven or paradise? (Matthew 22:23).
2. Who were witnesses of Jesus' resurrection?
3. Could Peter have preached this wonderful sermon that caused the devil to be stirred if Jesus had not arisen from the grave?
4. What is the state of the soul after death and the judgment?
5. How do we know we shall arise at Jesus' coming? Read 1 Corinthians 15:16-24. Notice these words also that when the dead arise it will be "at his coming. Then cometh the end." 2 Timothy 4:1: He will "judge the quick [living] and the dead at his appearing." Not a thousand years later.

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

In this group which listened to Peter's sermon were the Sadducees. They did not believe in the future resurrection of the dead and held to the grievous error that the soul, or spirit, expires when the body dies. At the end of our lesson we see the revenge they took on Peter and John for teaching that there would be a resurrection of the dead. When Jesus was on earth, before His death and resurrection, He met these same Sadducees and struck at the very root of their erroneous teaching, by quoting the words of Moses at the burning bush:

"I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Matthew 22:23. "For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him." Luke 20:38. Praise God for a knowledge of the truth! Today the words of Jesus refute the modern teaching of soul-sleeping in positive terms. It clearly states that though the bodies of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been buried for hundreds of years in the cave of Machpelah, yet they are still alive.

There is an intermediate state of the soul between the death of the body and the judgment day and resurrection of the body. The soul is alive and is conscious. We receive this truth very clearly in the glimpse that Jesus gave to us, by telling us about Lazarus and the rich man, and their state after death. This is not a parable as some want to suppose, but Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man," etc. A great gulf separated them after death. The scriptures bear out this fact. Jesus said to the converted dying thief, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise," (Luke 23:43) the place where the righteous are comforted until the resurrection. The very day of their death, Christ and the penitent thief entered paradise. The Apostle Paul tells us that paradise is the same as the "third heaven." 2 Corinthians 12:2-4. At Christ's ascension, He went up "into heaven." 1 Peter 3:22. Stephen saw Jesus there at the right hand of God when he was stoned and said, "Lord, receive my spirit." Acts 7:55-60.

The wicked are reserved, as the Apostle Peter tells us, "unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2:9. How plain are the scriptures that the wicked will be "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." 2 Peter 2:4; Matt. 25:41. How often that unsaved people have stated at their death, "I am taking an awful leap in the dark," or "The demons have come to take my soul into hell."

What a glorious truth in the Bible that the saved will be resurrected to live forever in an immortal body with our Lord and Saviour!

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the state of mortal death and the grave means two important things to us: (1) First, it means that we need no longer live under the power of sin and transgression. The risen life of Christ generated into our souls by the Holy Spirit that was given after His resurrection enables us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Our affections are elevated from the

material to the spiritual. We become dead to sin and alive unto God. We seek no longer the treasures of earth and the things below. We set our affections on things above where Christ now sits on the right hand of God. "Because I live, ye shall live also," said He who has conquered and overcome for us. Being reconciled by the death of Christ, we shall be saved by His (resurrected) life. He lives within us as the hope of glory. He not only lives in glory, but He lives in His saints in overcoming grace and power, guidance and wisdom. He has been made head over all things to the Church. Speaking the truth in love, we grow up unto Him in all things . . . from whom the whole body is edified and increased. We are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. He loved us and gave Himself for us to redeem, sanctify, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. All this we have now through the power of His resurrection.

(2) We also receive through the virtue and power of His resurrection a promise of a share in the resurrection from the dead at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. He, at that hour, will change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things to Himself. If we have been conquered by the power of His risen life now and are ruled by His Spirit, He who raised up Jesus from the dead will also quicken our mortal bodies. We will live again in His presence forever as the angels of God being the children of God, the children of the resurrection. At that time we will receive the adoption (sonship) that is, the redemption of our body. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep and in that day we that are His at His coming will follow in our order and partake of the very resurrection that He possesses. Oh, what a glorious hope this is! It is so wonderful that we can scarcely take it in.

—L. Busbee

WHAT IS EASTER?

What is Easter? It is Beauty—

Beauty clothed in Spring's array

Paying homage to the Godhead

At the silent dawn of day.

What is Easter? It is Promise—

Promise whispered to the earth

With each word of love revealing

The great mystery of rebirth.

What is Easter? It is Triumph—
Triumph over loss and strife
Triumph once again proclaiming
Endless joy and endless life.

—Selected

April 29, 1973

THE LORD HEALETH THEE

**Ex. 15:22-26; Psa. 105:37b; Mark 10:51, 52; Mark 6:13;
James 5:13-16; Exodus 15:27**

Exodus 15:22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

25 And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Psalms 105:37b There was not one feeble person among their tribes.

Mark 10:51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Mark 6:13 And they [the disciples] cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Exodus 15:27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8.

Central Thought: God will honor faith wherever He finds it.

Word Definition: Marah so called because of the bitter waters found there.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The children of Israel had just finished singing the song of Moses, and Miriam, the older sister of Moses, had led the women in singing. They rejoiced because of their great deliverance. Moses brought the Israelites out into the wilderness of Shur (see map). This was on their road to Mt. Sinai where God had told Moses to bring them.

Notice that Moses was not only the Israelites' leader, but also their mediator between them and God. Today Jesus Christ is our mediator.

The miracle at Marah was only for that time as today we are told that the waters there are bitter. In Adam Clarke's time they found nine of the twelve wells there. The other three had been choked up by the sand. From the 70 palm trees there were more than 2,000. The Greek monks bring in a large revenue from them. (Clarke's Commentary)

God performed the miracle of healing the waters and then reminded the Israelites that He would heal their bodies if they had diseases. We are thankful that God is the same today.

We took scriptures of Jesus healing, His disciples healing, and the exhortation of James for us today when we need healing, for our lesson portion today.

Lesson References: Healeth all thy diseases: Psalms 103:3. Jesus took our infirmities: Matt. 8:17. Abide in Him and ask: John 15:7. Pray and believe: Mark 11:24; John 14:12; 1 John 3:22. Signs follow belief: Mark 16:17. Regardless of feelings: 1 John 5:14, 15. If no elders to call, two can agree: Matt. 18:19, 20.

QUESTIONS:

1. What great miracle took place at Marah? 2. What other miracles did God promise to do for the Israelites if they would obey God? 3. Jesus healed when He was here. Can He heal today? 4. What are some of the conditions that we have to meet to be healed? 5. Can we learn lessons in afflictions, and what are some of these lessons?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

It's a glorious privilege to trust the Lord for the healing of our bodies. God created these bodies and He can surely heal them. But there are conditions for our receiving healing. It comes through faith and also through obedience to God's Word. Notice in our lesson that God told the Israelites that "if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord . . ." and "wilt do" and "give ear" or listen and obey all of His commandments, then He would heal them and keep them well. Isn't it precious to know that God was interested in our bodies as well as our souls? Only those who obey His words and are close to Him can receive His blessings. Some might say that they are doing all that they know to obey the Lord and they are not healed. But that still does not alter God's Word. It's still there for us. We must not fault God nor His Word. The fault must be on our part somewhere.

Through afflictions we learn many lessons. In my own experiences in wholly trusting the Lord many, many years for the healing of my body, I found that when the Lord healed me it just increased my love and praises to Him. Nearly 25 years ago the Lord dealt with my soul in a precious way. My children were older and I was working for the Lord and doing all I knew to do for Him. I was having weekly Bible lessons for the neighborhood children (sometimes 30 to 35 of them). But God wanted to ask me to do more. He knew I would have to love Him more to be willing. He permitted a severe affliction to come upon me and let me go to death's door and then healed me. Oh, the love that I had for Him caused me to cry out, "I'll do anything that you ask me to do," yet not knowing anymore to do. My faith

was so increased in my Lord because He had been so precious to go with me into this affliction and was there to heal. I was so surprised when God made me know of this new work He had called me to; I then knew why He had so dealt with me. It surely did take humility, and a deep love and faith in God to venture out, but the Lord has never forsaken me. Praise the good Lord!

—Sister Marie Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are many theories and doctrines set forth today concerning the healing ministry of Christ, and its application to us today. That it is to be applied to us in this day of time is very evident according to the scriptures and from the testimonies of many of His children. It is a wonderful provision of the grace of God brought forth in the life of Jesus to mankind. A close surveying of the Bible accounts of Christ's healing ministry reveals one important fact: There was definite faith on the part of the comer to Christ. God honored and accepted that confidence and trust expressed and shown. This faith was made manifest most always by some act or deed carried out by the person or persons seeking the healing touch.

One thing about those seeking His healing virtue was their coming to Him. Some had to press their way to gain an audience with Him. In so doing, their faith was manifest and perfected. Simon Peter's wife's mother—"They besought Him for her." The man with the palsy—"They sought to bring him in, and to lay him before Him. They went upon the house top, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus." "And the whole multitude sought to touch Him: for there went virtue out of Him, and healed them all." Look at the centurion's coming to Christ beseeching help for his servant, yet not feeling worthy of Christ's coming to his house, but beseeching Him just to speak the word for his servant's healing. Jesus commended him for his great faith.

Then there were those to whom Jesus gave instructions to carry out, and in obeying their faith was perfected. The lepers—"Go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony." The man born blind—"He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, and said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." These and others we see had something to do to show their faith. It means much for us to actually come to Christ today for healing and whatever else may be our need from Him. He is not here as He was in that day, but He is here in a

much greater way. He is here in His people and His ministers. And more than this, He is here in the Spirit where we must all seek earnestly to find Him and touch Him. Then many times there will be something communicated for us to carry out and do, which is necessary to perfect our faith in Him.

—L. Busbee

EYES HEALED

God has healed my body many times. Some will try to tell me that Jesus doesn't heal today and that was all done away with, but thank the Lord, I know the days of miracles are not past. Jesus is just the same yesterday, today, and forever. Praise His dear name. He is still healing people today.

About six months ago, I was putting some fruit jars on a shelf, and one of them fell and hit some other jars that I was holding close to my face, and just crashed to pieces. Glass went all over my face and in my right eye, and oh, how it did hurt! I could hardly move my eye, it was cut so badly. My husband was away at work. When he came home that night, my eye looked bad. We prayed and asked the Lord to heal it, but it didn't get any better. When Husband left for work the next morning, my eye looked worse and he was worried about me all day. When he came home that night, pus and water were running out of my eye. He said, "What do you want to do?" I went into my bedroom, fell on my knees, and began pouring out my heart to the Lord. Then it came to me so plainly, "Go, and be anointed, and prayed for." When I came out, Husband again said, "What do you want to do?" I said, "Go, and be anointed, and prayed for." We went to Sister Bowers' and she anointed me. By the time prayer was over, the Lord had healed my eye. I don't know what became of the glass; that was the last time I felt it. That was on Friday, and Sunday at meeting my eye was almost cleared up. At the time I was prayed for, it looked like a piece of raw meat and was badly swollen.

—Mrs. Ralph Sell

—o—

May 6, 1973

DISCONTENTMENT MAGNIFIES DIFFICULTIES

Exodus 16:1-3, 8b; Heb. 10:35, 38, 39; Luke 12:22, 27-31

Exodus 16:1 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and

Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots, and we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

8b The Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him; and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.

Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Luke 12:22 And he [Jesus] said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Memory Verse: But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Timothy 6:6.

Central Thought: Discontentment is an evidence that we center our thoughts too much on this world.

Word Definition: Murmur "a low, muttered complaint or repining; grumbling."

LESSON BACKGROUND

Check on your map and see where Moses led the Israelites.

We chose verses from Hebrews that the Apostle Paul wrote and verses that Jesus spoke which are instructions to us today.

Lesson References: Murmurings of Israelites: Numbers 14:27. They murmured against her: Mark 14:5. Jesus knew His disciples murmured: John 6:61. Murmur not among yourselves: John 6:43.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are we tempted to do when sorrows come?
2. How can we be tempted today to look back at the "flesh-pots" in the old life?
3. How do murmuring and discontentment mar our vision?
4. Discuss the words of Jesus and how we can apply them to our life today.
5. How can we grumble at others today and find that we are wrong in doing so?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

It is often said that life is a pilgrimage, but seldom do we realize the entire meaning of these words. Physically, we are passing from one stage to another without realizing it very much. We come from infancy to childhood, from childhood to young manhood, and from manhood to middle age, and then old age. Some one has said that "life no sooner opens its petals to the sun than it passes into the grave from whence it sprang."

Life brings joys and sorrows. It is impossible to have great joy without having had sorrow. Sorrows reveal the inner man to us. Sometimes in sorrow there will be a temptation to murmur and complain at God's dealings with our souls. We might do as the Israelites did, murmur against someone else and he might be a child of God who does not deserve it, just as Moses felt the sting of their cruel words, when he had done only good to them. Discontented people act as though they do not know there is a God who can help them. They lose sight of a happy destiny provided for them if they follow after the concepts of God. The Israelites forgot their destiny of the promised land and also seemed to look back at only the "flesh-pots" in Egypt. They forgot their sufferings under the hard taskmasters. Discontented people cannot separate the good from the bad, true friends from false friends, God's blessings and Satan's false pleas-

ures, or the true value of what is offered to them by God in this life and in the life to come. We should never yield to murmurings and complainings. Our peace is disturbed when we yield to any discontentment. If a person who has once entered into the freedom of the Christian life, returns to his old habits, he will degrade his manhood, and it will be a cowardly backsliding that will cause hell to rejoice, and bring ridicule from the world. God has provided something better than the old flesh-pots of this life. God will supply all of our needs if we will but seek Him first. Many times through lack of wisdom, we bring problems to ourselves, but God will have mercy even then to help us if we but have faith in Him.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee . . . in the wilderness. . . . He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, . . . that He might make thee to know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." When Jesus was an hungered after fasting for forty days and nights, Satan tempted Him to command stones to turn into bread. Jesus answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Here we have Israel in the wilderness, and Jesus led of the Spirit in the wilderness. What did both of these sojourns in the wilderness reveal? They reveal what all men should know and remember. Man does not live by bread alone, that is, by the sustenance that natural food alone supplies.

God did not create man without the need for food. That is part of the nature and need of man, that is, to eat food for health, strength, and sustenance. But what God wills for man to realize is that it is not food alone that supplies the life and strength that he needs. He wants us to realize this. Much is said these days concerning the food we eat and its deformities and lacks. And, doubtless, much of the concern in this direction is justified as far as the vitality of the food itself is concerned. But let us not, as saints, be overly anxious about this thing. Let us rather eat our bread with singleness of heart to God, giving thanks to Him, and imploring His blessing on our daily food. One place said that every creature is good and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. At all times we must remember that it is not the food we eat that is really going to do us the most good. It

is the Word of God that we absorb into our lives and our character that will give us health and blessing. Jesus also rebuked the blind Jews who were so careful about what entered into their mouths: "Not that which enters the man defileth, but that which cometh out of a man, that defileth the man." He made us to know that we should be more concerned about what is in our hearts such as pride, foolishness, fornication, etc. These degrading elements in a man's soul will do him more harm spiritually and physically than all the deficient natural food in the world. —L. Busbee

LEAVE IT WITH HIM

Yes, leave it with Him,
The lilies all do,
And they grow—
They grow in the rain,
And they grow in the dew—
Yes, they grow:

They grow in the darkness, all hid in the night—
They grow in the sunshine, revealed by the light—
Still they grow.

Yes, leave it with Him,
'Tis more dear to His heart,
You will know,
Than the lilies that bloom,
Or the flowers that start
'Neath the snow:

Whatever you need, if you seek it in prayer,
You can leave it with Him—for you are His care.
You, you know.

—Selected

—o—

May 13, 1973

HIDDEN MANNA

Ex. 16:13-15, 26, 33, 34; John 6:47, 48, 49; Rev. 2:17;
Hebrews 10:19, 20; Col. 3:2-4

Exodus 16:13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna; for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.

26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations.

34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Memery Verse: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory. 1 Corinthians 2:7.

Central Thought: The manna that fell in the wilderness represented the joys of the justifying grace. It quickly spoiled until it was laid up in the holiest place. The promise to eat of the "hidden manna" is the promise of the preserving grace of entire sanctification.

Word Definition: Manna "was like coriander seed, white and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey." (vs. 31)

The testimony or the Ark of the Covenant, which was a box with cheribims covering it. This was in the Holy of Holies, which was the second compartment of the Tabernacle that had not been built yet. In this box, under the mercy seat was this omer of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the law written on stone which God gave to them. The second compartment is a type of our sanctification. Omer "about three quarts." (Clarke)

LESSON BACKGROUND

God was merciful to the children of Israel and sent them manna and quails. In verses 9-12 in the unprinted verses, we read where God told Moses and Aaron to "Come near before the Lord." As they looked toward the wilderness they beheld the "glory of the Lord" appearing in the cloud. God told Moses that He would send them flesh and in the morning they would "be filled with bread and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God" that brought you out from Egypt. We see that they continually had to be reassured that God was leading them. God told them to gather just enough manna for one day's use and no more. Some disobeyed and in the morning it was filled with worms and stank. Moses was displeased with them. They were to gather it every morning early because when the sun came up, it melted. On the sixth day they were to gather twice as much because they were to rest on the seventh. God did not send any manna on the seventh day.

It seemed hard for people to obey God's Word. We find that even on the seventh day some went out to gather and found none. God said to Moses, "How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?" The people were to rest on the seventh day which was Saturday. They were to observe this sabbath or resting on Saturday "as a sign between me and the children of Israel." Exodus 31:13-17. It's not for us to literally keep today. We have a continual Sabbath rest in our souls every day.

The children of Israel did eat manna forty years until they came to the borders of Canaan. It suddenly quit when they got their first corn in Canaan.

The two rooms in the tabernacle were the Holy place and the Holy of Holies. A veil separated them. When Jesus was on the cross the veil was torn apart. Matthew 27:51. This signified that everyone can enter into the presence of God through sanctification.

Lesson References: Manna: Hebrews 9:4. Ate angel food: Psalms 78:23-29. Sabbath a sign: Exodus 31:13-17. Ark of Testimony: Ex. 25:16-22. Forty years: Num. 33:38.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did God show mercy to the murmuring Israelites? 2. How did they disobey God's commands? 3. What is the manna a type of in the New Testament? 4. Will the joys of justification spoil if we do not go on into sanctification? 5. Who will eat of that "hidden manna"? 6. The Tabernacle had two rooms. When was the veil between them rent apart?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

The manna and the command for Aaron to lay it up before the Testimony to be kept are precious, when we think of them in a spiritual sense. All of these things are as the Apostle Paul tells us, "a shadow of good things to come," and "a figure of the true" sanctuary, which is "the church of the living God." (Hebrews 10:1; 9:3-6) The manna that fell in the wilderness represented the joys of the justified life, but it did not keep. It spoiled quickly. It had to be gathered again. But when it was laid up before the Lord, under the mercy seat, in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle, it kept for hundreds of years. Justification is not the establishing grace even though the babe in Christ is enjoying a blessed experience of a knowledge of sins forgiven, and being a child of God. But if that babe in Christ does not go on to sanctification or have the old nature cleansed and purged by the fire of the Holy Spirit, he is in for trouble. That "first love," that first sweetness and joy which come with the knowledge of our sins being forgiven must be carried over into sanctification. It becomes a "perfected love" in sanctification. Praise God for His preserving power! His "hidden manna" is given to him that "overcometh." A white stone could stand for holiness and an enduring experience, a life with power to overcome and "be more than a conqueror through Christ." Holiness is a hidden treasure. It's hid from the world. It's revealed unto babes or the humble ones. Overcomers eat of this hidden manna and "hidden wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:7) by being brought into the hidden place, into the "secret place of his pavilion." "We are dead and our life is hid with Christ in God." Thank God! It causes our souls to rejoice to be hid away with Christ in God. When He comes He will come for those hidden ones, those who are feasting upon that "bread from heaven," those

who are overcomers. They "overcome the world," "overcome evil with good" and overcome the devil. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The word "manna" is a Hebrew word that means "what is it?" As the children of Israel went out that first morning and beheld what lay on the ground after the dew had gone up, they said one to another: "What is it?" They knew not what it consisted of, what its ingredients were, nor anything else other than it was the bread the Lord had given them to eat. Then Jesus spoke of those overcoming the world as receiving and eating of the hidden manna. This hidden or spiritual bread like the manna of old is given to us to eat.

There is something about the fallen nature of men that wants to know about everything. They are not content to allow things to rest in the care of God and accept them for what they are for and what they are worth. No, instead they want to seek every crevice and corner and learn every detail, and figure out an explanation for everything. And what has this eager searching accomplished for man? It has only caused him to drift farther away from the simplicity of faith and filled his heart with pride and unbelief. "The world by wisdom knew not God." That is a great statement, and it is surely true. Man has delved and dug into the secrets and mysteries of nature and life for his own spiritual destruction and mortal woe. God made man upright, but he sought out many inventions.

Look at the time, expense, and strength man has put forth in his venture toward space. Instead of accepting the moon and planets as they are, placed in the firmament as lights for the night, they have to go groping around and exploring the cold barren wastes of the moon and pride themselves in the venture of folly by bringing back a few rocks! And they feel lifted up that they have accomplished such a feat! Oh, the heights of the folly of man!

"Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him." 1 Corinthians 8:1-3. How easy it is to get scientific about spiritual matters, trying to explain everything and fail to grasp the love and goodness of God. "We know in part, and we prophesy in part." We need to cease from the conflicts of ideas and opinions and commit to God things that are beyond our knowledge, and trust His love and mercy to eternal salvation. —L. Busbee

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Father, our children keep!

We know not what is coming on the earth;
Beneath the shadow of Thy heavenly wing,
O keep them, keep them, Thou who gav'st them birth.

Father, draw nearer us!

Draw firmer round us Thy protecting arm;
Oh, clasp our children closer to Thy side,
Uninjured in the day of earth's alarm.

Them in Thy chambers hide!

Oh, hide them and preserve them calm and safe,
When sin abounds and error flows abroad,
And Satan tempts, and human passions chafe.

Oh, keep them undefiled!

Unspotted from a tempting world of sin;
That, clothed in white, through the bright city gates,—
They may, with us, in triumph enter in.

—Horatius Bonar

HOW?

Leave the How with Jesus—'tis enough to know
Faithful to His promise, help He will bestow.

Leave the How with Jesus— He will all explain;
Only trust Him fully till He comes again.

—Selected

May 20, 1973

CHRIST, THE PRECIOUS ROCK

Ex. 17:1-6; 1 Cor. 10:3, 4; Matt. 16:18b; 1 Peter 2:5-10

Exodus 17:1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the Lord?

3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

4 And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

5 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go ye before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1 Cor. 10:3 And did all [Israelites] eat the same spiritual meat;

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Matthew 16:18b Upon this Rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Memory Verse: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. Isaiah 53:4.

Central Thought: If you are seeking spiritual water to quench the thirst of your soul, do not go to the creature for it, but to the Creator.

Word Definition: "After their journeys" leads us to think that there were some stops made between the wilderness of Sin and Rephidim.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We see from this narrative that each occasion of want on the part of the Israelites was answered by a rich manifestation of the mercy of God.

Each trial in the wilderness caused the Israelites to long for the land of promise.

Moses called the place where they were given water Massah and Meribah because they tempted the Lord, chided Moses, and said, "Is the Lord among us, or not?" (Exodus 17:7). Men are slow to recognize God in their time of need. They look to man and things around them instead of looking to God. Let us not leave behind us any memorials of unbelief and chiding God's faithful ministers by asking, "Is the Lord among us, or not?" But let us leave memorials of faith and good works which will bring the mercy of God upon us. Remember, in the church of God the "government is upon his shoulders." Look to God and keep your eyes off people and you will be blessed.

We want to bring out the thought that only those who are washed in the water that flows from the smitten Rock (Christ, the Rock, was smitten by the death on the cross) will be in God's church. His church is built on that Rock and the saved people are "lively stones" in the building.

Lesson References: "They picked up stones to cast" at Jesus: John 8:59. Stoned Stephen: Acts 7:59, 60. Upon Rock: Psalms 105:41. Rock is Christ: 1 Cor. 10:4. Upon this Rock: Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20. Made kings and priests: Rev. 5:10. Fountain opened in the house of David: Zech. 13:1.

QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways are we called upon to endure great physical needs? 2. How can facing the needs of life reveal to us our faith in God, our experience depth, our steadfast-

ness, and our endurance? 3. How does the spiritual life that flowed from that smitten Rock, Christ Jesus, affect mankind? 4. Who are the lively stones in the church, and what do they do daily? 5. To whom is the Rock, Christ Jesus, precious, and to whom is He a "rock of offense"?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

The thirst of Israel was quenched by water from a rock. They got their thirst quenched from the least suspected source. Today we often get our blessings from the place that we least expect them.

That Rock was Christ. That Rock followed them or went with them. From Christ there is a continuous supply of help. The mercy of Jesus Christ will never leave a trustful soul. Goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their life.

Christ, the Rock, was smitten. He was bruised. He bore the penalties of a broken law. God spared Him not. He died on the cross and arose again for our salvation. When they pierced His side, out flowed blood and water. "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." Revelation 22:1, 17. All who will drink of that water and be washed from their sins by the blood of the Lamb shall be in the church that Jesus built. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Thank God for the church triumphant! We become "lively stones" in that "spiritual house." We are made alive and quickened from being in a dead state of sin. Our hearts are full of praise and love for God and all mankind. Through our lives and from our hearts we offer up "spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." That Rock is precious to all who believe on Him. But to those who will not believe He becomes a "rock of offense." They will not drink of the water of life. They are rebellious. They will be lost. Thank God for those who become His chosen, or "peculiar people."

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A great host of people pitching camp in a wilderness where there was no water was a very trying situation for Moses. Since the human body is composed of over two thirds water, water is a very vital necessity for survival, as well as for health. Water can be therefore a good comparison to

that which is so vital for the soul, the Spirit of God. Jesus said, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink, and as the scripture saith: "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." This spake He of the Spirit. The pure river of water of life that John saw in Revelation 22 was none other than the flowing of the Spirit of God from His throne down into this world for men and women to quench the thirstings of their heart. The hart, or deer, pants after the water brook, and so pants the soul for God and His loving presence. One of the last invitations written in the Bible invites whosoever will to come and drink of the water of life freely. Isaiah, the prophet, said in one place, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." And we can rejoice that with joy we can draw waters out of the wells of salvation. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God. It is for the soul of man to come and drink of this water of life. Jesus told the woman at the well that whosoever drinks of this living water would never thirst, but the water would be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Oh, how wonderful that we can drink of the Rock that has been smitten and opened for us!

Leading His sheep like a shepherd, Christ can guide us beside the waters of quietness and rest. While the false prophets have soiled the waters with their feet and pernicious ways, Christ can lead us to living fountains of water, and feed us on the pure doctrine of His gracious Word. Oh, how necessary that we drink all the water of life that will keep us healthy and strong spiritually. As rivers of water in a dry place, and as streams in the desert will He be to our thirsty souls. "There's no thirsting for life's pleasures, nor adorning rich and gay for I've found a richer treasure, one that fadeth not away." The water of life is flowing for us. "By the crystal waters flashing I stand all redeemed by the blood. I'll forever praise my God and King for my cleansing in the crimson flood."

—L. Busbee

DISCOVERED! NOAH'S 6,000-YEAR-OLD FLOOD

Scientists had uncovered the fantastic city of Ur, but a few feet deeper lay one of the most incredible archaeological finds of all time.

"And the Lord said unto Noah, come thou and all thy house into the Ark. . . . And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." Genesis 7.

The graves of the Kings of Ur stood out like barren, flat-topped hills in the burning desert sand. Like ants, the diggers delved with shovels and picks into the heart of one special hill, sweltering as wicker baskets filled with history moved slowly, hand by hand from the deep shafts in the earth.

Sir Charles Leonard Woolley, the wiry little archaeologist in charge of this joint British-American expedition into the past, had no thoughts of the Flood as the baskets came to the surface, each bearing evidence of life and death in the vast Mesopotamian desert when the Kings of Ur ruled their fabulous city.

Mysterious—For six years the scientists had sweated in the desert, close to the spot where the Euphrates joins the Persian Gulf. And they had achieved the discovery of all time—they had unearthed the Biblical city of Ur of the Chaldees. The city from which, said the Bible, Abraham had “gone forth.”

They had proved that a place as mysterious and legendary as any of the kings and conquerors, powerful empires, temples and golden palaces with which the Bible regales us, had really existed. The Bible was right.

Woolley and his colleagues had found this place beneath the sands—temples, fountains still standing. Even the ovens for baking bread were still there.

“After 3,800 years,” Woolley reported, “we were able to light the fire again and put into commission once more the oldest kitchen in the world.”

For three years the excited archaeologists dug until, under the slopes of this great hill of Tell al Maqyyar, a whole city lay before them, bathed in bright sunshine, awakened from its sleep after thousands of years. Such was the incredible discovery of Woolley.

He had not the slightest inkling of the even bigger sensation which, three years later, he was to reveal to an astonished world.

Woolley had found the graves of the Kings of Ur beneath a 50 ft. mound south of the Temple of Ur.

The stone vaults were filled with costly treasures.

Golden drinking cups and goblets, shapely jugs and vases, bronze tableware, mother-of-pearl mosaics, lapis lazuli and silver surrounded the bodies which had mouldered into dust.

But the graves of the kings contained more grisly and depressing sights.

In the vaults were found teams of oxen, the skeletons

still in harness, and great wagons laden with artistic household furniture.

In solemn procession, it would seem, attendants with the ox-drawn treasure wagons accompanied a body to the tomb. And while the grave was being sealed outside, the attendants composed their dead master for his last rest . . . then took some drug, gathered 'round him for the last time and died of their own free will, to serve him in his future existence.

By now Woolley was working in the world of 2,800 B. C. As the summer of A. D. 1929 approached, the sixth season of digging was drawing to a close.

Woolley put his diggers once more on the hill of the graves of the kings.

He had to know whether the ground under the royal graves had fresh discoveries in stone.

Woolley reported: "Almost at once discoveries were made which confirmed our suspicions.

"Directly under the floor of one of the tombs of the kings we found a layer of charred wood and numerous clay tablets, covered with writing of a much older type than the inscriptions on the tombs. Judging by the nature of the writing, the tablets were about 3,000 years B. C."

Now the shafts went deeper and deeper . . . and one day the diggers called: "We are on ground level."

Woolley let himself down to the foot of the shaft, carefully prodded the floor and stopped short. It was pure clay—a kind that could have been deposited only by water.

At first he thought it must be silt left over by the old Euphrates river. But the layer of clay was too high above the river.

Abruptly—he decided to dig into the clay. At six feet it was still pure clay. Then suddenly, at 10 feet, the layer stopped as abruptly as it had started.

The next baskets that came to the surface contained stubble, ancient rubbish and countless pieces of pottery. They had struck, under this clay, fresh evidence of human habitation.

The pots had been hand made. But the pots above the clay level had been turned on ancient potters' wheels. There were no metal remains below the clay—only flint implements. It was the Stone Age.

That day a telegram from Mesopotamia flashed the extraordinary message: "We have found the Flood!"

That was the only possible explanation of this great clay deposit beneath the hill at Ur. The sea had left its unmistakable traces—remains of little marine organisms embedded in the clay.

Woolley feared for a moment that a chance coincidence might be making fools of them. So he sank another shaft, 300 yards away. The result was the same.

Then he dug another, on a nearby hill. They came to a brick pavement. Sixteen feet below this pavement, which Woolley was sure dated about 2700 B. C., he said: "We were among the ruins of a city of Ur which had existed before the Flood."

For miles around scientists began sinking shafts to check the extent of the Flood. And Woolley estimated the disaster engulfed an area north-west of the Persian Gulf 400 miles long and 100 miles wide—part of modern Iraq and Kuwait.

A vast, catastrophic inundation, resembling the Biblical Flood which the skeptics had described as either a fairy story or a legend, had not only taken place, but was an event within the compass of history.

Reckoning by the ages of the earth layers containing traces of human habitation, which were as reliable as a calendar, Woolley proved when the Great Flood took place.

It happened about 4,000 years before the birth of Christ. So, the Bible was right.

Adapted from *The Bible as History*, by Wener Keller (Hodder and Stoughton.)

(Reprinted from an article in England)

Sent in by Mrs. R. Bartel (Canada)

o

May 27, 1973

FACING A FIERCE ENEMY

Ephesians 6:10-13, 16, 18; Exodus 17:8-16

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ex. 17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi.

16 For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Memory Verse: Take heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. Mark 13:33.

Central Thought: We can persevere against our enemy, Satan, if we will hold up God's Word in our heart and life by watching and praying with faith.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The Amaleks were descendants of Esau. Maybe this battle had something to do with old enmity that once existed between Esau and his brother Jacob. They occupied the region between southern Palestine and Egypt. Jacob's name was changed to Israel. Genesis 32:28.

In our study of the exodus of the children of Israel, we want to keep in mind that Egypt was a type of a life of worldliness and sin. God was leading them on in the wilderness to Mt. Sinai where He wanted to give them the Ten Commandments. The wilderness where they were was called, "The Wilderness of Sin," but this word "Sin" is a name only and doesn't have any reference to being a type. The wilderness they crossed after leaving Egypt (sin), is a type of the justified life. The Canaan land is a type of the sanctified life. So here they are learning lessons. First, we note they came to the bitter waters at Marah. After a Christian leaves the sinful life, he might face something hard and bitter. Satan will try at this point to get our eyes on the circumstances and discouraged, but when the grace of the "Branch," Christ Jesus, is applied, the bitterness will disappear.

Next, they needed bread and meat. They learned that from the "smitten Rock" they found satisfaction to their souls. Notice we need to pray and eat of God's Word every day. It won't keep over to suffice us sufficiently for the next day. These are real important lessons to learn. Many other lessons they learned. In our lesson today they have come face to face with the enemy. God wanted them to learn to look directly to Him and feel their dependence upon Him and Him alone.

Moses was on a hill 700 feet above the fighting

Lesson References: Amaleks come from behind: Deut. 25:18. "Who did hinder you": Galatians 5:7. Stand fast: Gal. 5:1. Be strong: 2 Tim. 1-5. Fight a good fight: 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:6-8. Reward: James 1:12. Paul says, "Pray for us": Hebrews 13:18. Receive not accusation against an elder: 1 Timothy 5:19, 1.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of foe does the Christian face? 2. How does the devil attack young Christians? 3. How does the Christian face the devil? 4. Compare our fight against Satan with Moses and his holding up the rod. 5. Tell of some victory you have gained over the enemy in a fierce battle.

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

The trials of the life of a Christian are varied, unexpected, and fierce at times. The Israelites faced thirst and then hunger. Then they faced sorrow. God supplied them with water and food. Did they have faith to continue to trust Him? This was a new life full of new experiences

to them. God was teaching them and leading them on to the Canaan land, a type of the sanctified life, which is for the Christian today.

After a person is first saved, sometimes the devil will hit them the hardest. Later Moses rehearsed this battle in our lesson today. He said to them, "Remember . . . how he met thee by the way, and smote thee the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary: and he feared not God?" Deut. 25:17-19. The devil does not have any pity for the young Christian. We need to know our enemy. He is not "flesh and blood." We wrestle against the powers of the enemy that come against us from such varied sources as our homes, relatives, friends, thoughts, and rulers of the land. We battle "spiritual wickedness in high places," accusations, even our own self-life. But thank God, if we will look to Him and keep on the whole armor, He will bring us through.

Moses was up on the hill. He was holding up the rod, which was the Word of God. We will call his arms prayer and faith. His eyes will represent faith watching. We must have God's Word in our hearts and obey it to make it into heaven and be an overcomer. We have to watch and pray with faith in order to fight a winning battle. When we let down on any of the Word, we will start losing the battle. If we get weak in our praying and faith, we will lose. Notice that they began losing the battle when Moses' arms became tired. We must not "be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." "For every man shall bear his own burden," but if he becomes weary, then those who are strong are to bear his burden and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:9, 5, 2.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is the thought of the lifted up hand or hands scattered throughout the scriptures. God said in Deut. 32:40, "For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live forever." The uplifted hand here indicates God's sovereignty and power to decree Himself as the Eternal One. An oath is usually accompanied by the sign of the uplifted hand, which denotes the authority one has in his statement or word. The prophet said in Isaiah 26:11, "Lord, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed. . . ." Many deny the power of God and refuse to recognize His authority. But if we deny Him and believe not, yet He abideth faithful and cannot deny Himself. When Jesus led His disciples out as far as to Bethany, He lifted up His hands, and blessed

them, and was carried up into Heaven. The victory and authority of Christ is a great blessing to us today and through His overcoming strength we can lift up our hands in triumphant grace. "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." Hebrews 12:12, 13. And as the second Psalm declares, Though the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing to break the bands of the Lord asunder and cast away His cords, He said, "Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree, The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, This day have I begotten thee." The Lord's hand is lifted up above His enemies today. He sits at the right hand of God in power and authority with uplifted hand for the victory and blessing of His people who live for Him. What a blessing it was to Stephen as he was being persecuted to be able to look steadfastly into heaven and behold Christ standing on the right hand of God. It is a great blessing to us today in our troubles and adversities of life to be able to look steadfastly into heaven and behold Christ interceding with uplifted hand for us to God. His hand is lifted up, and His everlasting arms need no human support. Victory and deliverance are for us through the saving strength of His right hand.

—L. Busbee

TORN IN HALF

Some years ago a colporteur might have been seen wending his way through the forests to a door of a country cottage in France. Arrived, he greeted the woman within and offered a New Testament for sale.

"Do not be troubled, Madame," urged the colporteur. "The priest would sin against God if he prevented you from reading of the love of the good Christ."

At last she produced 50 centimes, and, taking the book, said, "I cannot refuse, Monsieur, but may I be pardoned if I sin."

Presently in came Jacques, the charcoal burner, her husband. Rather timidly, Jeanne produced her book for his inspection. As she rather feared, he was tired and cross, and upbraided her for spending his money in this fashion.

"But," she said, "the money is not all yours, Jacques. I brought my dowry when we married. The half franc was as much mine as yours."

"Give me the book," shouted Jacques in a temper. He snatched it from her hand. "The money was half yours and

half mine, you say. Very well, the book is the same!" He opened the book roughly, tore it in two pieces, dropping one into his blouse and throwing the other to Jeanne.

Several days later Jacques sat in the forest by his charcoal fires. He felt lonely. Suddenly he remembered the torn book. He would investigate it. His rough fingers had divided it in Luke's Gospel. He began at the very beginning. "And will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

Spellbound he read to the end of the story and then a dozen questions presented themselves. What had he done—the poor lost son? Why was he exiled? Where had he been? What induced him to return? The questions haunted him. "I wish I had the beginning of the story," he sighed. At first pride prevented him asking Jeanne for her part of the book.

Meanwhile, Jeanne lived her monotonous days and used her leisure moments poring over her part and spelling out its contents. She began to delight in it, but when she reached the end, her interest was doubly quickened. The younger son—his waywardness, his journey, his sin, his misery, the wonderful change in his thoughts. "I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my Father—" There the story stopped.

But what had happened? Did the father welcome him? Her tender heart longed for a satisfactory answer. She even cried over the story, but she could not screw up her courage to consult Jacques.

The days passed. On one, however, the rain poured down with special vigour and Jacques came home feeling especially weary. He ate his soup and bread for supper as usual, and at last he blurted out: "Jeanne, you remember the book I tore in two?"

"Oh, yes," said she, half fearing.

"My part had in it a wonderful story, but only the end of it. I cannot rest until I know the beginning of it. Bring me your piece."

"Oh, Jacques! how wonderful!"

"Why?"

"The same story is ever in my mind, only I lack the ending. Did the father receive that willful son?"

"He did. But what was it that separated them?"

She brought her piece and knelt by his chair. Together they read the whole of the beautiful parable, and the Spirit of God who had been working in both their hearts caused its hidden meaning to dawn on them. That was the first

of many Bible readings by the firelight after soup and bread were eaten and both had yielded hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. —Selected

June 3, 1973

SHARING THE BURDEN

Exodus 18:5, 9, 13, 17, 19-22, 24; Luke 6:12, 13;
Acts 6:2, 3, 5a

Exodus 18:5 And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God:

9 And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.

13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

17 And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to Godward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said.

Luke 6:12 He [Jesus] went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

5a And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose.

Memory Verse: Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:4.

Central Thought: Ministers should not do all the work, but awaken others to heed the call to needed tasks for God.

Word Definition: "Able men" are "persons of wisdom, discernment, judgment, prudence, and fortitude." (Clarke)

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jethro was the priest of Midian. When Moses went to Egypt a few months before this time, he sent his wife, Zipporah, and his two sons back to their home. Now Jethro, his father-in-law, has brought them to Moses where they are camped in the wilderness. Moses was glad to see his family. His two sons were Gershom and Eliezer. He went out to meet them, kissed them, and brought them to his tent. He told Jethro all about what God had done in delivering them from the Egyptians, and their experience of their trip to this place. Jethro rejoiced and blessed the Lord. He also offered a burnt offering and sacrifice unto God. Since he was a priest he could do this.

Jethro gave good counsel to Moses since he saw that he would soon wear out judging the people alone. Later Jethro went back to his home.

We have chosen scriptures of Jesus choosing the disciples to help Him share His load and also the apostles later asking the multitudes to choose men filled with the Holy Ghost to take care of part of the work of God.

Lesson References: Do not become entangled: 2 Timothy 2:4. They continued in prayers, etc.: Acts 2:42. Have a good report: 1 Timothy 3:7. Neglect not gift: 1 Timothy 4:14.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Jethro act when he heard about the workings of God concerning the Israelites? 2. What did Jethro observe about Moses and his relation to the people? 3. Did Moses receive Jethro's counsel? 4. What did Jesus do the night before He chose His disciples? 5. What did the Apostles do about their heavy load in the early church? 6. What can be done today to relieve some who are overburdened?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

There are some great persons that very little is said about in the Scriptures. Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, had great wisdom and sound judgment. He was very devout as most great men are. With a kindly interest he gave Moses good advice. Moses, though a great leader and a man of God, listened and "did all that he said." Moses did not shrug off the counsel and concern of the older man, and treat him with disrespect, but gave heed to it. He was like one young man who said, "I like to talk to older people because you can learn so many things." Older people have been along the way and also have been able to observe the successes and failures of others, as well as their own. They can give good counsel, especially those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. We should never feel that we are so wise that we cannot learn from another. We want to be sure from whom we take counsel. The Bible says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." The ungodly cannot give counsel that will help one to a more spiritual life.

Ministers many times wear out because they are trying to fill too many places. They should teach others about their responsibilities and awaken a desire in them to be helpful. The very smallest task is important and should be considered so by God's people. Many times ministers are working in the kitchen in camp meetings when some soul is needing help. The Apostles felt their need to "give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Who is failing? Some have said that they hate to see a few overburdened with the duties on the camp grounds. Each of us needs to pray much about this. In the congregation there are those who have abilities, but they need to be awakened to the use of them. Many lives are shortened by being overburdened. There is a better way.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Not every one is a Moses, not every one is a Christ, and not every one is a Peter or a John. God knows what every

man's ability is and where he or she can best be used to the glory of God. When God called Ananias to go to the street called Straight and pray for Saul who was chosen to bear His name before the world, Ananias could have thought: "Well, here I am saved already; why cannot Christ commission me and send me forth to the world instead of laying ahold of this troublemaker?" Of course we have no record of his feeling this way. He obeyed the Lord, and then stepped from the scene while Paul went out to preach the gospel. The purpose of God according to election stands not of works, but of Him that calleth. God is running His own business according to His great wisdom, and man has nothing to say.

In Moses' time, there were to be rulers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. But each was important in his place. There was to be no schism in the body, but all were to work together for the common good. With such a large body of people on the move like Israel was, how great was the need of order and co-operation.

Paul, in speaking of the body of Christ, put it this way: The body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? Then he turned it around and said, And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Applying this to the Lord's body, the Church, we see that one should not feel that his office is superior or more important than another, nor should one feel that his office is inferior to another. Just because one is not gifted and anointed to preach like Paul, he or she should not be cast down, but endeavor to serve the Lord in the capacity that He has given to them. One man who was used of God said he felt bad that he had no more power than he did. But when the Lord was through dealing with him about his own attitudes, he wondered that God was good enough to trust him with what power he did have. There is more danger in being an eye or a hand than there is in being an ear or a foot. The greater you are used of God, the more temptation and suffering you might be called upon to endure. God knows just what we can bear up under. So let us trust God to endue us with what power and grace He sees we can be trusted with, and be thankful we can be a part, if but a small part, of His great Body at all.

—L. Busbee

SHARING THE BURDEN

There was a warm-hearted Christian merchant who closed his shop on Sunday. In the morning he attended church to worship God, but in the afternoon he went on the street and distributed tracts. Feeling very tired one Sunday afternoon, he was resting quietly in his library. On the writing desk was a bundle of tracts. Outside it was pouring with rain. He heard a stealthy step, then the library door was pushed open and his eleven-year-old boy ran in. Seeing his father there the lad asked in surprise, "Why Father, aren't you going out to distribute tracts today?"

"It's raining too hard," he lightly replied to satisfy the child.

"Papa, doesn't God save people when it's raining?"

The merchant was startled at such an awesome question. So he explained, "When it is raining hard there are few people on the street. Moreover, I am very tired, so I am not going out."

"Papa, shall I go out for you?"

"Son, may God bless you in your good purposes. When you are grown you may continue your father's work." As he ruffled the child's hair, the latter coaxed, "Let me go now!" His heart had been touched and he was keen to act.

"It is not convenient in the rain."

"What does it matter if I wear my rubbers and carry an umbrella?" The child begged, then taking silence for consent he ran out and was back in a moment clad in his rain clothes. Skipping excitedly he called, "Father, I'm ready. Please give me some tracts."

Seeing the lad's eagerness the father handed him a few sheets, warning him to be careful and return when he was through. In high spirits the boy started out to distribute the tracts. In the downpour the streets were slippery and with scarcely a sign of a person. He waited a long time before he disposed of a single tract. Darkness was coming on; the rain continued relentlessly and there was not a solitary person on the whole street.

"Return when you are through," had been his father's command. If he were taking his father's place, he felt he must finish giving out the tracts before going home. Finally only the last sheet remained in his hand, but there wasn't a person in sight to whom he might give. He walked another block, but still he was the only one on the lonely street. What was he to do with this last tract? "There's a way.

People don't come to me. Why don't I go to them?" With long strides he approached the nearest dwelling and knocked.

"Who's there?" came a voice from within. His heart was thumping, half with fright, half with joy. He waited a moment, but as no one opened the door, he gathered up his courage, raised his small fist and knocked again. Timidly he put his ear to the crack to hear if there were any movements inside.

"Who is it?"

"That's good. They'll surely come now," he thought. But he waited and still the door was fast closed. He was growing impatient and his small hand beat a rapid tattoo on the door.

"Who's knocking again?" He kept it up until the door opened and there stood an old woman whose distressed face was a sharp contrast to the eager one on the doorstep. With face wreathed in smiles he said respectfully; "Lady, pardon me, but I've come specially to bring you the Gospel." Raising his chubby fist he placed the last tract in her hand.

"Thank you."

The child darted off. His "Goodby" was blown back by the wind.

The next Sunday evening a small street chapel was crowded with listeners. The warm-hearted merchant was acting as usher. His young son had come along, hoping to learn how to do his father's work. After songs and prayer, the chairman asked if anyone wanted to testify to the Lord's grace. An old woman with the light of Heaven on her face rose and voiced her praise:

"Thank God, He sent a little angel to save me. Otherwise last Sunday night in my loneliness, poverty, and utter despair I would have ended it all. It was pouring with rain. I had reached the dregs of human suffering, having lost both husband and son. After a long struggle I gave way to despondency and started to hang myself. Suddenly there was a knock at the door. I responded but made no move, thinking to wait until the person had gone before taking my life. But the knocking continued until I had to open the door. There stood a little angel with the face of spring who gave me a gospel tract. As I looked at it I knew that God had not forsaken me. I could not keep back the tears, but confessed my sin and asked for pardon. Praise the Lord! He saved me!"

The lad softly whispered in his father's ear, "She's the one!" Only then did the father know that God had sent his child to find a lost sheep by means of a tract!

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:14-17.) —Andrew Gib

June 10, 1973

EAGLE WINGS BEAR TREASURE

Exodus 19:1-6; Deut. 32:10-12; Isa. 40:28-31

Exodus 19:1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

3 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 32:10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

Isa. 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends

of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Memory Verse: And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I shall make up my jewels. Malachi 3:17a.

Central Thought: God will take care of His special treasure that He purchased by the death of His only begotten Son. His wings are strong enough to take care of them.

Word Definition: God's "peculiar treasure" is a "people in whom He should have all right, and over whom He should have exclusive authority above all the people of the earth; . . . as receiving His revelation and entering into His covenant." (Clarke) Covenant is an "agreement made between God and man by sacrifice, in reference to the incarnation and death of Christ; for from the foundation of the world the covenant of God ratified by sacrifices referred to this." Clarke "An holy nation": They should "be a nation of one people; firmly united among themselves, . . . powerful, because united, and acting under the direction and blessing of God. . . . They are free from their sins, righteous in their conduct, holy in their hearts. . . ." (Clarke)

LESSON BACKGROUND

Notice particularly the words, "All the earth is mine." God owns the earth. Meditate upon the word "mine." Notice the word "mine" in the memory verse. Dear fellow-pilgrim, we need never be afraid!

Some things about the eagle are wonderful. One thing is that they have only one mate until one of them dies. They work together and teach their young together.

The eagle has a wing spread of seven or eight feet. Some airmen have found the eagle flying at almost 10,000 feet above the earth. His eyes have been known to detect a fish three miles from the spot where he was soaring.

"National Audubon Society has painstakingly followed up each of the accusations, (of an eagle making an unprovoked attack upon a child or baby) and every one melts away to fable." (Reader's Digest).

It is said that the eagle will set his face right into a blinding storm and soar above it. The winds from the storm help him up and out of it. Just so, the Lord can help us to use that thing that would be destructive to bear us up and out unharmed.

One Christian man who had a dangerous job which caused him to look down a lot, had wings put on his shoes. When he became weary he would look at them and be strengthened, because they reminded him of the promise that he could "mount up with wings as eagles."

Lesson References: Church given wings: Rev. 12:14. He carried them: Isaiah 63:9. Apple of His eye: Psalms 17:8; Proverbs 7:2. Peculiar treasure: Deut. 32:8; 1 Kings 8:53; Titus 2:14. Earth is mine: Psalms 50:12; 1 Cor. 10:26; 1 Peter 2:5.

QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the eagle and compare it with God's caring for the children of Israel. 2. Have we been delivered from something worse than the literal bondage of the Egyptians? 3. What are the two proposals of God's love to the Israelites, and to us today? 4. Discuss the truth and its impact upon us if we believe "The earth is mine." 5. Compare the stirring of the eagle's nest and our spiritual lives today. 6. What will happen if we will just wait upon the Lord?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

What a beautiful comparison we have in our lesson of the eagle's strength, courage, and power to the God of Israel. Surely, the Israelites were helpless to help themselves from being slaves and they were seemingly doomed. God sent the miraculous plagues to Egypt and its gods were powerless. He brought them out in a glorious way. They were His peculiar or special treasure. They were Abraham's seed. They were to be the people through whom Jesus Christ was to come to this world. They were God's jewels, just as we are today.

What a glorious deliverance we had from Satan! He quickened us; "He delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Col. 1:13. He literally snatched our souls from the burning

and from Satan's power. He carries us on eagle's wings. When we become weary, He causes us to "mount up with wings as eagles." He gives us strength and courage.

The baby eaglets play in their soft nursery, yet they are taught to exercise every day. They jump up and down, flapping their wings. After weeks of practice they attempt their first terrified flutter from the edge of the nest but fall back. If they are too slow in trying again, the soft fur, wool, etc. are pulled out from under them and their parents entreat them by holding morsels of food just beyond their grasp.

Our Almighty Parent may take away our comforts, permit some afflictions to come or withhold some privilege to make us a better worker for Him. How can our faith be increased unless we have a chance to exercise it? How will we know what God can do to work out problems if we are not permitted to have any? Through all of this we can be better soldiers of the cross and bear fruit for God. But how wonderful is the thought when we know our Almighty Parent is watching and will swoop down and bear us up if we become weary.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God! As we look at the love and care that a true father and mother have for their offspring both in humanity and in the animal and bird realm, we get a true picture of the love and care God has for us who are His children by faith in Jesus Christ. There is much unnatural affection in the world that causes parents to forsake their children, but this is due to the corrupted state of man. The normal feeling of a parent to a child they have brought forth into the world is one of joy and great treasure. Such was God's feeling toward Israel and such is His feeling toward the true Israel today.

God was so willing to show unto the heirs of His promise the unfaithfulness of His counsel that He confirmed it with an oath. He wants to have us feel the warmth and fervency of His love for us, for He is jealous of us as His own peculiar, or separate treasure. He has set apart the godly for Himself and He does not want His people mixing and mingling in heart with the world. "Come out from among them," He said, "and I will receive you; and ye shall be my sons and daughters." We who have accepted His pardoning love and received His Spirit into our very souls are His true peculiar treasure. For He is jealous over us and wants us to be a

chaste virgin for His own joy and pleasure. For His pleasure all things are and were created.

A treasure is something that is set much by and regarded with great thought and interest. It is something that is closely watched and guarded and cared for. Jesus told us of the worth of one soul, did He not? Oh, how much more precious, then, to Christ, are the souls who have been washed in His blood and are walking in the light! He would have us to know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. "For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance." Deut. 32:9. Seeing that God loves us so much and spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, we can trust Him for all things, knowing He will not withhold any good thing from us. —L. Busbee

CHRIST ALWAYS SAVES

God stirs the nest and makes you fly,
Then you begin to weep and cry;
His hand has failed and down you go,
With naught in sight but rocks below.

A dreadful sight and fast the fears
Take place as all hope disappears;
Oh, how you miss the downy nest,
But God has stirred it for the best.

He knows your lack of faith and trust,
He knows how for vain things you'd lust.
He knows you'd lean on men and creeds,
And would not to His Word take heed.

So from your nest He picked the down,
Left naught but thorns and briars around;
Then gladly you step on His wing,
And to this thought you'd always cling.

But still on this you could not grow
The way of God to fully know;
'Tis time to exercise YOUR wings,
And get the faith that launching brings.

So quick He lurches, down you go,
And help you cannot see or know;
Then to your wings you swiftly take,
While fears increase your heart to break.

Far down, down, you swiftly go
Until you're near the rocks below;
Then quick beneath your trembling frame
He darts: you're safe from care and pain.

This lesson He repeats quite oft,
Until you learn to soar aloft,
Above all troubles, trials and waves,
Until you learn Christ ALWAYS saves.

—Sel.

June 17, 1973

PREPARED FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Exodus 19:10-25

Exodus 19:10 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes,

11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai.

12b Saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:

13 There shall not a hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

15 And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.

16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke

thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

20 And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

21 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish.

22 And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them.

23 And Moses said unto the Lord, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set the bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.

24 And the Lord said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the Lord, lest he break forth upon them.

25 So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

Memory Verse: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27.

Central Thought: Unquestioning obedience is required to be prepared in receiving special blessings from God.

Word Definition: Sanctify means "to set apart . . . to make free from sin or purify." Web. Dic. (In the gospel dispensation we set ourselves apart after our volitional sins are forgiven, and then God sends the Holy Spirit who purges our natures of the sin principle.)

LESSON BACKGROUND

At last they have arrived at the Mount of God. At this mount God first spoke to Moses to go to Egypt and bring out the Israelites from bondage. Now God was going to meet them there to let them know about His laws.

But there was some preparation for them to make to meet their God. They did not live under this grace dispensation and therefore did not know the New Testament teachings as we do today. Even so there was a preparation to

be made. If God was that particular in that day, what does He require of us who have His written Word?

Moses took the words of last Sunday's lesson to the people and they were hearty in their response of obeying the Lord. They said, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." But as we continue to study about them we see that they promised more than they could perform. They needed more of God's laws and a work in the heart. Today in this gospel dispensation we can truly say that all the Lord has spoken we will do, by His grace and power working in us.

Remember that the dealings of God with the people of the Old Testament are lessons or examples for us today. Today He requires more of us than He did in that day.

Lesson References: There must be separation from what was not of God, that there might be fellowship with what was of God. To this end self-consecration was required: Psa. 26:6; Isa. 1:16-18; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:9-20. Things done in order: 1 Cor. 14:10. Nature, God's servants: Psa. 66:4; Psa. 67:1-7. Paul refers to our lesson: Heb. 12:18-26.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the word sanctify mean? 2. In what way did the Israelites sanctify themselves? 3. Why does God call for sanctification? 4. God keeps His appointments. What does He expect of us? 5. Describe the mighty power of God when He comes close to the earth. 6. What about the people's curiosity?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

God is a holy God and today we must serve Him in holiness. We are not ignorant of His laws as were the Israelites. We have the Bible and the Holy Spirit today to teach us. But even though the Israelites did not understand, yet we see that they had to do a certain amount of outward cleansing to be ready to come before the mount where God was going to speak to Moses and to them. In what God required, He expected strict obedience. The people were called to "sanctify themselves." This was a work to be done thoroughly. The word sanctify means to "set apart." As far as they could go in cleanliness they were to do that. Moses was their mediator and he was to do his part by instructing them to obey all of God's laws. God's ministers today are to expound God's Word in simple terms so they can be met by the people. God is a great God and must be met on His terms. When people are ready then God is ready to make known His will.

Fathers and mothers were there by the thousands who had seen the wonders of the Lord in Egypt, and His works in the wilderness. What excitement there must have been when they were commanded to leave their tents! What an awful pause of stillness and suspense as they stood in the plain before the Mount of God! There they saw the tremendous powers of nature under the control of God. No doubt they stood there with fear and trembling, yet awed at the greatness of God. Then the trumpet sounded and all at once they heard Moses speak and the wonderful Voice of Jehovah answer him. "And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice." Deut. 4:12. Much was revealed, yet much more was not revealed.

God knew of the people's vain curiosity, so He provided Moses as a mediator between them and Himself.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The thought of preparation is a great one in the Bible because it means the difference in obtaining or missing the blessings of God. Only those who prepare their hearts to seek the Lord and to receive of His grace and salvation will inherit the kingdom of God. The Lord will bless us as much as we prepare our hearts for. In the days of Jehoshaphat when the Lord wrought a tremendous victory over the enemy, it said that the high places were not taken away; for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers. 2 Chron. 20:33. So it is needful for us to prepare our hearts before God and seek diligently the right way to come to Him.

The message of John was the voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together." Isa. 40:3, 4. In fulfillment of another prophecy in Malachi 4:6, the angel Gabriel said of John, "He shall go before Him [Christ Jesus] in the spirit of Elias to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." So many overlook the ministry of John and fail to see its importance. It was a ministry of preparation. The heart of the fathers had to be turned to the children. This is a general term here that covers all avenues of leadership, government, and

authority. The heart of the children had to be turned to the fathers. All this was part of the preparation that had to be made before they could be in a condition to rightly claim inheritance in the kingdom of God that was at hand. The hearts of men were to be turned in love, mercy, respect, honor, and benevolence to one another. Note John's admonition to the people, the publicans, and the soldiers in Luke 3:10-14. Viewing these things we are persuaded to believe that many today who profess to believe in Christ have never been prepared to actually know Him. With all the generation gap we have on hands, and the jealousy and strife along with division, confusion, formality, and selfishness manifested, it is no wonder things are in the shape they are in. Men's hearts are not prepared. The message of John today is still of great importance. We need preparation of heart as Israel did at the mount of God—preparation to receive and welcome the Lord Jesus into our very inmost being. And by this we can be assured of preparation for the last great day that is soon to come upon us.

—L. Busbee

TALKIN' WITH THE LORD

(In the old woodshed)

I remember well when I was a lad,
The times were hard and the crops were bad—
Wasn't much work no where to be had,
And no one to work but me and Dad;
And Dad, well he was gettin' along,
I guess 'round seventy, but still pretty strong
And mother, well—my mother was gone,
She had done joined up with the heavenly throng.

Once all we had was a poke of flour,
And 'spectin' the sheriff most any hour.
Last year's taxes had not been paid,
And we'd done eat the only hen that laid;
Then I'd find Dad out in the old wood shed,
He'd gone there often since mother was dead.
I was wondrin' why, and then one day,
I snuck in to see, and I heard him pray.

As I stood at the door I heard him say,
"Lord, I thank you for this wonderful day,
And for your kindness and care through the night,
Jist knowin' you, Lord, makes everything all right.

I know that things get a little rough,
But that's why you made these hands so tough.
Now as for me, Lord, I don't worry none,
But would you kinda look out for my son?

"I know that I don't have much longer to stay,
And I don't mind Ma's gone away;
I have a hankerin' to join her up there,
And that's one reason for this prayer.
I want my boy to larn to trust You.
Like Ma and me would allus do;
Of course we've knowed You for many years,
And jist talkin' to You has dried many tears.

"And right now my boy is worried to death,
'Cause we ain't hardly got no food left.
But it's been this way many times before,
And I'd allus come a knockin' on Your door.
Somehow, Lord, You'd answer my prayer,
And I'd allus know the food would be there.
I thank You, Lord; enough has been said,
And I'll see Ye tomorrow here in the old wood shed."

As I saw him bowed in reverence there,
I knew he had a special kind of prayer;
He had been talkin', jist talkin' to the Lord,
And somehow I knew God heard every word.
My dad is gone now, but I still see his face,
As he looked toward Heaven and asked for God's grace.
The old shed's still there, as it was on that day,
When I stood by the door and heard my dad say,
"Jist havin' a talk with the Lord," he said,
And I thank God I heard him, in the old wood shed.

—Buddy Starcher

June 24, 1973

GOSPEL DISPENSATION PRIVILEGES

Hebrews 12:14, 15, 18-29

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh: for if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall we not escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Memory Verse: But Christ as a son over his own house whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Hebrews 3:6.

Central Thought: "The Gospel dispensation is one grand, copious, and interesting display of the infinite love of God."

Word Definition: Sion is the same as Zion. Mount Zion is in the city of Jerusalem, which is a mountain city. Jerusalem is the place where the temple was built. The temple was the place where the presence of God dwelt among His people before Jesus came to this world. It was a beautiful city. It had the beautiful appearance "beyond any other capital of the then known world—we may say beyond any important city that has ever existed on the earth—of a mountain city." (Bible Dictionary.)

LESSON BACKGROUND

Last Sunday we studied about the Israelites coming to Mount Sinai. Today we want to study about the comparison of the better privileges that we have in this gospel dispensation. The law dispensation engendered terror. That only belonged to the Jewish people or the Israelites. Moses quaked and feared and the people later begged Moses to tell them what God's laws were as they could not stand the awfulness of the presence of God and His voice. Their hearts were sinful and they quaked exceedingly.

Thank God, today we have something better through the coming of Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood for our sins. We can come boldly to the "throne of grace" and unto Mount Zion.

Lesson References: Mount Zion: Rev. 3:12; Rev. 21:2. Angels: Jude 14. Blood: 1 Peter 1:2. Prophecy of heaven being shaken and Jerusalem: Hag. 2:6, 7. Removing: Matthew 24:34; 2 Peter 3:10.

QUESTIONS:

1. They came to a literal mountain, but what do we come to in the gospel dispensation? 2. Where did the new Jerusalem come down from? 3. Who is our mediator today? 4. Why does the blood of Jesus speak better things than Abel's blood? 5. What kingdom is it that will not be moved?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS

What a glorious privilege we have today in coming to Mount Zion! The church which consists of God's "born again" people is called a city in our lesson. This heavenly new Jerusalem or holy city came "down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Rev. 21:2. The law was given by angels accompanying the Lord, just so the gospel dispensation was ushered in with an "innumerable

able company of angels." God records in heaven the names of those who are born again. Luke 10:20. Moses was the mediator of the law and Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant. Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, "just men are made perfect." The blood of the new covenant is the blood of the innocent Jesus Christ and is better than the blood of bulls and goats. Heb. 9:12. God is the supreme Judge of all that come to Him through Jesus Christ. God is the One who marks off the name of anyone who sins and turns away from obedience to the law of God.

The blood of Abel called for vengeance, but the blood of Jesus calls for mercy upon those who have sinned against Him.

Those who would touch the mountain would be shot through with a dart. God was expecting obedience. If they did not escape, surely if we disobey today we will not escape. His voice shook the earth then, and He shook it again when the city of Jerusalem was burned and the temple destroyed and the people scattered. God was through with that system. He has now set up His kingdom in the hearts of men. Though it was prophesied that once more the heavens and the earth shall be shaken, this kingdom will remain steadfast and sure. Man has tried to destroy the church, which is the kingdom of God, but since the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God moved into the hearts of "just men," it can never be prevailed against. In the end Jesus will deliver up the kingdom to the Father. 1 Cor. 15:24. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Oh, the glory and grace of the New and better Testament of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The law of Moses was insufficient to cleanse a man from the power and dominion of transgression against God. It merely pointed out to man his sin and depraved nature without offering any cure or cleansing. The righteousness of the law was described as being obedient to every command. But no man in his human strength and fallen nature could live up to the holy, just, and good commandments of God. Man could keep the ceremonial part of the law with great ease and with great pride also, but the spiritual part was forever marred in his soul. Man cannot live right and hope to gain favor with God thereby. By the law no flesh can be justified in the sight of God. This is brought out so many times by the New Testament writers, especially by Paul who had his fill of the righteousness of the law. But you will notice he confesses in the 7th chapter of Romans that his law experience brought only

condemnation to him. He stated that by the law was the knowledge of sin. When the commandment came, sin revived and he died. He had not known lust except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

But it is glorious to know that he found in Christ freedom from condemnation and the law of sin and death. He called it the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. It is no longer a group of laws written out for us to line up to. Instead it is the risen life of Christ flowing its quickening supply of grace into the hungry and thirsty heart. It is the new covenant God promised to make with us in which He writes His laws in our hearts and minds, remembering our sins and iniquities no more. It is the death that we die to sin and this present world, no longer to live in the lusts of the flesh. It is being resurrected and exalted with Christ, reigning with Him over all the works of the devil. In this blessed victory we live in Mount Zion, born into the family of God, gathered together unto Christ in an everlasting covenant. Oh, that all would be able to see the glory of this great and wonderful dispensation. It is for us to desire, to seek after, and find today. —L. Busbee

THE DIVINE DETECTIVE

By faith they were all there. Fifty of them. We counted again to be sure. My father in Spanish—"Uno, dos, tres, cuatro . . ." and I in my English.

The sleepily murmuring hens had disappeared on Thursday and now on Sunday night they were all back in place. It had happened while we visited the nearby camp meeting. These meetings were a must with Papa. Even if something was ready for harvest we had to go to the spiritual "fiesta." "God will take care of the farm if we put Him first," said Papa.

So on Thursday afternoon we excitedly ate supper early, did the chores, and rode to the camp meeting for the evening service. When we returned, an errand took me to the chicken shed. The door was open and in consternation I found every chicken was gone.

As usual we gathered for family worship before bedtime, and we waited to hear what Papa would say. My brother predicted that Papa would pray the chickens would come home. I said, "No, it is too much for even him to ask."

But our father was a man of faith. The prayer that night was warmhearted. Papa wasn't upset. He prayed for the person who had taken our fifty hens. He asked God to bless

this person! He also asked the Lord to touch his heart and to make him feel so miserable that he would bring the chickens back.

While Papa was asking the Lord to do this I groaned, "Oh, no, it is too much. Papa can't believe this will happen."

I shall never forget how awestruck I was that Sunday night as my father, humble migrant turned American, small farmer and a man of faith, counted his chickens that had come home to roost. All the way to fifty. Every one of them was there.

But that wasn't all. On Monday a neighbor pulled into our yard and confessed he was the thief. He said, "Mr. Garcia, you have been praying. Your God wouldn't let me sleep until I returned every chicken."

You, like Papa Garcia's neighbor have some things to return. You have a life to give back. The prayers of dear ones have followed you across the country and possibly to distant nations. It is easy to run these days. The airlines and fast cars are everywhere and so convenient.

So you have buried yourself in intellectual isolation with a thick shield of culture around you that can't be pierced by the superstitions of the old folk. You are surrounded by impregnable philosophies and neatly spun theories. The Bible is so full of simplistic stuff that just couldn't touch an intellectual. But the voice of God is still penetrating—talking, drawing, wooing. The truth you heard in the past is still speaking.

And you wanted thrill, excitement, and the fleshpots of the world. The bright lights were so alluring. They all turned out to be mirages, vain bubbles that burst so easily and left a legacy of despair. Now it seems too humiliating to return and admit that the fountains of pleasure spew sawdust. But don't forget the fountain of blood "open in the city of David for sin and uncleanness."

The eye of God follows us in our wanderings away from Him. The Divine Detective who ferreted out Mr. Garcia's chicken thief knows every fact and fancy of our lives. "Thou God seest me."

Listen to the psalmist as he exclaims about the eye of the Lord:

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. (Psalm 139:7-12).

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! (Psalm 139:17).

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23,24).

—Harold Crosser

(Teacher, have you ordered lessons for the 3rd quarter of 1973? The first Sunday of the quarter is July 1.)

