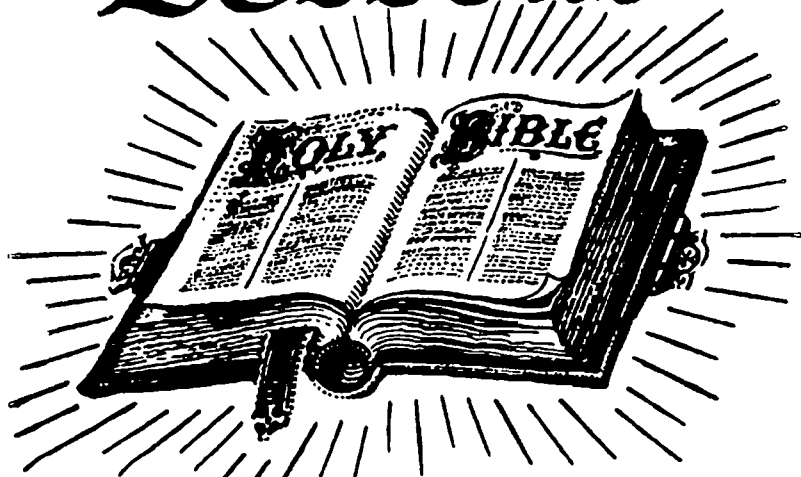


Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

**Vol. 5, No. 4
Oct., Nov., Dec.,
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Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

Vol. 5 October, November, December, 1973 No. 4

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**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
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THEME FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER, 1973



We now enter into the study of God's plan for a sanctuary, a place for His dwelling with mankind. The tabernacle which He instructed Moses to build is a type and a figure of that true spiritual tabernacle—the Church of God—which was built and set in order by Jesus Christ in this present gospel dispensation. Every part and detail of that ancient tabernacle, and the services connected therewith, hold great spiritual significance. Let us view this blueprint of the New Testament plan of redemption in this series of studies as a prophecy of God's divine will for His dwelling with us today.

Let us remember the words of Jesus as we study our lessons this quarter, "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me." Luke 24:44. Jesus states that He is the center of all the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul, arriving at Rome, "expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets. . ." Acts 28:23. He states that the rituals and tabernacle worship "are a shadow of things to come." Col. 2:17.

—The writers.

October 7, 1973

GOD'S DESIRE TO DWELL WITH MAN

Exodus 24:18; 25:1-9; Isaiah 66:1, 2; Ezekiel 37:27, 28;

Revelation 21:3.

Exodus 24:18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

25:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

3 And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass,

4 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

5 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

6 Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense,

7 Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate.

8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

9 According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Ezekiel 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

28 And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

Rev. 21:3 [John said:] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Memory Verse: [Jesus is] the minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. Hebrews 8:2.

Central Thought: The Creator of mankind graciously desires and has provided a dwelling with man, a Sanctuary and a Holy Place apart from all things, where He can commune with His people.

Word Definitions: The word Tabernacle in the Scriptures from the Hebrew is revealed in two different words, one meaning a residence or dwelling, and the other meaning a tent which can be clearly seen from a distance. The colors have a signifi-

cance: Blue, the color of the sky; purple, an extract from a species of shell fish (from the waters); and scarlet, a dye extracted from a certain worm; along with fine linen which were white. The goat's hair was almost as fine and beautiful and long as silk. Concerning the rams' skins dyed red, the Hebrew renders it literally "skins of red rams." It is said that sheep in that area were often red. Shittim wood is supposed to have been of the finest species of cedar or the acacia, a solid, light, and very beautiful wood of the thorn species. This acacia is known to have abounded in Egypt and the Arabian desert where Moses built the tabernacle.—Clarke. Pattern: a model or resemblance; a figure; likeness. Contrite: Broken, collapsed, or smitten.—Hebrew Dictionary.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Here at Mount Horeb, the scene of God's revelation to Moses in the burning bush, we find the vast multitude of the Redeemed from Egypt led by Moses camped and assembled. God has just spoken to them from the burning Mount the precepts of His Law. It is time for discipline and instruction. After the lively oracles are thundered and declared in their ears, the great Jehovah summons Moses to ascend the holy mount and commune with Him concerning His gracious plan of abiding with man. All the while He is giving the pattern for the tabernacle, the people are supposed to be waiting in quietness and patience at the foot of the mountain. Moses is brought up away from the strife of tongues and clouds of unbelief to behold the wonderful Will of God. Many years later the prophet Isaiah declares that God dwells not in temples made with hands, but rather that God looks for habitation in the hearts of poor and contrite people. Even so did Ezekiel prophesy of the time in Christ when the true sanctuary of God would be in the midst of His people forevermore. Earnestly behold the loving desire of our Creator to dwell with us, and let it inspire your faith to make room for Him in your heart.

—Leslie Busbee

Lesson References: Wisdom's dwelling and delights with man, Proverb 8:30; God's desire to dwell in Zion, the Church of God, Psalm 132:13, 14; God's promise to David that His Son (Christ) would build Him an house, II Samuel 7:12, 13.

QUESTIONS:

1. In what manner were the offerings for the tabernacle to be given? 2. Why did God dwell "among" Israel and not "within" them? 3. Is it possible for man to build for God a suitable house made with hands? 4. With comparing how large His footstool and His throne are, how big would His House have to be?

5. If this is not what God is desiring for a habitation, just what does He desire? 6. And where is this House to be found?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

How great is the desire of God to dwell with man, the prime treasure of His creation! After man proved himself unworthy of God dwelling with him, God has been designing a restoration of His sanctuary with man. In the time of Moses He could not dwell with man in His fulness in the heart, but He desired to draw as close as He could. "Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." What a blessed will, so sweet and favorable toward His people! He would not have man in this cold dark world without His gracious Presence. And He set about in our lesson to bring such a plan to pass for His dwelling with Israel, and designed that such a place be surrounded with beauty and sacredness as no other place could ever be.

The material that He called for has great significance, blending together the color of the sky, the treasures of the seas, the substance of the earth: things precious and rare, yet not beyond the reach of man. So much of the tabernacle was to be overlaid with gold, the amount according to Exodus 38:24 was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, which in our American money amounts to approximately over \$700,000. Gold, one of the most valuable metals, is a worthy type of the holiness and purity of the Christ-life that God wants to use to over-lay all of our lives. The trying of our faith is more precious than gold which perisheth, the Apostle Peter said. The tabernacle with all of its colors, and order, and value was insufficient to really be a habitation for God. But it was a figure for the time then present. As we behold in the following studies its beauty and order, we shall be able to visualize the habitation of God with man in this New Testament time. For now we are the temple of God, His holy dwelling. And what does it mean for God to dwell within us? This brings Him very near, does it not? "No more I think of God afar, but see Thee, Lord, within." We being His dwelling now, and He being our habitation, there is mutual joy and blessing and fellowship with the heavenly riches of His love. Try to picture yourself an Israelite in the time of Moses, and what it would have meant to be a part of the service of God. And as you approach each phase of the tabernacle, remember that this is fulfilled in what Christ our Saviour and High Priest means to us today.

—L. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Today we are more blessed than the Israelite of that day. They had the presence of God dwelling in the tabernacle among

them. That was a good type, shadow, copy or pattern of the true tabernacle that came down out of heaven to us today. "Which was a figure for the time then present. . . But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building." Heb. 9:9, 11.

Jesus came and went about calling and gathering together those who would obey His teachings. On the day of Pentecost the 120 were together of one accord and in unity. They were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come and fill the temple or their bodies, which was the temple of God. ("Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God?" 1 Cor. 6:19) The time was fully come and "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:4. What a glorious scene! The Apostle John saw it in a vision, "coming down from God out of heaven," (Rev. 21:2, 3) and said, "he will dwell with them." He also said that Jesus "will come in to him and sup with him, and he with me," when a man opens the door of his heart. Rev. 3:20. Jesus also comforted the disciples when He went away by saying the Comforter "shall be in you." John 14:17.

—M. Miles

OFTEN REPROVED

"He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1.

Let me tell you how sin ruined the life of a young man I met during one of my meetings recently. For three weeks, this young man, nearing seventeen years of age, attended the services night after night. He had rebelled against God's will for his life. The Holy Spirit had dealt with him faithfully night after night, wooing him to come. I had even personally warned him of the wrath and judgment of God that would certainly fall upon him if he continued to rebel against God. I had quoted to him the Scripture, "He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1.

But the lad thought he was so young that he could do as he pleased for years yet, without any of these things happening to him.

And then one Sunday night, in the middle of the service his father came running into the church building. The man was frantic. His son was at the hospital—dying. That Sunday morning, the father and son had worked all morning long putting a new motor into an old jalopy, preparing it for stock-car racing. The young man climbed in under the wheel, and set out to give it a trial run. The car went out of control.

It had taken rescue squads two hours to cut him free of the wreckage, leaving him mangled, torn and dying.

Prayer was offered immediately for the young man, but it seemed that the skies were brass, and no one could reach God for him. The Spirit of God spoke to my heart, "He, that being often reproved . . ."

But at the close of the service we found the father still waiting, desperate for us to accompany him to the hospital. I placed my hands upon the son's cold forehead. As I did, and before I could utter a word of prayer, again I heard the voice of God, "He that being often reproved . . ." I took my hand from his head. I could not pray. The gasping breath was still. The struggle was over. Everything became quiet in the emergency room.

The father screamed, "Why couldn't God give him just fifteen minutes?"

There was only one answer. "Dad, God gave him seventeen years. Why should God give him another fifteen minutes?"

My friend, are you inviting ruin?

This young man's sin had invited his ruin. And **SIN WILL RUIN YOU!** Sin will ruin your soul. Sin will open the gates of hell. Sin will invite the judgment of God. Sin will bring down God's wrath upon you. Sin invites the fury of God to fall upon you **EVEN NOW!**

Fall on your knees **NOW**, where you are. Cry out to God in repentance. Confess your sins to God and seek His forgiveness. Turn **NOW** from all your evil ways.

While the Spirit of God speaks to your heart, while you feel the moving of God's Spirit, while you hear God's voice—now is the time to repent and turn yourselves from all your transgression so iniquity shall not be **YOUR RUIN!** —Sel.

—O—

Lesson 2, October 14, 1973

THE SIN-OFFERING

(Brazen Altar)

Lev. 1:3, 4b; Ex. 29:13b, 14; Lev. 1:5b; Heb. 9:21-22;

Eph. 5:2; 1 Peter 1:18, 19, 20; Isa. 53:5.

Leviticus 1:3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord.

4b And it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

Exodus 29:13b And burn them upon the altar.

14 But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering.

Lev. 1:5b And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Hebrews 9:21 Moreover, he [or they] sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Eph. 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

1 **Peter 1:18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

Isa. 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Memory Verse: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8.**

Central Thought: The lamb used in Law worship is a type of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who offered Himself on the cross for our sins.

Word Definitions: Brazen: overlaid with brass. Bullock: a young bull, calf or ox. Oblation: a sacrificial present, or something brought near to the altar. Trespass: a fault that brings guilt or condemnation. Atonement: "at one," that is, being reconciled or harmonized. Being restored to favor, having one's sins covered and forgiven.—Hebrew and Webster Dictionaries.

LESSON BACKGROUND

After entering through the eastern gate of the outer court surrounding the tabernacle we now approach the brazen altar. This altar, according to Exodus 27:1-8, was made of shittim (acacia) wood which was solid, light, beautiful and very durable. It was overlaid with brass. Allowing a cubit to equal about 18 inches, this altar measured approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet and was $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. Along with the altar were the instruments used in connection with offering the sacrifice, such as: pans, shovels, fleshhooks, basins, etc., all of which were also overlaid with brass. It was equipped with rings fastened to the corners into which staves were inserted with which to carry the altar. Also, upon the four corners on the top side were four horns to which the sacrifices were tied. Psalms 118:27.

Upon this altar were offered burnt offerings (Lev. 1), meat offerings (Lev. 2), peace offerings (Lev. 3), trespass offerings (Lev. 5), and sin offerings (Lev. 4). It is to be noted that the burnt, meat, and peace offerings were offerings of sweet savour unto the Lord. Space will not permit every detail of description, but generally these three offerings of sweet savour were burned on the altar while the blood was sprinkled round about upon the altar. The meat offering had no blood, but was offered with incense, fine flour, and oil. It had to be offered seasoned with salt. Lev. 2:13. The two other offerings, the sin and trespass, were evidently always offered first before these other sweet savour offerings. These offerings for sin were of various sorts according to the nature of the offense, whether in ignorance or rebellion, but all did follow closely a similar pattern. Part of the sacrifice was burned upon the altar and the rest along with the ashes were burned outside the camp. The blood was usually sprinkled upon or applied to the altar and poured out at the foot of the altar. For further and more complete insight into this, refer to the book, "Shadows of Good Things," page 83. —L. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was the brazen altar placed? 2. Taking the sacrifices as a whole, what would you say their main purpose was to be? 3. Can you think of a reason why this altar was overlaid with brass and not with gold? 4. Whose offering does this brazen altar sacrifice typify? 5. When we come to the Lord to be forgiven, is there any kind of sacrifice we must offer in accord with the offering of Christ for us? 6. Can you give a good reason why blood is so important in the atonement for sin?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We stand before the brazen altar and behold the animals slain, their blood sprinkled around and poured out. There that innocent creature is placed upon the altar and we watch the flames engulf the carcass and behold the smoke ascending along with the incense. We realize that this is being done for the sake of our acceptance with God; that this innocent creature is suffering what we should justly suffer on account of our sins. We behold the crimson blood that but a few minutes before was surging through the animal's veins as the life-stream of its body. Now this blood has been shed and is staining the altar and the ground. We feel a pang of regret that such a beautiful and perfect animal as this should suffer so, but as we behold it all carried out we feel a deep assurance of a measure of God's forgiveness, and give thanks to Him that He would grant His favor to us.

And now the brazen altar, the animal and its blood, and the smoke of the sacrifice fades away, and we find ourselves standing on Golgotha's hill where we behold One hanging on a Roman cross, writhing in agony, and crying, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" We see His crimson blood flowing from His thorn-crowned head, His lacerated back, and nail-pierced hands and feet. Can we realize that this blessed and beautiful One is willingly suffering this for the remission of our sins? Can we look beyond the awfulness of the scene and behold the virtue of that holy innocent blood ascending the heavens and coming up before God pleading for mercy to our never-dying souls? Why is He here? And why must He suffer this way? It is for us, yes, for our eternal acceptance with our Maker, a perfect and acceptable sacrifice for all time and eternity! Praise His wonderful name!

But is this the end? No, for we now behold Him laid in a borrowed tomb, while we wait for a little season to behold Him awaking from the sleep of death and bursting asunder the bars of the grave! We behold Him now with clear and holy brilliance aglow with life and blessing for us. We gladly therefore bring our sins to Him and let Him wash them away in that precious blood that He so willingly shed. We will rejoice to take up our cross and follow Him, and forever praise Him for our cleansing in that crimson flood. —L. Busbee.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What a glorious fact it is that God knew that mankind would face the devil, the arch-enemy of God, and that He provided a way whereby mankind could be delivered eternally from his clutches. This deliverance was taught to mankind through the

giving of the ordinances of the law and the sacrifices of the Lamb without blemish. God knew that it would take much time for mankind to accept this deliverance. How simply He worked with them and then when Jesus came only a few were ready to accept Him. The ritual that Moses gave them from God pointed to our salvation by the coming of Jesus Christ. Our salvation could not be bought with money such as gold or silver. Those things are corruptible. Being a Jew, born of Abraham's seed, would not assure his entrance into the kingdom of Heaven. Not by any human generation or earthly thing could this be obtained, nor through works or rituals but by the incorruptible or a divine and heavenly truth in which there is no change but is eternal. We are "redeemed . . . by the precious blood of Christ." Redeem signifies to procure life for a captive or liberty for a slave by paying a price. Oh, the price Jesus paid on the cross! It causes our hearts to melt in love and adoration for One who has loved us so much.

—M. Miles

THIRTY-FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OLD— AND STILL ALIVE!

About three hundred miles southeast of San Francisco is one of the largest and oldest of the living things on earth. The General Sherman tree in Sequoia National Park is 36.5 feet in diameter and 272.4 feet tall. Thirty-five moderate-sized homes could be built from the more than six hundred thousand board feet of lumber this tree contains.

But even more remarkable is the age of the General Sherman tree, estimated to be thirty-five hundred years old. This tree was fifteen hundred years old when Christ was born. It was beginning to grow about the time of Moses' birth.

That these Sequoias are very durable is quite obvious. Left to its natural devices, it should not die at all, since it is marvelously resistant to fire, impervious to rot and termites, and supple enough to bend to the fiercest storms.

In much the same manner God created man to live forever. The tragedy is that the entrance of sin changed everything, and the judgment of God resulted in physical and spiritual death for all mankind.

But would you like to live forever and never worry about death again? Even the long-lived Sequoias may someday be cut down or destroyed. There is a way, however, so that you need not fear death from accident, disease, or old age.

The Creator of the mighty Sequoias, Jesus Christ, God's Son, died two thousand years ago to make eternal life available to you.

But why was the death of the Son of God necessary? The Bible gives the answer when it says: "All have sinned," and "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

But what is sin? It is not only murder and theft and adultery. Sin also shows itself in our fear, our frustration, our uncontrolled desires. Sin is our rebellion against God's laws, or independence from His plans for our life.

It was sin that sent Christ to the Cross to die in our stead, yet He went willingly.

Take a good look at the Cross on which Christ hung between earth and Heaven. He bridged that eternal gap which separates your sinful heart from a holy God. He died so that you might have forgiveness of sins, abundant life here, and assurance of everlasting life. Neither old age, disease, nor death can take away this kind of life.

The Bible says in John 1:12, "But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name." In Rom. 6:23 we read, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." You can't pay for a gift! You don't work for it. You only need to accept a gift with thankfulness, and it is yours. —Sel.



Lesson 3, October 21, 1973

WASHING BY THE WORD

(The Laver)

Ex. 30:18, 19, 20; 38:8; Psalms 119:9; John 15:3; Hebrews 10:22; Titus 3:5; James 1:21, 25; 1 John 5:5, 6.

Exodus 30:18 Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

19 For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:

20 When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the Lord:

Exodus 38:8 And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses [polished brass mirrors] of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Psa. 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto, according to thy word.

John 15:3 [Jesus said to His disciples], Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Memory Verse: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **John 3:5.**

Central Thought: The laver that was used in the Mosaic worship was a type of the Word of God (New Testament) or the teachings of Christ which His followers left for our instruction, to which we must conform.

Word Definition: Re-generation: Rebirth or new life in Christ.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The cleansing laver was placed between the brazen altar and the tabernacle. This laver contained water to be used by the priests when they were to go into the tabernacle. It speaks of the laver and its foot, which indicates that it had two levels that held water, doubtless meaning that the hands were washed in the upper basin, while the feet were washed in the lower. They were to wash at the laver before entering the tabernacle and before going near to minister at the altar.

This laver was made of brass. It is interesting to note that it mentions that it was made of brass, of the looking glasses of the women assembling at the door of the tabernacle. Of this Adam Clarke made the following comment: Here, metal highly polished, must certainly be meant. The word therefore should not be rendered looking glasses, but mirrors. The first artificial mirrors were made of brass. Women were attracted to the use of mirrors. Egyptian women carried their mirrors with them when they went to the temples and Israelitish women probably did the same. It is worthy to remark, that at the first, these women had given up their ornaments for the tabernacle, and now were willing to give up their mirrors. The mirrors were of little value since they had already given up those adornments of their persons. Thus it is evident, that these women gave up their incentives to pride for the service of their God. **WOMAN, GO and DO LIKEWISE!**

We therefore conclude that the laver was made of highly polished brass, so brightly polished that it was a mirror. Thus the priest while he washed could look at himself in the mirror for a careful check of his condition before rendering the service.

—L. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of the reason why God wanted the cleansing laver as well as the altar of sacrifice? 2. What does water in the New Testament Scriptures of our lesson signify to you? 3. Why do you think the laver provided a mirror as well as water to wash with? 4. What is the mirror that we need to look into today? 5. Can you see how that washing and looking go together?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

After beholding the sacrifice offered on the brazen altar and beholding the blood flow for remission of sin, we turn toward the tabernacle, but before we can enter into its wonderful place we approach the beautiful, highly polished laver. In this laver is water with which the hands and feet of the priests are cleansed. As we wash we behold reflected upon its highly polished surface our features as in a looking-glass. Perhaps we might be tempted to hurriedly wash, feeling that not much time need be taken up as we are anxious to pass on into the first vail. But let us not rush, but rather linger for a time and consider what this really means.

Once again these literal vessels fade from view to behold another cleansing that is far more important. Feeling the virtue of Christ in His atonement by His precious blood spilled for our

iniquities, we hear Him say: "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?" We lift our eyes and behold the standard and purity of His doctrine, His teachings, and His gospel. We behold His gracious law and righteous commandments. Can we presume upon the virtue of His blood and hope to gain entrance into His holy place, and at the same time disregard what He has spoken? We hear Him say again, "If a man love me He will keep my words: . . . He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings." John 14:23, 24. What are we to do? Oh, let us embrace His blessed words, and let them wash us clean from our ways! We will be as the disciples who in obeying the truth Christ had spoken, had been pronounced clean by the Master. There are many of today who do not recognize these two cleansings in being saved. They readily declare with seemingly great wisdom the power of the blood to wash away sin, but little is said of the need of conforming our lives to the image of Jesus and His Word! But let us not be presumptuous. It would be wise for us as new born babes to desire the sincere milk of the Word, and to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord! Thus our hope is established in Him. We trust in the atonement of the blood of Calvary and are willing to be washed in the doctrine and teachings of Christ Jesus. Thus we are prepared now to enter the sacred enclosure of the tabernacle. —L. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What a cleansing of ourselves and what a change takes place as we look into the Word of God! We are changed from the old image into the new. We do not live as we lived when in sin. There is a purifying of our thoughts, our minds, our bodies, our ways, our actions, our desires and our hearts. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. . . The word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (I Peter 1:22-25.) Praise God for that cleansing of ourselves through God's Word. Just as the Israelite washed in the laver and looked into the mirror we are cleansed by obeying the Word of God in all of our ways and thoughts. Instead of cursing we have a new song in our hearts. Instead of stealing, we work with our hands and provide all things honestly before man, etc. What a wonderful way to live! When we look into the Bible we are searching to know what more God wants us to do. We realize that "heaven and earth will pass away but my Word will not pass away." When we see this world on fire and are standing before God in the Judgment we will be judged by the Word of God. We will be

glad then that we were washed by the Word of God and have obeyed it. We can then hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."
—M. Miles

WHITEWASHED OR WASHED WHITE

A professing Christian was awakened out of her slumber of death in a very remarkable way. A High Church dignitary advised her to burn some Gospel tracts given to her by a relative. As she watched the destruction of one of them her eye caught the words on one of the pages, "I was going respectably and religiously to hell." The Holy Spirit revealed to her the fact that though she was "whitewashed" she was not washed white; that, in fact, she was "going respectably and religiously to hell!"

The Lord Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13, 14). Multitudes throng the broad way, some on the clean footpath, and others on the dirty footpath. Few find the strait gate; they mistake other gates for the strait one. Some mistake "religion" and "churchianity" for Christ and Christianity. Which road is the reader traveling—the broad or the narrow? Which class do you belong to—the whitewashed or the washed white? Are you regenerated? Have you been "converted" to, and by God? If not, hearken to Christ's declaration: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). If you have never experienced this great change ye are an unsaved, unsanctified, unforgiven soul. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be cleansed from every stain. (Acts 16:31).—A. M.

Lesson 4, October 28, 1973

THE BREAD OF LIFE

(Table of Shewbread)

Ex. 25:23a, 24; Lev. 24:5-7; Ex. 25:29; Lev. 24:8, 9a;
John 6:32-35; Rom. 6:19b.

Exodus 25:23a Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood.

24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about.

Leviticus 24:5 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake.

6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the Lord.

7 And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

Exodus 25:29 And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them.

Leviticus 24:8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the Lord continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

9a And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place.

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Romans 6:19b As ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Memory Verse: But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. **Matthew 4:4.**

Central Thought: Entering into the holy place is a type of justification, and eating of the holy bread is a type of the spiritual food that Jesus gave us. He satisfies our souls as our bodies are satisfied with natural bread.

Word Definition: Shewbread (Showbread): The bread of Faces, doubtless so named because it was to be kept there before the face of the Lord.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We have passed the brazen altar and the cleansing laver, and now we are given access to enter into the first compartment of the tent or tabernacle. The table of shewbread is to our immediate right. This table is a little over three feet long and approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and a little over two feet high. In height, it is co-equal with the ark while the measure of its length and breadth are less. It is made of the acacia wood but instead of being overlaid with brass, it is overlaid with gold. It has a golden crown around the border of the top, and rings on the four corners for staves with which it is to be carried.

Upon this table are set twelve loaves of unleavened bread made with fine wheat flour. They are set in two rows, six loaves to a row. There is frankincense upon each row. This bread is replaced every sabbath day with fresh bread and the priests are authorized to eat this bread in the holy place.

Let us remember now that this is all a shadow of good things that Christ brought in His salvation. Since food is a very important part of our lives, both natural and spiritual, it is very wise and fitting that the principle of food should have a part in the tabernacle. This is no common food, but holy bread. Also, we should note that along with the table of bread were the instruments used in preparing and baking and handling of the bread. It is very certain that the priests planted, grew, harvested, ground, sifted, and mixed the wheat with which the bread was made. The dishes, spoons, covers, and bowls were probably used in that process.

—L. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Can you see any purpose in the order so far, first the brazen altar, then the laver, and now the table of shewbread? 2. Why could not the table of bread be first? 3. Where was the table of bread placed? 4. The table was overlaid with what metal? 5. Who said, "I am the Bread of Life"? 6. How are we made priests unto God?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

"We've reached the cleansing laver, the blood has been applied." We now approach with solemn and sacred earnestness the entrance to the Sanctuary. The vail of blue and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen wrought with needlework is pulled aside and we very gently and quietly step into the sacred interior of this holy tabernacle. The scripture comes to our minds as we pass through the entrance: "Jesus said, I

am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved." John 10:9. How blessed that we can enter into the holy place of God and feel the refuge of His great eternal love! We can picture ourselves treading the holy ground of God's presence right into the open arms of His dear Son!

Upon entering, we pause for a moment. To our right we see a table upon which are stacked twelve loaves of bread. This is not ordinary bread, we soon discover. It is unleavened bread prepared from fine flour dedicated for the service of God. And we now ask ourselves: What is the service of God? And the answer comes to us: The service of God is to feed the souls of men with the Bread of Life. And with great joy we find Jesus revealed in this Bread just as He has been revealed in the altar, the sacrifice, the laver, and the Door. The tabernacle fades from view and we see Jesus seated upon the mountainside teaching His disciples; we behold Him at the Sea of Galilee preaching to the multitude; we behold His journey through this life as the Good Shepherd giving His life for the sheep. We see Him at Capernaum teaching the throng, and hear His gracious words: "I am the Bread of Life!" Oh, how dear He is to the hungry soul!

And now we behold Him ascending up higher than all the heavens after giving His life as the Great Shepherd. From the right hand of God He still feeds the souls of men, nourishing them in Holiness and Truth. His Holy Bread He gives for the life of the world, and ever lives to make intercession for all who come unto God by Him. What a beautiful plan of mercy and love! Here in this Shewbread, which is kept fresh before the Lord we see the Christ offered in the sight of God before all men who are willing to come the way of the Cross and accept His precious Word.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The beggar on the street in some countries is poor, thin, and pitiful. He looks up and pleads for bread. "Oh, give me bread to fill my aching stomach," he cries. The sinner who is filled with sin and his soul is poor, miserable and hungry looks up to Jesus, and cries, "Oh, my life is in such a mess. It is beyond repair as far as I am concerned. Help me, oh, help me! I am in despair. The load is crushing me down. Save me, oh, save!" Jesus is touched by the plea. He looks with compassion upon that hungry soul. He sees the tears, the sorrow, the remorse, the despair and the binding power of sin and habits upon that pitiful soul. He hears the sinner's cry. He turns to him and gives him forgiveness. He becomes bread to the hungry soul. He gives joy, hope and

comfort. He forgives and lifts the burden. He blesses and comforts. Praise God for that Bread of Life! "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6.

Now you are in a justified state of which the holy place in the tabernacle is a type. You are to lay aside all malice, guile, hypocrisies, envies and all evil speaking and "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:2, 3. How precious is the food that our souls find in Christ. We need to desire it and love it. Read the Word often and you will grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ.

Let us notice the closely stacked loaves of bread upon the table of pure gold that was sprinkled with frankincense. The table upon which the loaves are stacked could suggest the pure heart, without which all our gifts and services are rejected. The frankincense sprinkled upon the bread might indicate that it was offered up to God, and thus our life must be consecrated to God. It comes from Him, and it must be yielded up to Him. We want to ever give to Him our offerings of worship and the sacrifices of our obedience. The closely stacked loaves could mean Christ in each member as each one eats of the bread of life.

—M. Miles

MURDER MEMORIES!

Amongst the numerous converts to God amongst the Red Indians of northwest America was a great chief noted for his many savage murders. When brought to a saving knowledge of the truth, his exclamation was, "Oh, why did you not come sooner; and then those whom I have killed would have heard those glad tidings." During a long and useful Christian old age, he frequently lamented the fact that he had by death prevented some of his fellow creatures from hearing the Gospel's joyful sound. Even in the closing scene of life, his thoughts wandered to these murdered ones, whether he should meet them in the other world. He felt how awful a thing it was, even in heathen ignorance, to send a fellow creature, whether friend or foe, unprepared into eternity.

—Selected

Lesson 5, November 4, 1973

THE LIGHT OF REGENERATION

(Golden Candlestick)

**Ex. 25:31a; Lev. 24:2-4; 1 John 2:8; Eph. 5:8, 13, 14;
Luke 11:33-36; 1 Peter 2:9.**

Exodus 25:31a And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold:

Leviticus 24:2 Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

3 Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the Lord continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.

4 He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the Lord continually.

1 John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Luke 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Memory Verse: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12.

Central Thought: Only through Christ can we have light and understanding of His will concerning us in this world. As we walk in that light we are able to help others know Christ.

Word Definition: Light: Illumination; that which causes one to be able to see or understand.

LESSON BACKGROUND

No service to God or dealing with the Almighty would be complete without the principle of light. When the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep in the morning of time the first words spoken were: "Let there be Light: and there was light . . . and God divided the light from the darkness." And now that God has condescended to dwell with men, it is nothing but order for Him to institute in His plan a provision for light.

Across from the table of shewbread on the south side of the tabernacle we see a beautiful golden candlestick with seven lamps thereon. It is interesting to note here that no specific dimensions were given as to what size the candlestick was to be. Instead the directions revealed its shape and that it was to be one beaten work of one talent of pure gold. One beaten work meant that it had to be all in one piece. Can you see what skill it took to perform such a task? Since there were no windows in the tabernacle and a four-fold covering hung over the door, the candlestick afforded the only light in the tabernacle. The lamps were to burn continually; they were never to go out. And you can be sure that with seven lamps burning all as one light there was plenty of light for the service of God. —L. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of Light? 2. Why do men love darkness rather than light? 3. Where is light of the greatest

value? 4. Is it possible for us to be in darkness even though the true Light now shineth? 5. Where must this light shine in order that we be blessed?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

"Light is come into the World." What wonderful words! "Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun." Eccl. 11:7. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:4, 5. John the Baptist, a burning and shining light, was sent "to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. That was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:7, 9. "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face [or appearing] of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 4:4, 6.

These and many more sayings from the Bible help exalt the wonderful blessing of divine Light. As we stand in the holy place we are able to see the table of shewbread and the golden altar that stands before the second vail because of the light that is illuminating from the seven lamps on the candlestick. There is comfort and warmth and understanding in Light. Oh, may we look with open face toward the Light that streams from Heaven into this dark world! Only then will we be able to see the way into the Most Holy Place. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. How foolish and dark the soul who will not allow the light to enter and give knowledge of where he or she stands with God. Light makes manifest and shows up things. It helps us to see what is wrong or out of order. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. How true this is! Such people are so full of darkness that their eyes are blinded and are like the termites that hate light and prosper in darkness. But thank God, for those who are weary of darkness and are longing for light, God is surely mindful and gracious. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah 9:2. The Lamb is the light of the City of God. (Revelation 21:23) —L. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What a beautiful vision the Apostle John had on the Isle of Patmos of the "seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks, one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot. . . ." Revelation 1:12, 13. The candlestick was the Church of God. "The Lamb is the light thereof." Rev. 21:23. Thank God for the glorious church that is visible here in the world today! "The brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person," lightens up the whole city of God. Christ shining into the heart and life of each member causes that member to shine out into the world and is a beacon of light leading others to Christ.

Upon the Empire State Building in New York City is a search light that can be seen by airborne passengers for 300 miles and can be seen for 90 miles on the ground from seven states. Surely that light shines out to many and is a beacon to them in various ways. How far is your light reaching out? How far is the light of the church reaching out? Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." Let us each one tend our light, not only to lead ourselves to Heaven but to lead others there too. Our influence goes out and how is it affecting others? How sad as the Bible says, "If the light in thee be darkness how great is that darkness!" It is a total eclipse within and without and a blackness of darkness forever.

Zechariah, the prophet, gave us a wonderful, beautiful and suggestive vision of the candlestick of gold that he saw that was fed from the upper reservoir of the holy pure olive oil. The two golden pipes that fed the golden oil into the candlestick were the Word and the Spirit. Thus the church infused with the Word and the Spirit from above can cause the light of God to shine out and there is power in that influence to save and deliver all from sin who will obey the Word and the Spirit that calls out to each one. (Zech. 4:8-14). The ancient church stood for ages alone in the earth as the divine lightgiver but when Jesus came the Jewish Dispensation vanished and today the Church of God takes in all "born again" souls the world over and through that church the light or truths of God are being sent forth. —M. Miles

GOSPEL TRACTS WORKING

Some time ago one of the men that I work with inquired: "Shorty, were you by any means down at Houston, Texas, last Tuesday about 12:30 in the afternoon giving out your gospel tracts?"

"The wife and I and the eight children were down the Houston-Galveston way on our two weeks' vacation playing in the sand, rolling and splashing in the water during the day time and at night we took in all the night-clubs, hot-spots, hell-holes and what-have-you that we could jam into in the course of two weeks' time.

"Our vacation was coming to a hurried close and it was time to turn our thoughts toward home. I drove our automobile into an uptown Houston service station for servicing and then climbed back into it to head for home.

"The wife and the girls were still dressed in their beach attire, shorts and halter straps. Lucky they had that much on after all the hell-holes (sin's spawning clubs) we had been in along the water fronts.

"As I started to pull my car out from the service station into the street to head for home, some fellow, a man about your size, weight, height, age, looks and similarly dressed as you do, carrying a sack-pack or something on his back, walked up from no where and hurriedly shoved a packet of mixed tracts through the open car window into my wife's lap. One of them was entitled Cigarettes and Women, the other one entitled How Women With No Clothes On Send Men's Souls to Hell. They were just like the ones you had given her at home. Wife swore it was you. I was busy watching the traffic, because if you don't, you will get run over in Houston. Not paying very much attention, I did believe it was you. And if it wasn't, you have a twin brother down there passing out tracts. If it wasn't you, you got a good cussing anyway. However, the wife had a couple of beers under the place where her belt should have been, and those beers might have accounted for her rough language used toward you.

"Wife hates you and those gospel tracts that you have given her in the past. I guess she has a right to. When at home, if she drives her personal car uptown and parks it, by day or by night, she finds your tracts in the car seats. If she locks the car doors, she finds them under the windshield wipers. Once (and she swears to this) she locked every door tight and still found tracts on the seat.

"One night at a company dance she pretended she did not like the kind of jazz music they were playing. She could not dance to it and made a stab at operating the record player. Every time she pulled out a different record from the record box, one of your tracts would fall from the record holder. (There they were: 48 Hours in Hell, The Missing Ones, Tom Grey's Dream, Crippled Tom, A Bottle of Tears, The Touch of The Master's Hand, Straight to Heaven, The Lonely Cabin on the Forty Mile, The Power of the Printed Page, Her Last

Drink from the Old Well, Blue Bells, The Incomparable Christ, and two dozen more.) She became disgusted and quit.

"The other day my boy, Junior, came in leading Bob, our collie dog. He said, 'Dad, look here, Bob followed me to town. I went in a dime store, and when I came back out, someone had tied a bundle of magazines to the collar around his neck.'

"We drove only a few blocks, maybe a mile or two, through Houston, Wife yet full of hate and rage and raving and boiling over, (with anguish of mind caused by the sense of guilt), turned to me and said, 'Husband, I did not intend to put on clothes until we got back to civilization, some two or three hundred miles north from here, but turn in at the first fair-sized service station that looks like it might have a ladies' rest room big enough for me to stand up in and put on some clothes because we might meet Shorty again. If not, I will see his ghostly spirit walking.'

"I kidded Wife about you, Shorty, following her 400 miles all the way to Houston just to give her those tracts. I don't know who is directly responsible. I can't place the blame on any certain individual, but from one source or another, someone or some Power is definitely interested in my wife. Your tracts are delivered to our house on a schedule. By the way they come, one would think we subscribed to them. Wife is forever haunted by your tracts, even in her dreams."

These people that I have been quoting are members in good standing in the uptown church on the corner of the square. They rate high in society. I do not know the lady. I do not know her when I meet her on the street. I do not know her personal car. I do not know the house she lives in.

Her educated, polished, eloquent and soft-spoken pastor will not preach against the sins of this wicked world or even mention her cigarettes because he smokes the same brands, but as a tract distributor, it becomes my privilege to silently preach to her through the printed pages of a gospel tract. Thank God for those who print them.

And He said unto him, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." (Luke 16:31).

"And whosoever will not receive you, when you go out of the city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them." (Luke 9:5).

—Shorty Ables

(Teacher: Have you ordered lessons for the first quarter of 1974 beginning January 6?)

Lesson 6, November 11, 1973

THE GOLDEN ALTAR

Ex. 30:1, 6, 7, 10a; Lev. 4:7a; Lev. 16:13, 14; Heb. 13:10, 11, 12; Romans 12:1, 2; Eph. 4:23, 24.

Exodus 30:1 And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

6 And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

10a And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year.

Leviticus 4:7a And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense [golden altar], before the Lord, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Leviticus 16:13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not;

14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

Hebrews 13:10 [In this gospel dispensation] we have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is bro't into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Memory Verse: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Heb. 10:14.

Central Thought: The second altar is a golden altar where blood is applied. In the second work of grace in the heart in this dispensation it takes an application of the blood of Christ by faith to sanctify (purge) the soul and make it pure and holy before God.

Word Definitions: **Holy:** sacred, hallowed, sanctified. **Frankincense:** This was a fragrant gum resin from a certain tree. This was beaten into powder and when burned produced an extremely fragrant odor. The smoke of incense was white.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We find that the golden altar that stands in the holy place just before the second vail was much smaller than the brazen altar in the court outside. The altar was one cubit square on top and two cubits high (one cubit equals approximately 18 inches). Like the other altar, it was made of shittim wood, but was overlaid with gold in accord with the other furniture in the holy place. Incense was burned on the altar every morning and every evening, and once a year the blood was applied to the horns of the altar for atonement of the sins of the whole congregation. It is to be noted that the coals of fire used on the golden altar were brought from off the brazen altar, thus linking the two altars in a blood and fire relationship.

Can we not see that this first compartment or room of the tabernacle is typical of the justified experience of the believer? Where with the Bread of Life to be fed upon and the light of Christ to be walked in and followed, being washed and purified from our sins by the blood and water of His blessed teaching, it is nothing but a type and picture of the believer's walk today in Christ Jesus. It is surely true if any man be in Christ He is a new creature, and He is feasting on things and following light and truth unknown by the world. And here on this golden altar where sweet incense ascends to

God in a sweet smelling savour, and where the blood is applied as an atonement once a year, the conditions are fully met for the sacred entrance into the Most Holy Presence of the Almighty God.

—L. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. How often was the blood atonement made on the golden altar? 2. How often was the incense offered on the golden altar? 3. Can you think of anything that the incense would typify? 4. What does the term "once a year" signify? 5. Were there any sacrifices to be offered upon the golden altar?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We now stand in the holy place before the golden altar. Just beyond the golden altar hangs the blue, and purple, and red, and white hanging of the second vail. As we stand in quiet attention and watch the cloud of incense rising from the coals thereon, we behold the High Priest enter, and see him approach the altar. See, he sprinkles blood upon the four corner horns of the altar. And now he gently lifts the vail and solemnly steps into the enclosure beyond. We are here to witness his entrance into the Most Holy Place which takes place only once a year. We behold that he is taking blood and the censer full of coals with incense with him as he goes into the Most Holy Place.

But there is another altar. "Christ, being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:11, 12. We behold our blessed Jesus, the Son of God, approach the golden altar. He has shed His blood and the virtue of that blood accompanies Him as He stands before the vail. Oh, there are some things about this lesson that go too deep for mere words of description! He has obtained eternal redemption for us. Upon the golden altar we, too, offer the incense of our earnest prayers and our faith in Christ and the merit of His shed blood. The last trace of sin, the very element of evil, the inbred, corrupt nature is dissolved before the power and virtue of this great Atonement. We are now about to enter into the Most Holy Presence of God. We are about to step into the realm of perfect holiness and completeness in Him. What joy it brings to our hearts to know that as Christ has for us entered into the Holy of Holies, we too, in His gracious name can enter therein.

Stand in awe before this sacred scene. There are things that perhaps we may not be able to comprehend about it all, but behold the love and power of our Christ as He accomplishes the great will of God to bring us to the Heavenly Place. It is His will that we give all to Him and receive the fullness of His blessing. As we shall see in further lessons, we are privileged now to enter into the Holies by the blood of Jesus.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

No one can enter the Holiest, which is the second part of the tabernacle without first passing the Golden Altar. I am glad that the pattern is so plain and it leaves us an unquestionable plan today for our need of a second cleansing. Sin exists in two forms in us. First are our volitional sins which we committed with a knowledge of them being wrong and we are responsible. The second form of sin is the inherited principle or nature of sin. The first sins, which are volitional, bring guilt to us and need a confessing and a forsaking of them, also a correction needs to be made. When this is done with godly sorrow they are forgiven and washed away by the blood of Jesus. Now there is still a need in the soul of a second cleansing of the inherited nature of sin which has not brought us guilt and cannot be repented of. God deals with us of this in a different way. Since we are not responsible for it, but it passed on all mankind, it is only through consecration and faith that we are cleansed of this inherited sin principle. This is that second offering of ourselves upon the golden altar in the holy place and then the blood of Christ is applied the second time. The inherited depravity and the self-life is purged by the Holy Spirit. We are filled with the Holy Spirit and are ushered in to the most Holy Place, right into the presence of God which is a sanctified experience. Praise God for that second definite experience which is real!

Altars are significant of sacrifices or offerings so since there were two altars, there is the need of two, definite offerings which take blood. The blood of Jesus cleanses us of our volitional sins (willful sins, done by choice) and the blood of Jesus is applied the second time to cleanse us of the sin principle which we inherited. Thank God for His great plan and the work it does in the soul.

—M. Miles

TEN FACTS ABOUT DANCING

In the modern day in which we live the pleasure of dancing is taken for granted. But the Christian (and especially the young man or woman who has recently received Jesus

Christ as Lord and Saviour), will do well to examine dancing both in the light of the Scriptures, and also as to the effect it has upon his testimony.

Following are ten facts about dancing in the light of history and the Scriptures:

1. Dancing has a disreputable history. The path of the dance is a slimy trail back through half-civilized people to the very heart of savagery. As to the modern dance, it originated in the beer gardens of Germany among lustful men and dissolute women. A man named Gault, a French dancing master, originated the waltz in 1627. In an attempt to ruin his sister, he strangled her to death. For this he was beheaded in 1632. The lust of the human heart is the only reason for the popularity of the steps of the modern dance. Read James 1:14, 15.

2. The origin of the modern dance was on a low level. Many of the present day dances originated in the lowest places of this earth . . . among prostitutes, drunken men, and in gambling dives. The dancer is putting himself or herself on a level with the scum of the earth. The dance floor is the nursery of the divorce courts, the training shop of prostitution and the graduate school of infamy.

3. Dancing has ruined millions of lives. Ex-dancing master T. A. Falker, an authority on the subject of dancing, said, "eighty percent of the denizens of the underworld once belonged to churches which permitted dancing." There are 800,000 fallen women in houses of correction in the United States. The Chicago Vice Commission says that 75 percent of these women attribute their downfall to the dance. The average life of a fallen woman is only five years. This means that there are hundreds of thousands of new recruits for the underworld every year.

4. Dancing permits indecent familiarity between the sexes. Such familiarity, which would not be allowed otherwise, breeds lust which leads to the sins of adultery and fornication so prevalent among modern dancers. Please read Prov. 6:27-32.

5. The dance ruins one's influence for good. The Christian who plays with dancing or indulges in dancing is always open to reproach, and never fails to bring down upon himself the censure of good people. Romans 14:22 says: "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth."

6. One cannot take Christ with him when he goes to a dance. Who would dare pray just before entering a dance hall, "Lord Jesus, be with me this evening? Let Thy blessing rest upon this in which I am about to engage." How would you like Christ to call for your soul while you are

on the dance floor, in indecent contact with some other man's wife or daughter? Read Philippians 4:8.

7. The dance robs Christ of one's affections. Colossians 3:1-3 should be enough for the Christian. Can a place where sin, danger and death constantly lurk be a fit place for any decent person?

8. The best people, and the most spiritually minded people condemn dancing. Mrs. C. P. J. Mooney once wrote editorially in the Commercial Appeal concerning a dance hall in Memphis: "Why not let the police put a sign in red fire across the front reading thus: 'This is the beginning of the journey of lost souls.'?" Read Exodus 32:26.

9. The appeal of the dance is altogether to the flesh. God's judgment to those who sow to the flesh is clearly stated in Galatians 6:7, 8. He who mingles with the dancing crowd is mingling with those whose hearts are full of lust and sin and evil desire.

10. The principles laid down in Scripture oppose dancing. No one will deny that dancing is an amusement of the world. In Romans 12:2, the Christian is exhorted: "be not conformed to this world." No clearer command is found in Scripture than is given in 2 Corinthians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness." This should settle the question for all honest Christians.

—T. A. J. B.



Lesson 7, November 18, 1973

ENTRANCE INTO THE MOST HOLY

(The Second Vail)

Exodus 26:33; Heb. 9:3, 6b, 7, 11, 12; 10:19, 20; Matthew 27:50, 51, 54b; 2 Cor. 3:13, 14, 15, 16.

Exodus 26:33 [God told Moses]: And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail, the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

Heb. 9:3 [The Apostle Paul says]: And after the second vail, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all.

6b The priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people.

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

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.

Matt. 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

51 And, behold, the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

54b They feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

2 Cor. 3:13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto his day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

Memory Verse: For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Hebrews 9:24.

Central Thought: The vail that hung between the holy place and the most holy place typified the body of Jesus Christ which, being rent in His suffering and death, opened up the way for us to enter the holiest place.

Word Definitions: Vail: A concealing or separating curtain; anything that covers or conceals. Boldness: Access or liberty. (Webster)

LESSON BACKGROUND

We want to single out the study of this second veil because of what it so greatly typified in the plan of salvation. This veil like the first curtain that hung over the doorway of the tabernacle was apparently a four-fold hanging of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen. It is also evident that there was embroidery work upon it of forms of cherubims, or angels. It was very beautiful and expensive. But it represented something more lovely and precious. We find in our lesson that the real veil that hung between the souls of men and the holy, awful presence of God was the suffering and death of an innocent Victim. Someone had to atone for sin and man's lost condition. Man was barred out of the Holy Place, and only the High Priest when carefully following every divine law could safely lift the veil, and enter therein. Let us get hold of the seriousness of this. The Presence of God is very sacred and holy. As we realize how serious it was for man to enter the Holiest, and how destructive it would be to one not qualified or authorized to attempt to do so, we can rejoice when we realize that the way has been opened up by the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Friend.

We have mentioned in the lesson concerning the veil that Moses put over his face after the people could not behold His shining countenance. This veil has a parallel meaning to the veil in the tabernacle, especially so because Paul said that the real veil was upon their hearts, and that it would be taken away if they would turn to the Lord. —L. Busbee

"The Jewish authorities say that the veil between the Holy and the Holy of Holies was four fingers thick, to prevent any person penetrating with his eyes into the Holiest." (Homiletic Commentary)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think God made a difference between the holy and most holy? 2. Where is the real veil hanging that keeps the presence of God from the life of man? 3. In what way do you think that the veil was Christ's flesh? 4. How was it opened up? 5. Who is the High Priest over the House of God today?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

There is one scripture not given with the scripture-text of our lesson, but it is very fitting to mention. It is a prophecy in Isaiah 25:7, "And he [the Lord] will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations." When Christ died and

gave up the ghost we read, "And behold, the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." Matthew 27:51. The prophecy declares that in the power of Christ the vail spread over the nations was to be destroyed. And we see that at the very moment Christ died, the vail that hung in the temple of God was rent asunder. Thank the Lord, the vail that separated us from the fellowship of God's presence and His fulness has been done away. We no longer need to remain outside the warmth of His loving and everlasting arms! In our minds we seem to behold the High Priest entering the most Holy Place in all holiness and purity. We see Christ made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, tasting death for every man!

Oh, how wonderful it is to know that, as the scriptures in our lesson tell us, we have boldness or access to enter the Holiest Place by the blood of Jesus. This new and living way which He consecrated for us through the vail, His flesh, is the greatest gift that He could bestow upon man. Oh, dear soul, stand in awe and wonder at these mighty Truths! Let them fill your heart with such assurance that you along with all who have proved His faithfulness can step forward and enter the fulness of God's favor. As Christ went to the cross, we hear Him say to the Father, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." John 17:17, 19. We are sanctified in the entrance to the holy place. Upon the golden altar the incense of our consecration ascends to God, and we find ourselves being drawn into the blessed Most Holy Place.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The vail was placed between the Holy Place and Most Holy Place because of sin. Sin cannot come into the presence of God. Holiness and sin will not mix. Sin separated us from God. Man in his sinful state could not come into God's presence. The Apostle John saw in a vision the plan of salvation and he wept much because no man in heaven, nor in the earth nor anywhere was found who could bring salvation to this sinful world of people. But then he was comforted when it was proclaimed unto him, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed . . ." Revelation 5:5. Praise God for His great and matchless love for us. As we see our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ hanging on the cross and the blood dripping from His precious flesh we see that vail being rent for our salvation. Sin caused this rending of His flesh. Our sins caused it and it melts our hearts in love and submission

to Him. Because Christ suffered we, too, are willing to suffer. We will suffer in the flesh and because of sin our flesh will decay in the dust but thank God for the resurrection of our body into a new body which is incorruptible. Through Christ's death on the cross and the rending of the veil this has come to pass.

Because of sin in the hearts of the Israelites they could not look at Moses' face when he came down from the mountain where he had talked with God for forty days and nights. But through Christ sin is forgiven and the veil is taken away from every "born again" soul.

—M. Miles

GOOD-NIGHT or GOOD-BYE, WHICH?

Dr. Langdale, of New York, tells of a devout Christian business man who was struck by an automobile and hurried to the hospital. He was informed that he had about two hours to live. His faith was implicit in the goodness of God and in future life. To him death was only a gateway leading to a higher world. He had his family called and thus addressed them:

"Wife, you have been to me the greatest woman in the world. Through sunshine and shadow we have walked together. You have been my inspiration in everything I have undertaken. Especially has this been true in reference to my religious life. Many times I have seen the Spirit of God shining in your face. I love you far more than I did the day you became my bride. Good-night, dear, I'll see you in the morning. Goodnight."

"Mary, you are our first-born. What a joy you have been to your father. How glad I am that you have looked so much like your mother. I see in you the sweet, beautiful young woman who left her home to become the builder of mine. What a Christian you are! Never forget how your father has loved you. Good-night, Mary. Good-night."

He then turned to his eldest son. "Will, your coming into our home has been an unmixed blessing. You were a manly boy. You have become an exemplary man. You love God and His Church. How proud I am of such a son! Continue to grow in every Christian grace and virtue. You have your father's love and blessing. Good-night, Will. Good-night."

Charlie was next. Charlie had fallen under evil influences and had grievously disappointed his father and mother. The dying man skipped him and spoke to the youngest child, a beautiful young girl.

"Grace, your coming was like the breaking of a new day in our home. You have been a song of gladness, a ray of light. You have filled our hearts with music. When not long

ago, you surrendered your life to Christ, your father's cup of happiness was full and overflowing. Good-night, little girl, good-night."

He then called Charlie to his side. "Charlie, what a fine promising boy you were. Your father and mother believed you would develop into a great and noble man. We gave you all the opportunities that we gave the other children. If there has been any difference, you yourself must admit that the difference has been in your favor. We have done the best we could for you, Charlie. But you have disappointed us. You have followed the broad and downward way. You have not been guided by our advice. You have not heeded the warning of God's Holy Word. You have not hearkened to the call of the Saviour. But I have always loved you, Charlie, and I love you still. God only knows how I love you. Good-bye, Charlie. Good-bye! Good-bye!"

Charlie seized his father's hand and between his sobs cried out: "Father, why have you said 'Good-night' to the others, and 'Good-bye' to me?"

"For the simple reason, Charlie, that I will meet the other members of the family 'in the morning,' but by all the promises that assure us of a reunion and give me hope of having them with me again, by those statements of God's Word I can have no hope of seeing you 'over there.' It's good-bye, Charlie, good-bye." Charlie fell on his knees by his dying father's bed and cried out in the agony of his soul, praying God to forgive his sins and allow him the hope of meeting his father again.

"Do you mean it, Charlie? Are you in earnest?"

"God knows I am," said the heart-broken young man.

"Then God will hear you and save you, Charlie, and it is not 'good-bye,' but 'good-night.' Good-night, Charlie, good-night. I am so grateful to God that it is not 'good-bye,' but only 'good-night.' Good-night, my boy." And he was gone.

Charlie is now a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ and is looking forward to the time when he will hear his sainted father exclaim, "Good morning, Charlie, I'm so glad the night is done and the day has come. Is it not a glad, great hour? Good morning, Charlie, Good morning."

Oh, members of the same home circles, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, loved ones; when the shadows fall and you go to sleep, to those who love you, will it be, "Good-bye" or a short "Good-night"?

Lesson 8, November 25, 1973

THE MERCY SEAT

(Being Acceptable to God)

Exodus 25:17a, 20, 22; Heb. 4:16; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 2:10, 11; Psa. 91:1; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:7; James 2:12, 13; Leviticus 19:15.

Exodus 25:17a And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold.

20 And the cherubim shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 2:10 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.

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

Psa. 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matt. 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Leviticus 19:15b In righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor.

Memory Verse: Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Psalms 85:10.

Central Thought: In God's great mercy He has reconciled us unto His fellowship and communion; therefore, we who receive this mercy must needs receive also the same spirit of mercy that He had, and manifest it to our fellowman.

Word Definitions: Commune: To converse or confer together, to speak with. Cherubim: Adam Clarke says that these were doubtless angelic beings that were emblems representing the eternal power and Godhead of the Almighty. Mercy: Forbearance from punishment of offenders; compassion, pity, and kindness when tempted to be otherwise. —Webster.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The mercy seat and the ark of the testimony are very closely associated but we separate them now so as to understand what their singular purposes were. The mercy seat was a pure gold flat work that corresponded with the top of the ark. It was placed upon the ark with beaten or shaped cherubims of gold placed one on either end. There between these two angelic representations of the power and glory of God was the spot of God and man's fellowship. The wings of the cherubims reached up over the mercy seat, touching each other, while the faces of the cherubims faced each other and looked toward that sacred spot on the mercy seat. Remember that upon the mercy seat once every year blood was sprinkled by the High Priest for an atonement for the people. Here is where God and man were made one, redeemed and restored to that sacred fellowship.

The Hebrew word for mercy-seat meant "to cover or over-spread, because by an act of pardon sins are represented as covered." The Greek word used for mercy-seat signifies a "propitiatory," which corresponds to what Paul said about Christ being a propitiation for our sins. This means our sins are disposed of or taken care of by His mercy in His shed blood. Thus Christ is our true mercy-seat to whom we can come today and be reconciled to God.

QUESTIONS:

1. How was God's mercy best expressed to His creation? 2. What good would all these ceremonies and rites be without the Blood? 3. What attitude of heart does one really have toward his brother when redeemed by the great mercy of God? 4. Why and how does mercy rejoice against judgment? 5. How are we to love mercy and how are we to be merciful?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We have now passed into the solemn, sacred, and wonderful Most Holy Place within the veil. Here we stand in awesome joy and holy fear and delight. We behold the High Priest as he stands before the beautiful golden array of angelic figures with wings overspreading the ark and mercy-seat, a box-like structure overlaid with gold about 4 feet long and 2 feet wide and 2 feet high. Our hearts burn within us as we behold the blood sprinkled upon the mercy-seat between the two cherubims. Oh, the price that must be paid for our redemption makes us to realize how awful and offensive our sins and separation from God were to Him!

Oh, how we see Christ in everything here! Through the veil which is His flesh the High Priest (Himself) comes to the mercy seat (which is Christ Himself, again) and with His own precious blood that He Himself shed on Calvary makes atonement for us to receive the great favor and mercy of God! Oh, where would we all be if God had not had mercy upon us? None of our righteousness would avail to erase our past disobedience nor to bring a reconciliation! Nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins and justify us in His holy sight. It is so wonderful to behold Christ as He rends the veil and enters into the heavenly elements triumphant for us. How we feel like falling at His blessed feet, worshipping and adoring Him forever. How we want to give Him our all, and yield our will and desires into His blessed pleasure! We would put our trust in Him, and endeavor to follow Him for the rest of our lives. For it is through the tender mercy of God that He, the dayspring from on high, visited and redeemed us.

How are we going to feel toward our brother and fellow-man? Are we going to be down on him when he fails or wanders into trespass against us or if he is in great trouble and need? How can we do so, being so mercifully and graciously dealt with by the Man of Sorrows? No, mercy shall rule our lives. We are saved by the mercy of God, and we shall be ever merciful to our brother and love the standard

of mercy toward us and from us. We shall speak, and do as those who are judged by the law of Moses (Thou shalt, thou shalt not, etc.), but are rather to be judged by the law of liberty established by the love and mercy of God. Study these words, dear reader, and beware lest you sit in judgment on your brother with no mercy, for with what measure of judgment ye mete, withal shall it be measured to you again.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It seems to me, as I think of the word mercy, that the whole Bible is full of its manifestations from God to mankind. Where would we be if it were not for mercy? What would have happened to Adam and Eve if it had not been for mercy? Mercy is a great virtue or attribute. It is something that the devil hates. We notice that children need to be taught to have mercy. With many it doesn't seem to be natural.

I think of the Scripture which says, "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne [or establishment or foundation]; mercy and truth shall go before thy face." Psa. 89:14. We think of the wicked people in the generation of Noah. God was going to destroy them but look at His great mercy. Noah preached and warned them of the coming judgment. That was the mercy of God! How sad, they rejected His mercy and justice, and judgment had to fall. Lot went out to warn the people and his loved ones of the pending destruction of Sodom because of their wickedness. This was mercy but they rejected it. Even when Lot, his wife and daughters "lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand . . . the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city." Lot expressed himself as seeing mercy being magnified in his behalf. (Genesis 19: 16-20.) Even Jonah in the belly of the whale with the weeds wrapped around his head looked again to God's holy temple and prayed. He had learned a lesson. He realized he had observed "lying vanities" and concluded that he had forsaken God's mercy toward him. (Jonah 2:4, 5, 7, 8.) Even the Apostle Paul who had persecuted the church of God and caused some to blaspheme, realized that he had obtained mercy. So it is on and on through the Bible. God's mercy is manifested and even unto this day. Only through mercy are we saved. Shall we not show mercy to others as mercy has been shown to us?

The cherubims can represent the angels of God that are ready to take care of God's children and help them. Jesus has said, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their [God's children's] angels do always behold the face of my Father which

is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10.) When we are in trouble the angels of God are there to help us. Praise God for His mercy shown to us! —M. Miles

"Mercy there was great and grace was free,
Pardon there was multiplied for me.
There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary."

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Give thanks to God, for in His care
Our lives are daily kept;
No evil can our souls ensnare
When by His love o'erswept.
So faithful is His love so true,
His promise cannot fail;
Thus thanks and praise to Him are due
O'er sorrow to prevail.

Give thanks to God, His mercy giv'n
Rests on our lives today,
The gloomy clouds of wrath are riv'n
And scattered far away.
We need not fear to come to Him
With burden and request,
And when our eyes with tears are dim,
To lean upon His breast.

Give thanks to God, the future bright
Gleams with His hope divine,
He soon will burst upon our sight
And we with Him shall dine
Within those courts this world above
With all the pure and true,
We'll praise Him for His dying love
And what He suffered through.

—Leslie Busbee

Lesson 9, December 2, 1973

THE ARK OF TESTIMONY (God's Law Within the Heart)

Exodus 25:10a, 11a, 16; Heb. 9:3, 4; Heb. 8:10; Rev. 2:17b; 1 Jno. 5:4; Num. 17:8, 10; Psa. 68:18; Acts 17:30, 31.

Exodus 25:10a And they shall make an ark of shittim wood.

11a And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it,

16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

Heb. 9:3 And after the second vail, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days [gospel day], saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

Revelation 2:17b To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Numbers 17:8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms and yielded almonds.

10 And the Lord said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.

Psalms 68:18 Thou has ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive; thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Memory Verse: Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psams 119:11.

Central Thought: Our spiritual life is sustained by the Word of God abiding in our souls, which in divine revelation is manna from heaven and our sure authority for leadership.

Word Definitions: Overcome: The Greek word means to conquer, subdue, and succeed. Rebellious: To turn away from (the Lord). Assurance: Persuasion, conviction of religious truth, reliance, confidence, and faith.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The ark of the tabernacle was a box 4 ft. by 2 ft. by 2 ft. overlaid within and without with gold. The mercy seat matched the top dimensions and rested thereupon. Our lesson has mostly to do with what was inside the ark. The Old Testament tells us of the tables of stone with the commandments inscribed thereon being put into the ark, but does not mention the other two items being put therein. But in Exodus 16:33, 34, we find where the Lord told Moses to put a measure of the manna in a pot and put it before the testimony so that the people could remember how they were sustained from hunger by means of the manna. Then our lesson gives the account of Aaron's rod blossoming forth buds, blossoms, and almonds, and how it was laid up before the testimony. But the writer in Hebrews strongly implies that all three of these things were put into the ark. It is evident that God was greatly concerned with the Israelites keeping remembrance of His law, His care, and His authority.

We may wonder what this pot of manna typifies since we have already had some thoughts concerning the shewbread being typical of Christ, the Bread of Life. But let us remember that this golden pot of manna placed in the ark was not to be eaten, but it was for a remembrance of the manna that God rained upon Israel as a means of His gracious provision. Being laid up before the Lord and before them for all their generation, it was to constantly remind them of God's faithful care for them in the long dark wilderness. Remembering is a vital part of the Christian life. We must never forget what God has wrought for us.

The rod that budded cleared the people's minds of question as to who was the real High Priest of God. Just a common wooden stick, dry and hardened through time and use, but made to blossom like a tree and bring forth fruit was convincing proof indeed. God wanted them to remember this also. So in our study of these three things, let us see if we can discover what their spiritual application is.

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the purpose of keeping the rod of Aaron that budded? 2. What does Aaron's rod typify to you? 3. What is meant by Christ receiving gifts for men, "yea, for the rebellious, also"? 4. In what way did God give assurance unto all men of the promised judgment? 5. How does God write His laws upon the hearts of men?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Nothing extraordinary can we see about the ark, except that it is over-laid within and without with gold. We note it is of common shape and size, with the beautiful mercy-seat on the top. But it is the treasures that are inside that reveal the great truths that we are in search of. Herein we see first two tables of stone on which are inscribed the Commandments of God. God desires His Word to be remembered, respected, honoured, obeyed, and upheld by all who would enter His presence. Then we behold the golden pot that had manna in it. We are not allowed to eat of this manna, but it reminds us of how Israel was sustained in the wilderness by the Lord's daily provision. Then we see Aaron's rod, which is proof of his divine call to be the High Priest, and which budded, blossomed, and yielded almonds overnight.

There is a hidden manna that we as followers of Christ can partake of, being ever mindful of His past blessings. Satan would bear upon our minds many discouraging things that tend to hide and dim from our view what the Lord has wrought for us in the past. And let us not forget the laws of our blessed Saviour, the law of love and faith. It is the greatest law ever written, and it is not written with ink or graven on stone. It is inscribed upon our hearts and minds by the Spirit of the Living God.

Jesus was described by Isaiah as a tender plant, and a root out of a dry ground. He was despised and rejected, a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. But God has erased from reason and truth all doubt as to Christ's authority for the salvation and reconciliation of men. When He raised Christ from the dead and exalted Him with power and glory and sent His witnesses to declare His life and power, assurance springs up in the hungry heart. We know He is our leader, and Commander, the Captain of our salvation. We dare not question His wisdom or guidance for our souls.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When we think of an Ark, we think of the ark that God told Noah to make. It meant an ark of safety, a place prepared to protect and to preserve, a place of security. It is a

place of refuge. Just so, the ark of the Covenant was a place where God met with the High Priest to accept the blood for the atonement of the sins of the Israelites. This meant that they could feel secure in that atonement and know that they were safe and in accord with God's laws. But today we find a type or a figure of the true sanctuary and the new covenant, which is written in our hearts when we go on to perfection. We come first to the golden altar and we die to sin and then emerge into the holiest, where the place is filled with the divine presence of God. The Holy Spirit sanctifies our hearts and witnesses to us of that fact. Thank God for that security, and that place of refuge we have found for our souls!

The Ten Commandments that were written by the finger of God were precious. They were kept from the view of mankind in the Ark. The thick mercy-seat covered them. This makes us know that only through the mercy of God and His grace can we keep the commandments of God. The golden pot of manna represents Christ and through the mercy of God we can be fully satisfied in our souls. What a wonderful thought that the budded rod brings to us of the graces that God gives to us causing us to bear fruit. All of this comes to us by the mercy of God and our communing with Him under the wings of the cherubims. —M. Miles

THE UNTOLD STORY OF CHARLES DARWIN

Who is Charles Darwin?

Millions are acquainted with him only by hearsay. "Isn't he the man that came up with the idea that we're all descended from apes?"

Darwin, a wealthy and brilliant Englishman, made a study of human and animal life and in 1859 published a book called "The Origin of Species." In it he outlined his theory or guess that men had "evolved" bit by bit from animals.

Thousands arose to defend the Bible in which is recorded God's creation of the first man, Adam. Other thousands hailed the theory of evolution as fact and exalted Darwin as the "high priest of a great new religion."

In the years of controversy that followed and long after his name had become a household word everywhere, the man, Charles Darwin, continued to be known by only a fraction of those who censured or praised him. But what was happening in his heart and mind? How did he feel? What was he thinking?

The following story will never be read in a biology book, scientific journal, or encyclopedia. But it is the truth nevertheless, and it is reported by Lady Hope of Northfield, England.

Lady Hope was often at his bedside during the last days before Darwin's death. Late one afternoon she came to see him and found him with an open Bible in his hands.

"What are you reading now?" she asked him as she sat on the edge of the bed.

"Hebrews!" he answered, smiling. "Still Hebrews. The Royal Book, I call it." Then placing his finger on certain passages, he began to talk about them.

Lady Hope referred to the strong opinions of some religious leaders who were teaching evolution instead of the Bible account of Creation found in Hebrews and Genesis.

(The following are Lady Hope's own words.)

"He seemed greatly distressed, his fingers twitched nervously, and a look of agony came over his face as he said, 'I was a young man with unformed ideas. I threw out queries, suggestions, wondering all the time over everything; and to my astonishment the ideas took like wildfire. People made a religion of them.'

"Then he paused, and after a few more sentences on the holiness of God and the grandeur of the Book, looking at the Bible which he was holding tenderly all the time, he suddenly said, 'I have a summerhouse in the garden which holds about thirty people. It is over there,' pointing through the open window. 'I very much want you to speak there. I know you read the Bible in villages. Tomorrow afternoon I should like the servants on the place, some tenants and a few of the neighbors to gather there. Will you speak to them?'

" 'What shall I speak about?' I asked.

" 'Christ Jesus!' he replied, 'and His salvation. Is not that the best theme? And I want you to sing some hymns with them.'

"The wonderful look of brightness and animation on his face as he said this, I shall never forget, for he added, 'If you take the meeting at three o'clock, this window will be open, and you will know that I am joining in with the singing.'

This, then, is Darwin's untold story. It is not popular. You will not find it on the front page of any newspaper. It is the old, old story of God's mercy and love.

A man came up with an idea the world wanted. The world took the idea and left the man. God waited for years until the clamor of the world had died away, then He brought that lonely soul to Himself.

What is the untold story of your life?

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(47)

Lesson 10, December 9, 1973

**THE HOLY OIL OF CONSECRATION—
THE HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTING**

Exod. 30: 23, 24, 25, 26a, 30, 31, 32; Psa. 133:1, 2;

Acts 10:38; Heb. 1:9; 1 John 2:27.

Exodus 30:23 (The Lord spake unto Moses:) Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels,

24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin:

25 And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil.

26a And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith.

30 And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

31 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations.

32 Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you.

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments.

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Hebrews 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach

you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Memory Verse: For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. I Cor. 12:13.

Central Thought: The holy Anointing of the Holy Spirit that is poured upon us for consecration and divine service is holy unto God and is meant to be holy unto us.

Word Definition: Apothecary: The compounding of spices, drugs, etc. (Heb.) On the same level as a pharmacist or confectioner. Although the Hebrew word for myrrh is closely associated with "marah" (bitterness) the general encyclopedia information defines it as a fragrant resin with a pleasing odor. It came from a plant that grew in Arabia. Cinnamon and cassia are both from the bark of trees and are quite similar, only cassia is of less value. According to Adam Clarke, a hin of olive oil amounted to about 5 quarts. Calamus was evidently from a sweet cane.

LESSON BACKGROUND

God now gives to Moses the command to put together these spices and olive oil for a holy anointing to be applied to the Tabernacle, its furniture, and to the Priests. This is to be a holy oil of consecration to be upon the furniture and vessels for divine service, hallowing them in a very special way to God and to the people. God wanted His service to be sweet and holy to the people as well as to Himself.

To the child of God who has been washed in the blood of Jesus and who is endeavoring to serve the Lord is willed a holy anointing of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit takes form in the gifts and graces that are manifest in our lives. This is to be a sweet fragrant influence in the nostrils of God and as the Scriptures declare; this pleasant odor is the basis for the sweet communion of saints, the holy fellowship of the beloved in Christ.

Lesson References: The Hebrew word Messiah and the Greek word Christ both mean the Anointed One. David (a type of Christ) was anointed with holy oil, Psalm 89:20; anointed with oil by the Shepherd, Psalm 23:5; anointing we receive from God, 2 Cor. 1:21; Christ anointed to preach to the meek, Isaiah 61:1.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the effect of being baptized by one Spirit and all drinking into one Spirit? 2. How important is this holy anointing to God? 3. How important is this holy anointing to us? 4. Name the three important offices filled by men in Old Testament times that required anointing. 5. How was Christ qualified to be all three of these?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Along with instructions concerning the composition of this holy anointing oil came the command that it not be poured upon a stranger nor upon man's flesh. They were not to make any other oil like it. It was holy unto God and was to be holy unto the people.

Being holy unto God, this anointing oil was the only anointing that would be acceptable unto Him. Nothing like it or similar to it would do. It had to be the sweet fragrant oil that He prescribed. So it is today. The only service that God accepts is that which is anointed within the soul by the Holy Spirit. He is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth. This is holy and sacred to Him.

Therefore, we must not bring anything into our worship or service to God that would take the place of the Holy Spirit anointing or inspiration. If we find ourselves coming short of this, we must not reach for other things to take its place, but rather go down before God in earnest prayer and consecration for Him to fill, anoint, and inspire us with the Holy Spirit.

God wanted all the tabernacle and its furniture anointed with this holy anointing oil. And God wants His entire Church anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not just for certain ministers and aged saints, but it is for young people and every one who enters the House of God by a new birth. All should consecrate their hearts and lives to the Lord's service, and receive this holy anointing.

The unity of brethren into one body in its good and pleasant glory is likened by the Psalmist to that holy anointing oil that was upon Aaron's head, beard, and garments. The working of the Holy Spirit in men's hearts is a mighty force of love and humility to draw the hearts of men together into a holy fellowship. This is an oil of gladness and brings power and glory into the Church. It is a means of communicating to our hearts the deep truths of God, things that the natural man can never know.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We need to watch, pray, keep filled with Holy Spirit and seek God daily to help us to live under the anointing of the Spirit. Only through His anointing can we speak words that will touch hearts. It must be God and not just our own ideas or our worldly wisdom. The prophet Isaiah spoke of what would be the results of the anointing that God gave to Jesus to preach the word. That word would change souls. It would "bind up the broken-hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound . . . to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness that they might be called . . . the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Isa. 61:1-3. Praise God for the anointed Word that has power to change and make whole every one who is afflicted with sin. The anointing came from God. The oil of joy given to us came from God. Words fitly spoken can soothe many a troubled heart and cause friction to cease. We need to keep plenty of this oil on hands.

I read that oil can be poured on water that is being tossed by the wind and cause it to become calm. Surely we need the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit upon us so we can pour it out in times of need. We need the oil of mercy, the oil of kindness and meekness with longsuffering with us all the time. One man carried with him a can of oil. When he passed through a gate or a door that squeaked, he would take out his can of oil and put some oil on it. He said that he was making it easier for those who came behind him. We need to keep a can of the oil of helpfulness, cheer, courage, kindness and all the virtues of the Spirit so we can be a blessing to others as we pass through this world.

One woman broke an alabaster box of ointment upon Jesus as He sat at meat. The fragrance passed through the house. Some complained about the waste, but Jesus knew her heart. She wanted forgiveness of her sins. He said, "Thy faith hath saved thee: go in peace." Luke 7:37-50. Sinners who come repenting and praying unto the Lord will find that their prayers will be a sweet-smelling savor unto the Lord. He will hear and save them. Not only should the sinner pray, but when he is saved he must continue to pray. The Apostle John saw the prayers of the saints and said that they were "golden vials full of odors" before the Lord. (Rev. 5:8). —M. Miles

MY FATHER'S MESSAGE

As you know we have to write our Bible Lessons in time for them to be printed, wrapped and mailed to you before

the quarter. It is now the first of August. Most of you know that I have had a fight of afflictions the last few months and Bro. Leslie Busbee has been helping me with the writing of the lessons which I do appreciate and I am sure that all of you have enjoyed his writings. We would work together on the lesson outline etc., and then as I felt able I did some of the writing. But I do want you to know that the Lord has touched me again and again. At times it seemed that my heart was in such bad condition that I couldn't live. I would be so weak and it seemed my heart would beat out of my body at times and then it would scarcely beat at all. But my faith was in the Lord. I did not check with a doctor, but looked only to the Lord. God has touched me and I am again busy for the Lord. I am gaining more strength every day.

This morning I was looking to the Lord when I first awakened for His anointing upon my heart to write the "Food for Thought" to the lesson that Bro. Leslie had finished on the "Holy Anointing Oil." A number of thoughts came to me in which I rejoiced as all of God's Word is so precious to feed our souls. As I started to get my Bible and have my morning devotions before fixing breakfast, I picked up a towel that I had folded and put it in my linen closet. I saw a box on the shelf above it. I had forgotten what was in it so took it down to look inside it. In it I had a notebook that had belonged to my father. I opened it and on just a few pages he had jotted down some Scriptures that possibly he had used to preach from. Most of you knew my father, Brother Fred Pruitt, who went to his reward ten years ago last June, and maybe some of you have heard of him. To my surprise he had a topic, "Apothecary Ointment." There were six Scriptures. I took them and read them for my Scripture reading for my devotions. It was just what I had been thinking about. I am going to give them to you if you want to study them. I have heard him preach on this subject and it would take the Lord to help one to get the good from these Scriptures that I have heard him bring out. He had written down: Exodus 30:25; Psalms 133; Proverbs 27:8, 9; Ecclesiastes 10:1; Song of Solomon 1:2, 3; 4:10-16. I have heard him stress just all it would mean when we got flies in the ointment and what an awful thing that would be in our lives; also the beauty of the smell of the ointments in our lives which are the wonderful graces of God.

—Sister Marie Miles

Lesson 11, December 16, 1973

**HATH MADE US PRIESTS UNTO GOD,
THE HIGH PRIEST**

Exodus 28:1, 4; Heb. 9:11; 7:26, 27; 4:14, 15; Revelation 1:5b, 6; 5:10b; 1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 52:1; Rev. 19:8; 3:5.

Exodus 28:1 [God told Moses] And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Rev. 1:5b Unto him [Jesus] that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 5:10b And we shall reign on the earth.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye

should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Isaiah 52:1 Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

Rev. 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Rev. 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Memory Verse: After he [Christ] had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:12.

Central Thought: The antitype of the Israelite high priest and his clothing is Christ. Christ gives the clothing of righteousness to the "born again" believers, whom He makes priests unto God.

Word Definition: "The Priest under the law was a person consecrated and ordained of God, not only to teach the people, and pray for them, but also to offer up sacrifices for his own sins, and those of the people. Leviticus 4:5, 6. . . . The term Priest is most properly given to Christ, of whom the high priests under the law were types and figures, He being the High Priest, especially ordained of God, who, by the sacrifice of Himself, once offered by Himself, and also by His intercession, might reconcile unto, and for ever keep in favour with God, all true believers. . . . The word priest is also applied to every true believer, who himself is enabled to offer up spiritual sacrifices of prayer and praise to God, through Jesus Christ." —Cruden's Concordance.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The priesthood in Israel is called the Levitical priesthood because the priests were from the tribe of Levi. The priesthood was the ministry of worship as the tabernacle was the place of worship for the Israelites. The tabernacle would have been useless and meaningless if it had not been for the priesthood. All of this was to be according to the pattern given to Moses in the mount because they were types and shad-

ows of the true plan of God to be fulfilled through Christ and His followers. The inspired writer devotes chapters 28 and 29 in Exodus to the calling and consecrating of the high priest Aaron and his sons, who were also priests as helpers.

In our lesson we are referring to the Israelite's High Priest and his clothing and the priests, and then we are going over into the New Testament in order to bring out the beautiful truths of Jesus' being the High Priest and also making all "born again" believers priests. We also refer to the garments the priests wore as the believer's garments of righteousness. The lack of space will not let us bring in the many types that were fulfilled in the New Testament priests. One is the offering up of praises and sacrifices by the believers unto God.

—M. Miles

QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the older priests that were consecrated by Moses to be mediators for the people. 2. What kind of garments did they wear? 3. Who is the great High Priest? 4. What is His nature, and what does He do and has done for us? 5. How are believers made priests? 6. Describe their garments and their fruits.

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It seems to be a fundamental need in man's religious nature to have a priest. The guilt of sin is upon his soul and he feels himself unfitted to come into the presence of a holy God. Therefore he needs a mediator or a go-between to deal with his Creator who is offended. Even in the ancient classes of people as well as in the savage tribes they seem to need a mediator. Some are called medicine men, and there are a number of heathen orders of priests today. But thank God, today we have a High Priest who is our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is the One who is touched by the feelings of our infirmities and is sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us. Jesus has bridged the gulf which was insurpassable by guilty mankind. He is our mediator and pleads for us before the throne of God. He united man and God. So great was the cost of His reconciling us to God that the ancient priest, who brought sacrifices for the sins of the people after offering one for his own, is but a dim foreshadow of our true High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Believers are represented as priests by various New Testament writers, and it is not unreasonable to regard them as antitypical of those ancient common priests. Believers "offer the sacrifices of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit

of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Heb. 13:15.) These are acceptable to God because we have been chosen to be priests. We were washed by the regenerating power of the Holy Ghost. The believer does not need a human priestly order as required by some people, but he is made holy by Jesus offering Himself as our great High Priest. The pure-white linen robes, which were worn next to the flesh, were symbolic to them of purity. We can count this as typifying the fine linen which is the righteousness of the saints. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Although the Levitical Priesthood of Aaron and his sons was a direct type of the New Testament Priesthood of Christ and His Church, there is another order of priesthood that enters the picture with this prophecy in Psalm 110:4, "The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." Here in the writings of David springs the name of one of long ago who made his appearance in the life of Abraham. And here David prophesies that Christ was to be a priest forever after the order of this man to whom Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils taken from the slaughter of the kings of his day. This prophecy is a very important one concerning Christ for it is mentioned different times in the book of Hebrews.

In Hebrews 6:19, the writer mentions the hope that we have through the promises of God as an anchor of the soul, entering into that within the vail; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. When Jesus was able by the grace of God to taste death for every man and to enter into the holy place in the heavenly places for us, He became in the power of His endless life a priest after a much higher order than that of Aaron. For Aaron's priesthood ended with death, and his sons were made priests by birth and likewise ended their priesthood in death. But Jesus was not made a Priest by birth, for He was prophesied to His Priesthood long before He came into the world. And His Priesthood did not end with death, but rather He has been given an unchangeable and everlasting priesthood. Thus, He was made a priest after the order of Melchisedec. As the writer said concerning Melchisedec: "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God abideth a priest continually." Hebrews 7:3. Confusion arises over this endeavoring to explain just what sort of man this Melchisedec was. But it will help to see that the writer is pointing to how Christ was made a Priest above the order of Aaron, and Melchisedec was used

in Christ's order because we have no trace of his parentage, or his children, nor do we have any record of his birth or death. All we know about him was that he was priest of the most high God. So Christ is Priest forever after this manner, from everlasting to everlasting, the same enduring and faithful Saviour and King.

—Leslie Busbee

THE HORRORS OF HELL WITHOUT WATER

"During the first World War an English Lieutenant wrote an account of the Battle of the Dardanelles. The title of his article was, 'A Thousand Dollars For A Drop!' The marines upon the shore could not reach the mother ship in safety. It was but a short time until their canteens were dry. And now they tried to slake their thirst by drinking sea water. This they could not endure. Next, they lay down and put their parched tongues upon the damp sand, but this also had too much salt. Then they bit their wrists and sucked their own blood. Some took off their shoes and ate them for a little moisture. The one great cry was, 'Water! Water! Water! Give me a drop! A thousand dollars for a drop!'

"Many of them went mad and blew their brains out. Others called for water until they fainted; their tongues protruded out of their mouths like long bananas. Those who still had a few drops left in order to show their generosity permitted their fellow comrades each to place his tongue upon the mouth of the canteen and get one drop. Where one had but a few drops left he dared not trust his half-crazed brother thus, but would put his own finger upon the mouth of his canteen and with a little moisture touch the parched tongue. The correspondent though not a Christian, said that the sight and groans were so awful that if hell could be worse, 'Good Lord, save me from hell!'

Yes, precious soul, slake your thirst well now, for remember if you are so unfortunate as to miss Heaven, there is no water in perdition.

" 'And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.' "

(Oh, the mercy of God to deliver us from such a fate. We ought to love Jesus for dying on the cross to pay our penalty of sin so we could go to heaven and miss hell. If you are not saved today, won't you turn to Jesus who longs to spare you from eternal destruction? —M. Miles)

Lesson 12, December 23, 1973

MOSES' PROPHECY FULFILLED

Deut. 18:17a, 18, 19; Matt. 1:18-21; Luke 2:10, 11-16

Deut. 18:17a And the Lord said unto me [Moses].

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise; when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

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

Luke 2:10 [The angel said to the shepherds] Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

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

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing

which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Memory Verse: He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27.

Central Thought: Through the inspiration of the Spirit Moses prophesied of Jesus to come and we have the proof that He did come and was seen by many witnesses.

Word Definitions: Espoused or betrothed. "Among the Jews the betrothal took place a year before marriage, and during the interval the betrothed maiden remained with her own family. But from the day of betrothal the pair were regarded as man and wife." —Hom. Com.

Swaddling clothes are long, narrow bands of cloth.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Over two thousand years before Jesus came Moses at different times prophesied of the coming Messiah. In our lesson in Deuteronomy, Moses is talking to the Israelites as they were camped and instructing them about the laws of God. Through inspiration he spoke of the Prophet Jesus who was to come. He emphasized the fact that God would require of all who heard his words strict obedience for them to be in favor with God.

In Matthew we read about the reality of the incarnation. Emmanuel, which means, "God with us" was a fact about which God spoke to Joseph in a dream. The angel told him that that which he had heard about Mary was a fulfillment of the prophecy which said, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Joseph knew God had spoken so he was not afraid to take Mary as his wife even though she was with child. Joseph did as the angel bade him and when the child was born he called him, "Jesus."

Our lesson in Luke is about the shepherds who were told about the birth of Jesus and they went to see if what the angels said was true. They worshiped the newborn babe.

—M. Miles

QUESTIONS:

1. How was Jesus a prophet like unto Moses? 2. Are there people in the world today who want to deny the virgin

birth of Jesus? 3. What is their purpose in this denial? 4. What sign was given to the shepherds that they would know that Jesus was the true Son of God? 5. How can Jesus be made real to us today?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Moses was a prophet of the highest rank to whom God revealed His will and he instructed the Israelites. But Christ was "the teacher sent from God." Jesus is the manifestation of God's character, the revelation of His purpose. The Apostle Paul said, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." Hebrews 1:1. Jesus Christ was a lawgiver like unto Moses. Moses was the founder by the instructions from God of a new law and a new period. But Jesus is the Head of the Church and the Deliverer of man. Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ has the natural right, "as son over his own house." Heb. 3: 5, 6. Jesus was an Intercessor like Moses. Jesus is the "Mediator of a better covenant." Jesus was like Moses as being a Leader of his people. Jesus leads by example and precept. What a wonderful Commander we have! Jesus has never lost a battle and we will not either, as we follow close to Him. Christ is worthy of more glory than Moses. Hebrews 3:1-3.

What faith could be more tested than Mary's? Her relations with Joseph were allowed to almost snap, yet how gloriously God brought her through as she had patience and waited upon God. Only God could convince Joseph and take care of the circumstances. What a wonderful reward awaited her and that which she was crowned with at last. But isn't this true with the workings of God to His believing children? Think of Peter who was under Herod Agrippa and was all but brought forth for execution. (Acts 12.) Paul was all but assassinated by a band of Jewish enemies. (Acts 23.) Abraham was almost allowed to kill Isaac. And so it is that God lets us be tried to the limit, that the trial of our faith might be found to His glory.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is a joyous, glad emotion in the story of Christ's birth that we cannot get away from. Although many frown at the remembrance of Christ's birth, we are reminded over and over of the message and song of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And then I think of what Paul stated in Romans 15:9, "That the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy." We do

rejoice and glorify God for the great provision of His mercy and good will toward us. We are very grateful that God in His everlasting love brought to pass the promise that He made to the ancient saints when He sent the Saviour into the world to redeem us from our fallen state.

God was glorified in the hearts of men who welcomed the strain of the angels that came down to them that night. As one song says, "Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world." "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound." Psa. 89:15. We have heard with our hungry hearts the joyful message of His love and welcome it into our hearts. We mourn not what we must surrender up to the Lord, nor cast a glance wistfully backward to the world that we leave behind, for we are so glad that the Lord has had mercy upon us that we will not murmur at the sacrifice. Our gain so far exceeds what we lose, that we do not really lose anything. Thus we glorify God, and rejoice in His salvation.

—Leslie Busbee

WHEN SANKEY SANG

The Shepherd Song on Christmas Eve

Ira D. Sankey was another man to whom God had given wonderful power to sing the Gospel. For years these two men worked together, Moody preaching and Sankey singing. In the year 1875, they had both been in Liverpool serving their Master in that great city. Toward the end of the year they returned to America.

It happened that on Christmas eve of this year 1875, Mister Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. It was a calm, starlit evening and there were many passengers gathered on the deck. Mr. Sankey was asked to sing, and as always, he was perfectly willing to do so. He stood there leaning against one of the great funnels of the boat and his eyes were raised to the starry heavens in quiet prayer. It was his intention to sing a Christmas song, but somehow he was driven to sing the "Shepherd Song."

"Saviour, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tenderest care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

"We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the Guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Hear, oh, hear us when we pray.

"Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
We will early turn to Thee.

"Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Saviour
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still."

There was a deep stillness. Words and melody, welling forth from the singer's soul floated out over deck and quiet river. Every heart was touched. After the song was ended a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mister Sankey and said, "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, "in the spring of 1860."

"Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright moonlit night in 1862?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised.

"So do I," said the stranger, "but I was serving in the Confederate Army. When I saw you standing at your post I thought to myself: 'That fellow will never get away from here alive.' I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed while the full light of the moon was falling on you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger.

"'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself, 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.'

"But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly:

'We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the Guardian of our way.'

"These words stirred up many memories in my heart. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many, many times sung that song to me. But she died all too soon, otherwise much in my life would no doubt have been different.

"When you had finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought: 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty—and my arm, of its own accord, dropped limp by my side.

"Since that time I have wandered about far and wide; but when I just now saw you standing there praying just as on that other occasion, I recognized you. Then my heart was wounded by your song; now I wish that you may help me find a cure for my sick soul."

Deeply moved, Mister Sankey threw his arms about the man who, in the days of the war, had been his enemy. And this Christmas night the two went together to the manger in Bethlehem. There the stranger found Him who was their common Saviour, the Good Shepherd, who seeks for the lost sheep until He finds it. And when He has found it He lays it on His shoulders, rejoicing.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day."

—Sel.

Lesson 13, December 30, 1973

THE GLORY OF THE LORD

Ex. 40:33b, 34; Acts 2:1, 4a; John 1:14; Luke 9:28b, 29-31; John 11:40, 44; Romans 3:23; 5:1, 2

Exodus 40:33b So Moses finished the work.

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

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they [New Testament Church] were all with one accord in one place.

4a And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

John 1:14 [Christ came] And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory

as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Luke 9:28b He [Jesus] took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

John 11:40 Jesus saith unto her [Martha], Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

44 And he [Lazarus] that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Memory Verse: Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31.

Central Thought: God put the glory in the Ark of the Covenant and it was a glorious assurance to the Israelites of God's presence. Today, God puts glory in the church which is glorious not only in His own eyes, but in the eyes of the world.

Word Definition: Glory means, "great honour and admiration; worship; adoration; highest degree of pleasure; splendor." Glory is the resplendence, magnificence and beatific happiness from heaven. —See Webster's Dictionary.

LESSON BACKGROUND

To give the people a visible proof that God had chosen the sanctuary which had been finished, God filled the dwelling in both its parts with the cloud. It was so great that Moses was unable to enter into the Tabernacle. This cloud afterwards drew back into the Most Holy Place, to dwell there,

above the out-spread wings of the Cherubim of the Ark of the Covenant. There seemed to be a distinction between the cloud and the glory of the Lord which filled the Tabernacle.

Our lesson in Acts is the infilling of the 120 that had gathered together as Jesus had told them and waited for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. It was a glorious manifestation of the mighty power of God to the world. They saw the glory of the Lord and the disciples felt that glory and were bold to declare it.

Isaiah prophesied of that time. The glory would be "in the midst of her," the Church of God.

Christ came and the angels shouted, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will toward men." The sky was full of glory. Later, John spoke of Jesus and said He was made flesh and we "beheld his glory." The disciples were in the mountain and beheld the glory of Jesus. God spoke out of heaven and confirmed that Jesus was His Son, and they were to hear Him.

Martha believed and saw the glory of God manifested in the bringing of Lazarus back to life.

Sinners come short of the glory of God, but when we confess our sins we have the glory in our souls. We are changed from glory to glory.

—M. Miles

QUESTIONS:

1. What took place when the Tabernacle was completely finished according to the pattern given to Moses in the mountain? 2. What is this a type and shadow of in the New Testament dispensation? 3. How did the disciples behold Christ's glory? 4. How can we behold God's glorious power as Martha did? 5. When can we have this glory in us?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The tabernacle would have been a dead place indeed if the glory of the Lord had not filled it. God had given the plan and the plan was carried out to the fullest. All within the tabernacle had a meaning for a future work in the heart and life of mankind. God filled it with His glory. The tabernacle came alive and all were blessed by obeying the commandments given for the priests, the anointing oil and the sprinkling of the blood. Even as the Israelites were taken into other countries, God promised to hear their prayers as they looked toward the tabernacle and prayed. What a wonderful type we have there, but the New Testament glory given to us is more glorious. Jesus came and was the perfect sacrifice and also the High Priest. Through Jesus, who was filled with glory

while here upon the earth and manifested His great power and glory, we have the glory of God in our souls. When we are justified, we are filled with glory, but when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are changed from glory to glory.

Only through the power and glory of God can we obey the commandments of God. Our desires and thoughts are centered upon God and we delight in keeping His Word. Many have suffered martyrdom and the glory of the Lord surrounded them in that hour. We think of Stephen who was full of faith and power and did many mighty wonders among the people and was stoned. (Acts 6:8, 15; 7:60). The glory of the Lord was so much upon him that they "saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." Oh, what a glorious victory! How could Stephen have that kind of glory? He was filled with a forgiving attitude for his murderers. Who could help him forgive? Only God. He could not have done this within himself and neither can we. May the Lord help us to seek His face daily and keep filled with His glory.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" So spake the Lord Jesus to Cleopas and his companion that day as they walked along the road. As we look back over these lessons and behold the order of the service of God and how Christ went through all of these things in shedding His blood and setting for us the example of faith, obedience, and consecration to God, we see that He did it all that He might enter into His glory for us. He calls us to glory and virtue also, and we are blessed with believing hearts to see the glory of God. The hidden wisdom of Christ was ordained before the world unto our glory. And it pleased God in bringing many sons unto glory to make the Captain of our salvation perfect through suffering. So we must follow Him through the valley of suffering and humiliation, knowing that when His glory shall be revealed, we shall be glad also with exceeding joy.

And, speaking of glory, I am reminded of how Jesus in the 24th Psalm is called the King of glory. We see Him in this Psalm pictured as triumphantly ascending the hill of the Lord, and standing in His holy place. "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in"! Then the question is asked, "Who is this King of glory?" And the answer: "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Yes, our blessed King was and is, and shall ever be strong and mighty in battle to subdue the foes of righteousness for His saints. He

overcame Satan by death and the resurrection from the dead. He trampled evil under His feet and obeyed His Father in all things. And now the gates swing wide open for Him to enter forever more. Again the declaration, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in." Once again the question: "Who is this King of glory?" And let us all rejoice with the redeemed of all ages as we are filled with everlasting joy in proclaiming: "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!"

—Leslie Busbee

THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL

How often have you heard the expression: "The bottom of the barrel"? Well, let me tell you a true story which will illustrate this expression in a graphic way.

Many years ago, in the mountains of Kentucky, lived a poor widow. After her husband died, she bit her lip to keep the tears back, and lovingly tried to provide for her young children.

There were depression years, and securing even the necessities of life was an uphill pull. Disease killed many of her chickens. Cholera got into the livestock. In every way, she was tried to the very limit. But like Job of old, she kept her faith in God. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

Then came a day when all her hard-earned savings were gone. She went to the meal barrel and took out enough meal to make the pancakes for the children who were going to school and for little Tommy who was not old enough for studies. As she looked into the barrel, her heart sank. She saw only enough meal for the following day. She knew that tomorrow she would have to literally scrape the bottom of the barrel.

Bravely she tried to smile as the children were kissed and sent off to school. She told little Tommy to play in the other room. "Mama wants to pray to Jesus," she explained.

Putting her head in her hands, she sobbed out her need to the Lord. Soon little Tommy heard his mother's cry, opened the door quietly, and tiptoed to her side.

"What's wrong, Mommy?" he asked, concern in his childish voice.

She replied between sobs: "Mama is worried, Tommy. I have no money and tomorrow we reach the bottom of the barrel."

He was silent for a minute or so. Then he raised his index finger like a little preacher and said in a loud, clear voice: "Mommy, don't you know that God always hears it when we scrape the bottom of the barrel?"

His childlike faith stopped her tears, and a flood of heavenly glory burst over her soul. She knew her little son had told her the truth. God always hears it when we scrape the bottom of the barrel.

Her worry fled away like mists before the morning sun.

The next morning, she scraped the last grains of flour and made it into cakes on the old-fashioned kitchen stove.

Just as the children were ready to take their little cakes to school, a neighbor man by the name of Johnson drove in with his team of horses. He greeted the widow and children with these words: "Ma and I were in prayer last night and we were asking the Lord how you were getting along. Soon we felt in our hearts that your barrel might be getting pretty low, so Ma suggested that I drive here this morning and bring you some food which we had stored in our pantry."

"Oh, thank you, thank you," the widow replied, tears of joy streaming down her smiling face.

She looked at Tommy, and he was smiling, too, with a smile that seemed to say: "God always hears it when we scrape the bottom of the barrel."

"My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19).

God always hears it when you scrape the bottom of the barrel!

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(Teacher: Have your lessons been received for the next quarter beginning January 6?)