

1956

# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

Vol. 11, No. 2  
April, May, June  
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# **Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People**

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**Volume 11**

**April, May, June, 1979**

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Jesus Christ and His Church  
Edited by Mrs. Marie Miles, and other co-workers**

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## Theme for Second Quarter, 1979

In this quarter we are continuing the study about the predictions of the Messiah, or Jesus Christ, who was to come. We are deviating some from the theme by inserting a lesson on the resurrection, and also bringing in the building of Solomon's temple and the spiritual applications of its building and contents. We are also inserting a lesson for Mothers' Day on the church as being our mother, as the Bible teaches.

Our first lesson begins with Ruth, who is the great-grandmother of David. This is the beginning of the family in which Jesus Christ, the Messiah, was born. The most specific and most abundant of all the Messianic prophecies center around David. Abraham was the founder of the Messianic nation and David the founder of the Messianic family within the nation.

The books of Kings and Chronicles relate the fall of David's kingdom and of the Israelites being taken captive, but in the period covered by these books the prophets arose and continued to cry aloud that the Promise would yet be fulfilled. Praise God, our King is alive and is reigning today! We are in that kingdom and it is a kingdom of peace. —Sis. A. Marie Miles

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April 1, 1979

### CHRIST AS OUR NEAR KINSMAN

Ruth 2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12 The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

3:10 And he [Boaz] said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end

than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

4:6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**Memory Verse:** For I know that my redeemer [kinsman] liveth, and that he shall stand at that latter day upon the earth. Job 19:25.

**Central Thought:** Ruth left her native land to help care for her mother-in-law, and cast her lot with the people of God. In so doing she found a near kinsman who took her in and redeemed her and her property. Thus she came into the lineage of Christ, being the great-grandmother of David. The soul of man can likewise be redeemed from death and bondage through the power of our near kinsman, Jesus Christ.

**Word Definitions:** *Redeemer:* One who is next of kin to buy back property and marry the widow. This is the Hebrew definition.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Ruth was a native Moabitess. Naomi was an Israelite. With her husband and her two sons she had sojourned in Moab because of famine in Israel. Ruth married one of her sons. In the process of time both sons and Naomi's husband died. Upon hearing that the famine was over in Israel, Naomi purposed to return, and Ruth could not be persuaded to stay, but rather devotedly accompanied her mother-in-law back to Israel. Being poor and destitute, there was nothing to do but go and glean after the reapers. The laws instituted of God gave the poor free access to what grain was left in the fields after the reapers had

passed by. There were even special provisions in the law, such as not reaping the corners and not turning back to pick up a dropped sheaf. The field that Ruth gleaned in belonged to Boaz. A warm friendship sprang up between Ruth and Boaz. This blossomed into love. Before they could be married, they had to be released from a nearer kinsman than Boaz. When approached about the matter, the kinsman at first readily agreed to redeem the property that was involved, but agreed to let Boaz redeem it when he found he would have to marry Ruth. Thus Boaz won the right and privilege to marry Ruth, and the happiness that shone in this marriage was recompense to Naomi for all the sorrow and bitterness she had known in life. Ruth reaped many benefits by being willing to leave her native land. She came to trust under the great wings of the Almighty God. She became part of the wonderful lineage of Jesus Christ, who proved to be our near kinsman to God, His beloved Son, to redeem us from our lost estate.

—L. Busbee

### Questions:

1. What was Ruth's sacrifice in leaving her own native land?
2. Who was Boaz?
3. What was Ruth's reward?
4. Do we need a Redeeming today? In what way?
5. Who is our near kinsman?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It was a law instituted by God in Israel that the nearest kin of a departed man should marry his widow, thus keeping the property in the same name. The Sadducees of Jesus's day presented a situation for Jesus to pass judgment on concerning a woman who had been married to seven different brothers in keeping with this law. They wanted to know whose wife she would be in the resurrection, but Jesus rebuked their ignorance of the power of God and showed them that the marriage institution was only for this present world. Ruth and Naomi were two widows who had a parcel of ground. They and the property needed to be redeemed, in being redeemed Ruth became the bride of Boaz. The nearer kinsman released them so that they could be married. All these things are declared to be written for our learning. In other words, there are spiritual aspects of our salvation reflected here. When I found out that the Redeemer which Job declared as living and to stand in that latter day upon the earth meant "our near kinsman," a

beautiful revelation of truth opened up to my soul. I saw Christ as our near kinsman. We lost our sonship with God through the effect of sin, and disobedience passed upon us from Adam, the first Son of God. We still have a kinsman, one who is yet the Son of God, One who took upon Himself human form in our stead and manifested the glory of the only begotten Son of the Father. He is our kinsman, and He can and will redeem us. To redeem us, He must take us to Himself in holy spiritual oneness and marriage. We must give ourselves to Him as His holy bride. Oh, what a beautiful picture and reality this is. We can be redeemed from the power of sin that separated us from God! Jesus was willing to redeem us unto Himself. He was willing to renew the Father's name upon us! Oh, praise the Lord! Just as Ruth reaped great blessings by leaving her own land and people, so we receive the kingdom of God when we are willing to forsake our own ways and thoughts. Boaz was much older than Ruth, it appears, and Christ is much older than we are (from everlasting to everlasting), but He has eternal love and youth for our souls. How we need to rejoice for such a dear Redeemer as Christ! Let us give our hearts fully to Him, for we are bought with the price of His redeeming blood.

—L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As the wise men, in the days that Jesus Christ was born, sought what they knew not, Ruth had seen figuratively speaking, the star in the East and followed it, but she knew not where. Faith had sustained her. With sublime, heroic self-denial, leaving all behind, she had said to Naomi, "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16b. She found neglect and poverty in Israel and became a lonely gleaner in the hot sun, known and pointed to as the Moabitish woman who came back with Naomi. Her virtue evident, and not unknown in the gate, but whatever claim she had upon kinsmen had been ignored, because she was one of an "accursed race." That which should have come to her unsought, she has not merely to demand, but to seek and plead for. "Spread thy wing over thine handmaid for thou art a near kinsman." And when her noble-hearted protector had demanded public justice for her, the claim had been repudiated. The path of the just shines none the less towards the perfect day because of obstacles like these. There was one generous-spirited man in Israel at least who had marked her virtue, her self-respect shining conspicuously, not only in the harvest field, but even during the difficult and delicate interview in the threshing

floor. Now he shelters her under the spreading wings of his own fair name and social position; rejected as she is, takes her to himself before all. What a beautiful climax to so sweet a story!

In the union of Ruth, the Moabitess, with Boaz of Bethlehem, the future birthplace of Christ, a son was born to them and he was the beginning of the lineage of David from whom came our Saviour Jesus Christ who redeemed us from sin.

—M. Miles

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April 8, 1979

### THE CALL OF DAVID

I Samuel 16:1 And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

6 And it came to pass, when they [Jesse and his seven sons] were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.

7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these.

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

I Sam. 24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

3 And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

17 And he [Saul] said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

**Memory Verse:** And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. Acts 13:22.

**Central Thought:** David possessed qualities of earnestness, humility, and faith that caused God to look upon Him with favor and choose him to be the King of Israel.

**Word Definitions:** *Ruddy*: reddish (of the hair or countenance) Heb.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The first mention of David in the Bible (although his name was not mentioned) was made in I Samuel 13:14. In this case Saul would not wait on Samuel as he was supposed to do and went ahead and offered a sacrifice to God. Samuel strongly rebuked Saul for not waiting as he should, and told him that his kingdom would not continue, and that instead "the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart." He was speaking of David. David was yet caring for his father's flocks, but God had him spotted as one He could use to be a leader of His people. Another impressive text that illustrates the call of David comes from Psalms 78:70-72. "He chose David also His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: from following ewes great with young he brought him to feed



Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. He fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands." Saul's downfall came when he was lifted up with pride in his lofty position as King over the people and lost sight of what the office of a King truly was. God wanted the King to be as a Shepherd over His people, not a lord. He wanted His people fed and nourished in righteousness, not bossed and lorded over. Jesus was a shepherd to the souls of men, and that is what God wants His ministers to be today. He wants His people fed with the pure Word of God. God's eyes look beyond a man's countenance and good looks and weighs his spirit, attitudes, and intents. He knows our inclinations, just how certain situations will affect us. We ought to bear this in mind in our lives for the Lord and be willing to obey His voice.

—L. Busbee

### Questions:

1. In making choice of a king for Israel what was the Lord looking for?
2. Name three qualities that God wanted the King of Israel to have.
3. Do you think that David's vocation as shepherding was a benefit to his preparation to be the King?
4. Why did David not harm Saul in the cave?
5. What was his attitude toward Saul?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

David, like Noah, found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Saul proved untrue and had to be rejected. God allowed him to continue his sad reign over Israel, but His Spirit had departed. The life of David is one of the most exciting, colorful, inspiring, and eventful in all history. He was the greatest fighter and warrior, and king, as well as musician, orator, writer, and spiritual prophet. He left his mark upon his nation, the world, and upon history. He was a man after God's own heart. God loved David and blessed him greatly. It would be well in the few lessons we will have about David to examine his character and ways. Let us ask ourselves the question: Am I a person after God's own heart? What characteristics and dispositions should we have to be such? What does the Lord love to see in a person and what qualities appeal to His pleasure?

David's brothers were all strong, manly men, but they lacked the qualities of heart that David had. It seems easy to judge a man by his outward appearance. It can be just as

deceptive as the cover of a book. You do not judge a book by its cover, but by the imprint on the inward pages; so you cannot judge a man by his outward appearance. God accepts no man's person. Many people throw their weight around through life and make their way by the magnetism of their personality and outward bearing. Personality and outward comeliness are not wrong, but they are not the main ingredients needed to really serve the Lord. David was good looking and had a beautiful countenance, but this is not what appealed to God. Many people are gifted speakers and can sway the multitudes by their great swelling words. They gain the admiration and raptured devotion of people. They wield a great advantage over the meek and lowly Saviour and His disciples whose speech and whose preaching is not with enticing words of man's wisdom. They can get a crowd much quicker than the holy men of God. Mankind is weak along this line. He is more disposed to reach for something that affects his flesh than to incline his heart unto wisdom. But the qualities that really count will show up in the actualities of life, and in the stress and strain of adversity. These things David proved to have. Thus He was called of God to be the King of Israel and rose to be a true type of the King of Kings.

—L. Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

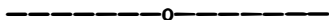
"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart." Some might want to take this Scripture and say, "See, I told you God didn't care how we look. It's only the heart that He cares about." Then they go on and dress in short dresses when the world dresses that way, wear pantsuits, cut their hair, paint their faces, trip around in high heeled shoes, wear thin clothing which reveals their bodies, walk around with a proud and haughty look, or with a defiant, stubborn look, or just try to look meek as if God didn't really care how they looked in the outward appearance.

Let us stop and think about this for a few minutes according to what the Word of God says. What do we do about this Scripture? "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23. In other words what is in the heart will come out. Where will it show up? Yes, it will show up in your action, speech, dress, and your dealings with others. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, . . ." etc. Matt. "The Lord hates . . . a proud look." Prov. 6:16,17. According to these Scriptures we note what is in the heart comes out in the outward appearance. Rebellion to God's Word will show up in

various ways. God's Word also says that the body is the temple of God. We are not to "defile the temple." I Cor. 3:17. (High-heeled shoes injure the body.)

God cares how we dress. Adam and Eve thought they had done well when they sewed leaves together to cover their bodies, but God was not pleased with that kind of dress. Because of sin they needed to cover their bodies as well as they need a covering for their souls. God made "coats of skin and clothed them." Gen. 3:20. The word *clothed* means "to cover." Our bodies need to be covered. Down through the years God has rebuked people for their ungodly dress. Isaiah 3:16:24 brings out the great displeasure over women's adornments. He reproved their walking in a "haughty" manner "mincing as they go," wearing rings, earrings, etc. God does care about the outward appearance. He reproved them for wearing clothing like men in Deut. 22:5 and said to do so, was an "abomination unto the Lord." In the New Testament it is stressed that we are to wear modest clothing. The men are to wear modest clothing also and not adorn themselves with jewelry. Man can only see the outside of a person, but God looks on the heart and what is in the heart will come out on the outside.

—M. Miles



**April 15, 1979**

## **JESUS AROSE**

Mark 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

I Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? I Cor. 15:55.

**Central Thought:** Through the virtue and power wrought when God raised up Jesus from the dead, all who believe and obey Him shall experience a resurrection from the dead state of sin to a life of purity and holiness in this present world and share a hope of being resurrected from the grave unto eternal life.

**Word Definitions:** Christ, the **FIRSTFRUITS:** *Firstfruit* from the Greek means the beginning of the Jewish sacrifice. It simply means that Christ was the first to be brought from the dead to a glorified body, thus making it possible for all who are saved through Him to be resurrected also.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Angered because their spiritual desolation was exposed and too proud to acknowledge the truth, the Jewish leaders, with the rabble mob, had prevailed to have the meek and lowly Nazarene executed by crucifixion upon a Roman cross. The world rejoiced while the disciples of Jesus wept and were afraid. Through the kindness of one who secretly believed in Him, a tomb was provided to receive the cold and lifeless body of that One who had been such a blessing to so many. Fearing that the disciples would try to steal the body and claim He had risen from the dead, the Jews requested and secured a watch of soldiers to guard the tomb that had been sealed with the Governor's authority. There were also other scenes in the background. There was lost humanity who languished under the sentence of death without hope and without their Maker. There were many who had died with faith in their hearts, looking forth to the resurrection of Christ. There was the Heavenly Father who had ordered it all as a means for

mankind to be delivered from the bondage of sin and death. We can see that Christ's resurrection was a grand fulfillment for God and man. Man's strivings and accomplishments halt at the grave, but Christ took down this barrier, making it possible for us to live for eternal joys. Death is to be abolished and swallowed up in victory. "Afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." The Lord knoweth them that are His. Whosoever will may drink of the water of life freely.

—L. Busbee

#### **Questions:**

1. Why did Christ have to rise from the dead?
2. How do we know that He is living today?
3. What kind of hope does this give to us?
4. What is the first resurrection, and why is it so important?
5. What is the Christian's hope for the future?

#### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

"If a man die, shall he live again?" Job 14:14. This question has been of great interest upon our mortal scene. Death, because of sin, has intruded into the realm of mankind—God's creation. It is an unwelcome, unwanted guest that visits every home, family, and individual. Man has sought to escape from death with no success. It has brought grief, despair, anguish, torture, and sorrow into the world and heaped upon men these bitter experiences. Let us lay aside the sad picture of the awfulness of death, and consider why this has to be. Romans 5:12 brings Paul's declaration that "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Here is the reason for death. It is on account of sin. Would God be gracious enough to His creation to reverse the sentence of death if sin could be overcome? Surely He would. It is not man that He is against personally. It is the sin that man has allowed to come into his heart, separating him from His divine Creator and breaking that tender fellowship they once had, one with another. Thus God poured out His vengeance against sin, and not the sinner. He sent His well beloved Son who had sinned not. He let Christ take the blame for our sins, counting them forgiven for Jesus' sake. He let Christ die for our sins. He let Christ feel the woe of being forsaken of God. He let men crucify the Lord of glory who died to give us the victory over spiritual and physical death.

When the hour was so dark with the reproach and sorrow His death had caused, the power of the quickening

Father came on the scene and Jesus came forth in newness of life. He arose from the dead, triumphant over the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Thus He delivers all from the power of death who love and obey Him. We shall experience what Christ experienced. We may sleep in the tomb in death for a season, but at the appointed hour we are coming forth. Let us rejoice and exalt His wonderful name for life and deliverance.

—L. Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many people in the world today are worshipping men who are dead. Their tombs and bones are present with them. Thank God, we are worshipping a Lord who is alive and is sitting on the right hand of God today, interceding for us. The new tomb could not hold Him. The soldiers around that tomb were powerless. Pilate's seal was broken. The huge stone rolled away from the tomb, and our Lord and Saviour came forth with victory! He arose, and because He arose, we too will arise. He became the firstfruits of them that are dead, or whose bodies sleep in the grave. When He comes in the clouds, He will bring the souls of those who have died to reunite with their bodies now in the graves, but they will be new bodies. They will be incorruptible. Mortality will put on immortality, and corruption will put on incorruption. Praise God for this glorious hope that we have within our souls! We do not hope in vain. Death is the last enemy, and it will be conquered.

How sad today when so many are thinking about a rapture. There is no such word in the Bible. Yet a whole theory is built around this false teaching. One man said that it would be sad to leave his child here in this world when he was caught up in the rapture, but only those who were ready could go. That is false. It's very plain in God's Word that when Jesus appears, that will be the end. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump . . . the dead shall be raised incorruptible." There is no place for a so-called rapture.

We read in I Tim. 4:1, "Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick [living] and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom." It is at His appearing this will be done. The judgment will take place and the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire. The righteous will be taken to be with their Lord and Saviour in eternity. Other Scriptures can be given on this line, but space doesn't permit.

We want to think about the power that God used to raise up Jesus Christ. We read in Eph. 1:19,20, "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places." Oh, what glorious power there is to "us-ward who believe!" The same power that He used to raise up Jesus Christ is for us today.

—M. Miles

## WOMEN CARRY MESSAGE

Matt. 28:9,10, ". . . Behold Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

The false message which brought sin into the world, and all our woe, was given first to woman, and by her was communicated to the man. The resurrection of the Lord, the healing of that early death-wound, was communicated in the same way. From an evil force, through the link of woman to mankind, the evil tidings spread and covered the earth. From a good angel to women, and from women, to men, and from men came the Word of life, the life of the world.

Why did Christ make an appointment with His disciples in Galilee, seventy-five miles away? Why did He make that distant place the scene of the main evidence of His resurrection? Why not here in Jerusalem? Whether they were consciously aimed at or not, certain results were secured that could not have been gained had His appearance been confined to Jerusalem.

This appointment in Galilee was a testing lesson in faith. "Is it, after all," we can imagine them saying, "worth the while to make the journey to Galilee? Can He who died on the cross, whose feet were pierced with nails, journey thither? That He should appear here is possible; we have never heard the like before; but will He appear in Galilee?" So their minds may have acted; and as they made the journey, every step and every hour must have tended to throw them out of their belief and hope. For there is nothing that so tests our faith in an event difficult of belief as to get out of the atmosphere of it. The wonder lessens as we go away from it. If this experience of the disciples was a trial of their faith, it also strengthened it. For faith is not hurt by doubt until it yields to it. The very weakness and faltering of faith may be turned into strength

by pressing on in its path, fighting doubt, and resisting the appeals of the world. This journey of simple trust and stout adherence to hope was a fine preparation for harder experiences soon to follow. There would come times when not merely the faltering of their own hearts was against them, but all the powers of the world; times when their only refuge would be their faith in the risen and ascended Lord. Then the memory of this experience, crowned by actual sight of their Master, would come to their rescue. —From *Homiletic Commentary*

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April 22, 1979

## THE KINGDOM OF DAVID

### PROPHETIC OF CHRIST'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

Psa. 78:70 He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds.

71 From following ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

II Sam. 5:12 And David perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

Psa. 132:11 The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

12 If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.



13 For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

14 This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

15 I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread.

16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

17 There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.

**Memory Verse:** To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. Rev. 3:21.

**Central Thought:** Because David found favor in God's sight, His kingdom became a Biblical type and foreshadow of the glorious reign of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who overcame all things to save our souls from sin and eternal death.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The rise of the youngest son of Jesse from the sheepfolds to the throne of Israel is one of the most exciting and interesting stories of the Bible. He was a man of great ability, but the good thing about it was that his abilities were available for the Lord's use. He used his strength and ingenuity all his lifetime for the good of the nation of Israel that he loved so dearly. Beginning early in life, he adapted a pattern of attitude and living that not only gained him favor with his God, but also won the love and respect of his people. Very few people throughout the pages of history accomplished feats like he did. From a horde of discontented, distressed, and heavy-laden outcasts he fashioned an army of fighting men that was feared and respected by friend and foe alike. Through the strength that God gave him he wrought many victories miraculously. Adventure, romance, courage, sorrow, failure, triumph, poverty, adversity, nobility, and success crowd the pages of the story of his life. He was truly a man after God's own heart. God chose him to be king, and made this choice when no one else, perhaps not even David himself, was aware of what God had in mind. It was not David's aspiring to be rich that took him to the throne. It was the working of God. What great royal honour was his to have his kingdom be labeled as prophecy of the kingdom of the Lord and Saviour of

mankind. The Bible tells the other side of David, his sins, faults, and failures, but it is true that he was quick to be repentant when faced with the truth. We would do well to imitate these worthy traits of David and seek in the name of Christ to be men and women after God's own heart as he was.

—L. Busbee

### Questions:

1. From where did God bring David?
2. What was His divine purpose in making him ruler of His people Israel?
3. In reality, who was David's son which our lesson foretold?
4. What is *Zion* a type of?
5. What was the "fruit of his body to set upon his throne"?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The reign of David and the early part of the reign of Solomon his son over the kingdom of Israel was a golden age in the history of that nation. Peace, prosperity, and the blessings of God set Israel on high among the nations of the world. The fame of David and Solomon spread far and wide. While David was living clear with God no army could stand or triumph against him. When it had become clearly evident to David and to the nations around that he had truly taken the kingdom, the Philistines came out against him. It is to be remembered that he had once allied himself to them. But, David, obeying the voice of the Lord, went out against them and overthrew the whole host. It is believed that he composed the 2nd Psalm on this occasion. It typifies the overthrow of Satan, sin, and death accomplished in Jesus by His death and resurrection. The kingdom of Jesus has this potential. It can save a man from the clutches of sin and ungodliness, and gives one power to reign over the evil of the present world and live soberly, righteously, and godly. The kingdom of Christ has conquered death. Life and immortality have been brought to light through the gospel. We who reign with Him in the kingdom of grace share this blessed hope. Jesus is sitting NOW on David's throne. It is a vain hope to look for this to come at a future date. The very essence and nature of Christ disposes of the notion of His sitting on a literal throne in the literal land of Palestine claiming for His people a nation such as the literal Jews. His throne is in the heavens (spiritual realm of the Church) at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over His loved and His own. He holds the sceptre

of love, and by this love He reigns and rules over His people. Zion, the Church of God, is His rest, His dwelling place. Oh, what liberty the Spirit has granted us to understand these wonderful truths. Praise the Lord for the kingdom of God that will stand forever and ever! —L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

David was an unusual person, chosen of God to be the head of a line that would bring the Son of God into the world—Jesus Christ who was to be the King that would sit upon the throne forever. When God talked to David through His prophet, Nathan, we notice that it took on a peculiar form. To other prophets, revelations of the Messiah were made objectively apart from themselves. Most of them were shown Christ and His day afar off. When revelations of the Messiah were made to David, they were usually connected with something in his own life, history, or experience; they had a shadowy foundation in something subjective or personal to himself; that thing enlarged, purified, glorified, constituted the revelation of Christ. This was in keeping with the typical relation which David and his kingdom had to Christ and His kingdom.

David was honored to be an eminent type of the Messiah, inasmuch as by his trials, his conflicts, and his conquests, he did very significantly prefigure a suffering, but at the same time, a triumphant Saviour. This however was only one aspect of Christ's kingly office.

David would have counted it the highest privilege of his life if he had been permitted to build the Temple on Moriah. Even after the prohibition came by the mouth of the prophet Nathan, it was the joy of his latter years to collect materials wherewith Solomon, his son, might raise a house worthy of Jehovah's worship. Even after Solomon built the magnificent building, everyone who had any part in its structure was honored. Thus today anyone who has a part in the upbuilding of the kingdom of God will be blessed by God. Truly God's church is a "habitation of God through the Spirit." It is the "temple of the Lord." "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." —M. Miles

**April 29, 1979**

**SATAN PROVOKED DAVID**

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

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

**7** And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel.

**11** So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Choose thee

**12** Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the Lord, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

**13** And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the Lord; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man.

**14** So the Lord sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.

**15** And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the Lord beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

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

**24** And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it [threshing floor] for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

**26** And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the Lord; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

**27** And the Lord commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.

I Chron. 22:10 [God said to David] He [Solomon] shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

**Memory Verse:** It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Psa. 118:8.

**Central Thought:** Punishment will come to those who let Satan influence them to do wrong through pride and obstinate persistence. Yet God's mercies are great, but scars are left to be healed through the grace of God.

**Word Definition:** *Provoked* means "stirred up."

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson records a national calamity traceable to David's sin, and that sin apparently of minor magnitude. What evil is in it? It was the result of pride and vainglory, to see the army he could raise and in which he trusted instead of God. It was an ingratitude for past deliverances etc., hence the wrath of God was kindled. David was soon conscious of his guilt—deeply sorry and very grieved that his sin had caused such a wide influence and grief. He offered sacrifices and was ready to pay greatly for his sin. "God answered from heaven by fire," and the angel withheld the sword.

At one glance we see that to make an atonement for sin required a great cost. Not "by the blood of goats and calves," not "by gold and silver" are we redeemed, but by the precious blood of Christ. Christ himself was the sacrifice. Throughout the ages there has been no sacrifice like Christ's sacrifice. The gift of God's beloved Son is costlier than worlds upon worlds; inestimable, incomprehensible. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

Let us note that on the very place where David offered the sacrifices at the threshing floor, was the place where the temple was built later, where offerings were continually offered unto God.

Notice some of the words or phrases in our lesson as you study it: "That I may know" the number. "God was displeased." "Choose thee." "Sword of the Lord." "Great are His mercies." Angel "having a drawn sword" standing. "Buy it . . . for the full price." "Answered him . . . fire." "I will establish the throne of his kingdom . . . forever."

—M. Miles

## Questions:

1. Discuss how Satan "provoked" David and how he tries to get us to do wrong today.
2. Why did David want to number Israel and why did it grieve God?
3. Had God ever failed David or His people? Name some incidents.
4. What punishment did David choose, and does sin have to be punished? Is there a reaping for sin after a person is saved?
5. What did David do to repent, and what does paying the "full price" mean to us today?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We notice that our lesson says that Satan provoked David and got him to do wrong. The devil is always wanting us to do wrong. He will bring ideas to our minds that are not what God wants us to do at all. The devil told the Lord, when Job and the sons of God presented themselves before the Lord, that he walked up and down in the earth. (Job 1:6,7). The Apostle Peter said that the devil walked about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (I Pet. 5:8). So we know that the devil is everywhere trying to get us to displease the Lord. We need to be watchful. Satan will try to get us to do wrong. We need to "stop and think before you yield." If we "stop and think" we will not do wrong, because there is a punishment for every sin.

God didn't want David to number his men and trust in numbers. God wanted David to trust in Him to fight his battles against the nations around him that came to destroy his kingdom. Other nations numbered their people, but God had dealt with David in such a great way that He wanted him to continue to trust Him and not men. In the third verse of I Chron. 21, Joab told David when he asked him to number the people, "The Lord make his people a hundred times so many more as they be . . . why doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?" But David still wanted them to be numbered, so Joab did it.

David felt badly when he knew he had displeased the Lord. I don't think David was surprised that God was displeased. I am sure he knew he had done wrong. He quickly said, "I have sinned greatly because I have done this thing."

Notice, when David was to choose which punishment that he was to receive for his wrongdoing, he chose to fall into the hands of God instead of into the hands of his enemies. He

knew that the mercies of the Lord were great; yet he knew that sin had to be punished.

Today we are glad that Jesus took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. We can believe in Him and be clear before God, yet we know that we must reap what we sow. God will help us have grace to do the reaping and make it lighter because of our faith in Him.

When David offered sacrifice for his sin, the angel put up his sword. This shows the mercies of God.

In the last verse of our lesson God promised that through David's son, Solomon, his kingdom would continue down to the time when Jesus would come. Jesus is our King today and we are in His kingdom when we are saved from our sin. We want to love and serve Him all the days of our lives.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Romans 15:4 tells us that whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. The temptation that David had of desiring to number his armies and to vaunt himself in his position is a temptation that is common to man. It seems to be a safer place to be in adversity and humiliation than to be lifted up in ease and prosperity. David fared very well in the years of being pursued by Saul. It was in the time of his reign that his life became clouded with sin. This is true with the general run of mankind. It is dangerous to be prosperous and exalted in honour and at ease. But God wills that we learn how to hold ourselves in truth and faithfulness in abundance as well as in poverty. He does not want us to be pressed and crushed all the time. He wants us to know how to take success and prosperity and keep humble and true to Him. Joseph was a striking example of a man who held up under pressure and praise alike. He was the same loving Joseph on the throne that he was in the prison. Jesus in His exalted position at the right hand of the Father is the same loving and compassionate Jesus that He was when He walked the shores of time's world. The good spirit in David prevailed in the times of failure and reproof from the hand of God. He would humble himself and confess the truth and take the prescribed route God gave him for repentance. This is a great lesson. Paul said that he had learned to be content in whatever state he was. He knew how to abound. He knew how to suffer need. He could meet with triumph and disaster and treat them both the same. He knew how to face death, and he knew

how to live. It was all to live for Christ. In times of adversity one should keep courage and faith and be cheerful. In times of being lifted up into prosperity one should remain kind and humble. This is a lesson God wills to teach to each one of His children. We become stewards of the manifold grace of God. More grace, more responsibility; He gives to every man according to his individual ability. God will give to every man what he can be trusted with. He knows the temptations and trials of the flesh. He will help us. —L. Busbee

### THE MINER'S LAST CHANCE

A Miner in the south of England was passing a meeting-house one night, and went in. The minister was speaking of the holiness of God and the awful situation of those who were still unprepared, and might be called at any moment to meet God. He begged his hearers to ask themselves the question: "Am I ready to meet God?" He urged them to answer it now, for now was the accepted time. God was willing now; they were living men tonight; tomorrow it might be too late.

It pleased God to carry the message home to this miner's conscience. He thought: "I'm not ready to meet God; I have lived a careless, godless life; I dare not meet His holy eye. How can I make peace with Him? I am such a sinner, I dare not stand before Him." These truths troubled him so very much that he could not go away, but waited until the people went out, and told the minister his fears. The faithful man of God tried to lead him to Jesus. "Jesus is your peace," he said; but the miner found none. An hour passed by. The minister laid the way of salvation clearly before him, and prayed both with him and for him.

"Now," he said, "it is late; go home and seek your Saviour there."

"No," said the miner, "I beg you to let me stay a little longer; it must be settled tonight."

"You must go home," said the minister; "it is late, and I can do no more for you; I cannot make it clearer to you."

"It must be settled tonight," answered the miner with earnestness.

Late as it was, the minister felt he could not send him away. Once more he spoke of Jesus, and gave him promise after promise; once more he prayed, but in vain.

"I must go," said the minister reluctantly, "it will soon be morning. Go home, tomorrow night there is meeting here; maybe you will find peace then."



"Sir," said the poor man, "I cannot leave this room until I find peace. Tomorrow it may be too late, and I may be in hell. It MUST be settled tonight."

The minister could not resist his earnestness. "By the help of God," he said, "it shall be settled tonight, and I will not leave you until you find peace."

Again he spoke of the finished work of Christ. Again he prayed, the miner following his words with sobs and tears, and at last the light broke in on his darkness.

"I see it," he cried, "my peace is made with God. It is settled."

Again they knelt in prayer, but this time to thank God that He had heard their cries, and saved the miner's soul. Then they went on their way rejoicing.

The next day the miner went, as usual, to his work. I do not know if he told his companions what God had done for his soul. I must think he did. During the day he went alone to a distant part of the mine to fetch some tools, and, as he was long in returning, his fellow workers went to look for him. They found that a mass of rock had fallen upon him, and he was buried in the ruins. They worked with pick and spade, hoping to save him, and at last they uncovered one of his hands. It was warm. He was still living; and as they bent over him, from beneath the fragments of rock, the rubbish and stone which hid him from sight, came a faint sound. He was speaking:

"I thank God it was settled last night. Settled forever. I am His. Tonight would have been too late, but thank God it was settled last night!"

When at last they uncovered his poor, crushed body, he had gone to be with God.

—Selected

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May 6, 1979

### SOLOMON LOVES GOD

I Kings 2:1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

3 And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

4 That the Lord may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee [said he] a man on the throne of Israel.

3:4 And the king [Solomon] went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

5 In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

**Memory Verse:** And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. I Kings 4:30.

**Central Thought:** The Father's advice given to his son was received and obeyed, which brought a great blessing from God.

**Word Definitions:** "*A little child*": Solomon felt himself a child in matters of royal responsibility and national government. He possibly was about 20 years of age or less. "*An understanding heart*" is a person hearkening to the voice of God and being obedient.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Let us especially notice the promise that a son of David's would reign on the throne. We know that Jesus Christ came from the line of David.

The first part of our lesson is advice given by David to Solomon, his son, who would take the throne after his death. We want to notice David's acceptance of his end. David gave good advice to his son, which is good advice to any young man who is facing the responsibility of life. We notice in the second part of our lesson that Solomon took the advice of his father and obeyed it. He sought the Lord, feeling his great need in humility, and God honored his desires and blessed him in a great manner.

In an unprinted part of our lesson we note how God gave Solomon wisdom when two women came to him one day with a baby. Each woman said the baby belonged to her. The women lived together and had each had a baby, but one died. One woman said, "This woman's baby died in the night, and she got up and took my live baby and put her dead baby in bed with me." The other woman said that was not true, that the living baby was hers. So Solomon took the live baby and called for a sword. He said, "Divide the living baby in two and give half to one and half to the other." Then the true mother spoke up and said, "O, my lord, give her the living child and do not kill it." The other woman said for him to divide it. Then Solomon said to give the true mother her baby. The true mother would never want it killed. (I Kings 3:16-28).

—M. Miles

#### Questions:

1. What instructions did David give to his son, Solomon, on his deathbed?
2. How can we apply them to us today?
3. What promise did God give to David if his children walked righteously?

4. What is the greatest need that any of us have today and one for which we should ask diligently?
5. Solomon asked for wisdom, but what else did God give him?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Obedience is the earliest and most difficult lesson to learn. There is a will in every person. Many things will influence that will, but it seems that children are born with a rebellious nature. Unless parents work on that rebelliousness, it will rise up and ruin the child. Some children have more than others. Everyone has some, unless it has been conquered by our Lord and Saviour when we submit ourselves to God without one reserve. Even then there are times that we need to re-submit when the enemy would try to get us to exert our own ways against God's ways. Humility is a wonderful virtue. It's not admired by many because not many are willing to obtain it by being submissive to God.

It's a wonderful trait in young people when they will take advice from their parents or elders. How precious our lesson brings out the blessing that Solomon received by taking his father's advice. His dying father said, "Be strong, and show thyself a man." Young people, as well as older ones, need to be strong and "quit themselves as men," in respect to the truth and doctrines of the gospel. If on any question manliness of character is demanded, it is on this. The Scriptures are a revelation of God's will to man, and they should be received as such, and obeyed accordingly. How many are there who, though manly in other things, are here most irresolute, timid, hesitant, or double-minded. The Bible is the highest authority in the world and should be treated as such. It should be searched and obeyed with diligence. Many want to have a kind of respectful attitude about the Word of God, but do not take any definite, bold stand about it. It's manly to take bold stands and face opposition with firmness, yet with humility that will see a person through to victory. This brings blessings from God. The Apostle Paul said, "It's a good thing that the heart be established with grace." It's manly not to "be carried about with divers and strange doctrines." (Heb. 13:9). Be steady! Be strong! Trust in God's protection for yourself and all whom God has confided in your care. Walk in His ways and let Him lead and guide you. Seek for God's wisdom above all other things. To possess true wisdom is to possess all the essentials of happiness. God has promised to give it liberally to all who ask. James 1:5. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God

and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Solomon's attitude toward his position and responsibility as the king of Israel was well pleasing in God's sight. It was very similar to the attitude that Christ manifested when He came into this world to take the kingdom of God. Usually a king desires to live a long time so he can enjoy his exalted state. Most kings desire to be rich and powerful and are always yearning to conquer in battle over kingdoms to enlarge their own. It is not always wrong for a king to desire these things, but they are not to be uppermost in his desires. The uppermost goal and request a king should have in his heart is to be able to wisely and justly rule his people and be the blessing that he needs to be to them. Such was Solomon's request at the start. Had he kept this spirit all of his lifetime, things would have gone very differently with him. Christ's desire was to do the will of the Father. It was not to live long in this world and to possess its riches or to conquer the nations in literal battle. To Jesus it was "Thy will be done." Nothing else mattered. Now Solomon's kingdom was a literal one. It was for this time-world. His failure had far-reaching effects. Christ's kingdom was a spiritual one. For Him to fail would have meant eternal ruin to all. The issues were much greater and the effects more far-reaching. Christ dared not fail. The cost would have been too great. He was tempted like as we are, yet He did not sin against the Father. He could very easily have yielded. It was within the bounds of possibility for Him to do so. But He was faithful, and was crowned for His obedience and given a name which is above all the names in this world. Oh, if Solomon had only been true to God. Where would the kingdom of Israel have been in history had all the kings been true as God willed that they be? It would have been a different picture indeed. Praise the Lord, we know that Christ was faithful and true, and the kingdom that He has established is our only hope of abiding forever.

—L. Busbee

(Note to Teachers: It is important that we have your order for the next quarter by June 1, 1979. Please order early.)

May 13, 1979

## THE CHURCH IS OUR MOTHER

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her [Mary], and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

22 And hath put all things under his [Christ's] feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body [all spirit-filled believers], the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Rev. 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem [the spiritual elements of the Church], coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle [or church] 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.

Gal. 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Heb. 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

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

Isa. 66:13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Memory Verse: Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. Prov. 20:20.

**Central Thought:** As we give honor to our natural mother, let us not forget to thank God for our spiritual mother, the Church of God.

**Word Definition:** In the phrase "Jerusalem which is above" it is interesting to discover that the word *above* is the translated word from the same Greek word that was translated *again* in the phrase that Jesus used in John 3:7 when he told Nicodemus: "Ye must be born again." It literally means "that which was first, or from the beginning." Let us rephrase it thus: "Jerusalem which is from the beginning." Or, "Ye must be born of that which is from the beginning." It gives it a plainer and yet deeper meaning, does it not? Jesus, in speaking of the state of the divorce being granted under the law of Moses said, "From the beginning it was not so." The Mother of those who are born from above is the holy City of the redeemed of all ages. We who are saved and are walking in the light of the gospel are children of that blessed City. It is a spiritual habitation of all who love and serve the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We chose the announcement of the angel to Mary of her expected child to bring in the truths that the angel spoke to her of "the throne of David." God promised to give Jesus Christ, the son of God and man, "the throne of David." We have been studying about the prediction and prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament. God promised David that a son of his would sit on the throne of David forever. That son was Jesus Christ who is sitting on His throne in glory today. He is our King. Praise God! He fulfills His promises.

We also want to note that since this is Mother's Day, a day set aside to honor our natural mothers, that Jesus honored His mother. On the cross He said for John to take care of His mother by saying, "Behold thy mother." From that hour John took her to his home. Children today are to take care of their parents in their old age. They are to take care of more than their temporal needs. They need to visit them and show them love.

We chose some of the Scriptures to teach about our spiritual mother, the Church. May God help us to be good mothers to the new converts that we have "travailed" in tears to help them to be born into the Church of God, the family of God.

—M. Miles

### **Questions:**

1. What did the angel tell Mary about the throne of David?
2. Who is the "body of Christ" in the world today?
3. Where did the spiritual Jerusalem or the spiritual elements of the church come down from?
4. Who is the "mother of us all"?
5. What happens when the church has a soul-burden?
6. What is the duty of the church to the new converts?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Let us rise up and give honor to our mothers today who went down into the shadow of death to bring their children into the world. Let us thank God for Christian mothers who protected their children from the evils of this world. Those mothers sought God for grace to be able to correct, punish, teach, and love their children in a way that they can give honor to them today. Many mothers who do not have God in their lives, abuse their children. They knock them over or kick them when they get angry and the child crosses them for some little thing. Some children are slapped so hard that they are knocked over against the wall and therefore many are injured. A child should be punished for a disobedience in a right way. Never punish in anger nor hit on the head; you could injure them. There is a place for them to be punished and in a right manner. We thank God for Christian mothers who know how to correct and punish their children and not abuse them. Praise God! Mothers cared for their babies when they were helpless, and when mothers and fathers get old the children should take care of them.

We read in Isaiah about Zion's travailing and bringing forth children. (Isa. 66:7,8). Then in verse nine a question is asked. "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth?" Oh, may the Lord help His children to have a soul burden! We need to weep over all in this sin-cursed world who are headed for a devil's hell unless they repent. Surely we can rescue a few from the pits of sin if we will travail in prayer until souls are born into the family of God. Let us not take the road of ease and forget those who are perishing. Let us seek God to send His Spirit to the lost and undone. I have been told that there are 2.4 billion souls in the world today that have never been reached by the gospel. Are we doing all we can?



Then when souls are born into the kingdom, are we as a mother comforting them? Are we encouraging them in the Lord? Oh, we need to be a good mother and not abuse them! We need to show them love: Be patient with them until they grow in grace: Feed them with milk until they grow strong enough to take meat.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mother holds a special place for all of us. Especially at this season of the year we pay special tribute and honor to Mother. It is altogether fitting and proper to do this, and to do it not only now, but always. For it is one of the commandments of God to honor our father and our mother.

In Bible history we have the record of mothers who were greatly used of the Lord and became heroines for the right. Think of Eve, the mother of all living, the mother of righteous Abel. There was the wife of Noah, who helped to influence her three sons and their wives for the right. Look at Sarai, wife of Abraham, whose name was changed to Sarah. She had faith to conceive and bring forth a son when her time of life was past the child-bearing season. Think of Jochebed, mother of Moses, and the sacrifice she made to spare her son from the cruelty of Pharaoh. And so the list goes on. Many mothers are not recorded for us to know about, but God knows them everyone.

Today we are studying about another Mother. Paul mentions her in Gal. 4:26, and calls her "**Jerusalem**" which is above. He said she "is free, which is the mother of us all." He then quotes a passage from Isaiah 54:1 which reads: "Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband." Now let us notice that he quotes this from the prophet and applies it to the Jerusalem which is above. He is comparing her with the literal Jerusalem which is in bondage with her children. The literal Jerusalem, the literal Israel, is not the mother of the saved and the redeemed. It is another Jerusalem, the one Paul mentioned again in Hebrews 12:22, 23 when he wrote: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the **HEAVENLY Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, . . ." Here is our Mother. We have been begotten through the seed of the Church which is the life of God revealed in the gospel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we think of those faithful saints who have lived and died in the faith, our hearts take courage and comfort to go the way of the Lord. The counsel that they gave, a counsel that yet liveth and is effectual for spiritual benefit, their testimony of faith in God, and the holy life and example of purity and righteousness that they left for us to follow, all these are a mother-phase from them to us. We are nourished, encouraged, and strengthened by the influence of their sweet and stainless lives. Thank God for our blessed mother, the Church of the Living God!

Paul also said that by faith the elders obtained a good report. Heb. 11:2. A better rendition of this statement from the Greek could say, "By faith the ancients were attested." The faith of these saints was tested and proven and their record has been preserved to be given unto us. They are a great cloud of witnesses. Their Spirit-led and Spirit-inspired lives challenge and stir us today to walk the same. What a blessing their record is to us today. Bringing it on down to the present time, how thankful we are for those faithful saints who have lived the life and been a spiritual help to us! This is more of the mother-phase of the Church.

Many times people speak and give praise to their home town. "There is not a city in the world like my home town" they say. I am glad for Zion, the home of the soul. I was born in her when I gave my heart to the Lord and obeyed the gospel of the Word of God. She is my dwelling place and will be for all eternity.

While we give honor, love, and special remembrance to our mothers, let us behold and give special honor to the Mother of us who are saved and living by the faith of Christ. Let us call to remembrance the holy saints and the example of godly living and holiness that they have left us. —L. Busbee

### WITHIN AN INCH OF HELL

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matt. 11:12. "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1.

These and kindred Scriptures have an infinite meaning, an eternity of meaning, that only a few in each age have understood.

The incident about the eagle lighting down on the carcass on a cold, freezing day, some distance above the falls of the great Niagara, will well illustrate.

The hungry bird became intensely engaged in feeding on the carcass. When very near the falls he stretched his wings to rise. It was too late. His feet had frozen to the dead animal. He pounded the ice with his wings, trying to rise, but in vain. He was held fast. He still beat the ice and shrieked most vociferously, went over the falls with a scream, and was crushed to death by falling on the rocks below.

This is but a faint picture of the millions intensely engaged, picking and feasting on the filthy carcass of this world, while the tide of their sinful nature sweeps them over the falls into the Lake of Fire below to call for water to cool their tongues in the AWFUL FOREVER—all because of indifference and lack of desperation, in striving to enter in. Thousands of professors know nothing of this desperation with a violence in it, which alone opens the door to the kingdom. Hence they will never get away from the carcass to which they are frozen.

If I have a mission to the world in these last hours of my life, it is to scream—DESPERATION! DESPERATION!! in the ears of the multitudes who are within a few rods of the Falls of Perdition, feasting on the carcass of lust. A few setting suns, and they are gone—gone forever to the Infernal Regions of despair. Many, many thousands this moment are within an inch of the Falls—within an inch of Hell, living in their lusts and feasting on the carcass.

If we could stand at the mouth of Hell and see the thousands going over the Falls with their garments dripping in holy blood, such a sight would doubtless bring the real people of God to their knees and turn them loose in the streets to ring bells, blow horns and rush into the business houses, seize men by the collar, who are frenzied over the drifting carcass, and scream in their ears like a Charles Wesley—

“A point of Time, a moment’s space,  
Removes me to that heavenly place  
Or shuts me up in Hell!”

Then, coming out of the business houses, we would rush into every street and alley, with tears streaming down our faces, and cry like the man on the wall of Jerusalem, “Woel Woel Woe to this city!” Woe to the lawyer! Woe to the doctor! Woe to the banker! Woe to the merchant! Woe to the millionaire! Woe to the peasant! Woe to the beggar! Woe to the hireling preachers, who are robbing the souls and bodies of men! Woe to all the world, except the few who are walking with God in garments white.

Let the few and true pray and fast until this holy desperation seizes every one of us, and we will see a revival of pure religion now as in the days of old. —Sel.

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May 20, 1979

## FIGURES OF THE TRUE

Heb. 3:6 But Christ [King] as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

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

I Kings 6:2 And the house which king Solomon built for the Lord, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

18 And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

28 And he overlaid the [two] cherubims with gold.

2 Chron. 3:14 And he made the vail of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.

I Kings 7:48 And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the Lord: the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the shewbread was,

49 And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold.

51 So was ended all the work that King Solomon made for the house of the Lord. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; even the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the Lord.

Heb. 9:24 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.

**Memory Verse:** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. Heb. 8:2.

**Central Thought:** We should yield to the tool that God uses, to fit us up to become a stone in His building. God's Spirit in all the members causes them to fit and flow together.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We want to keep in mind the thought in the theme of our lesson. Solomon is the son of David and sits on David's throne. Through David's lineage, Jesus Christ, our King was born.

It is wonderful how God had a model of the true church during Old Bible times. When you make a model it is not real but a "figure of the true." A model airplane is not the real nor the model of a house. Thank God, today we are enjoying the real thing! We are members in the house or family of God. We are "lively stones" working in the place that God has placed us. God has a church and will always have a church. It is not going down and never will. Jesus said that the church is built upon a rock. Christ is that rock. God has a people that will be His people when Christ comes in the clouds of glory. Praise God!

God told Moses to make a tabernacle like the pattern that He had shown him in the mount. Moses did that, but David wanted to build a house for God's presence to dwell in. Because he had been a man of war God said that his son, Solomon, would build the house. David got the material together and Solomon put it in place. The stones were pre-cut and fit right in without a sound of a hammer in the house. —M. Miles

### Questions:

1. Of what was Solomon's house or temple a figure?
2. Discuss the stones used in the building and compare them with us in the spiritual house of God today.
3. What do the two rooms in Solomon's house prefigure today in God's plan of salvation?
4. What spiritual lesson is there in the bread and golden altar in the room, called the holy place?
5. What lesson do we draw from the second room, the most holy place?
6. Who is our high priest today and what kind of sacrifices do we offer to God?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Today God has given us the true building of God. Christ is the King, or the ruler, of His house, which is made up of all who are saved from their sins. He is the true High Priest and has passed into the heavens. Each saved person has a place to fill in God's house. It's a spiritual house today.

We can get some good thoughts as we compare the temple, or house, that Solomon built with the spiritual house that we are in today. First, let us think about the stones used to build the temple. Every stone was pre-cut. When it was brought to the building it fit right in place. There was not a hammer, axe, or any kind of tool used inside the building. What does that make us know about God's spiritual house today? In I Pet. 2:5, we read that we are to be "lively stones." You "are built up a spiritual house . . . offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." We are spiritual stones in the building. When we get saved from our sins, repent and forsake them, it makes the lofty humble. It brings those who are lowly up, and all are the same. All of God's children have to be made from the same pattern, have to be the same size, and are trimmed by salvation so they will fit in the house of God. There is no confusion or strife, nor big "I's" and little "you's" in God's house.

Notice that all were covered with gold. No stone showed. We are all covered with salvation and only Christ is to show. All are measured by the Word of God and believe alike.

There were two rooms in the temple. One was the Holy Place and the other was the Most Holy Place. There was an altar before each, and animals' blood from the sacrifices were put on these altars. This makes us know that there are two works of grace in the heart—justification and sanctification. It takes blood for cleansing for both. In justification, or forgiveness of committed sins, it takes the blood of Christ, and also for sanctification, or cleansing of the sin principle passed down from Adam. "Sanctified through the offering of . . . Jesus Christ. . . ." Heb. 10:10.

In the Holy Place there was a table with bread on it. That is what we need—the Word of God to sustain the soul. The candle sticks represent light we need to guide us in this world. The veil separated the two rooms. Only the High Priest could go into the Most Holy place once a year and pray for the sins of the people. Remember the day Jesus Christ died on the cross the veil in the temple that was in Jerusalem was torn in two. Christ's body was torn so we could go right into the

presence of God and kneel before the mercy seat. First we go by the altar and are cleansed from that sin principle and we are then filled with the Holy Spirit. God's presence dwells within us through His Spirit. How precious are all of these figures, but we have the true today. —M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What better object lesson could illustrate God's relationship with us than the pattern of a house and its building? A house must be planned. It must be planned by a knowledgeable person who understands the needs and purposes of such a house. One does not just go out on a sunny day and start throwing materials together. No, there must be planning and forethought. Jesus said that one should count the cost, and see if he has enough to finish. God had the plan and blueprint for His Church before He built it. The eternal purpose of God weighed and calculated what the needs for mankind would be in His house. Then the materials must be brought and made available. Jesus paid it all. He made all things that pertain to life and godliness available to us. Through Him we can have the divine nature. This is a spiritual experience, a spiritual house. Then there must be skill and strength to build the house. Things must be put together, and put together right. "Upon this Rock I will build My Church," said Jesus. The Rock that He spoke of was the divine revelation of Himself to the human heart. When it is savingly known and understood by the earnest soul who seeks after Him, the holy revelation of Jesus Christ to men is a solid foundation. It is sure and immovable. As long as we continue in His Word we will be immovable also. The house must be made out of good materials. Cheap and shoddy things may get by for awhile, but will not endure. We want our Christian experience to stand the pressures of the world and the storms of life. Adversity and the fires of tribulation are going to try every man's work. It is going to be put to test, and the building will fall if it is not up to Bible specifications. What is a house for? It is protection, safety, shelter, comfort, and a place to have fellowship with the family. David's desire was to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life and behold His beauty and to inquire in His temple. David loved the Lord's House and the habitation where His honour dwelt. We can find the house of God today in a born-again, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led experience with God. —L. Busbee

**May 27, 1979**

**TYPE FULFILLED**

Heb. 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

2 Chron. 5:1a Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the Lord was finished:

6 Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

12 (. . . Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord;

14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:14 These [120-verse 15] all, continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

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

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

14a But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them.

25a For David speaketh concerning him [Jesus], . . .



41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

**Memory Verse:** At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. John 14:20.

**Central Thought:** God's Spirit dwelt in Solomon's temple, but on the day of Pentecost after Jesus's death, resurrection and ascension, God's Spirit moved into the hearts of the 120 that were all of "one accord." Today the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, and we are the temple of God.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Did you ever see a shadow? There is something real that causes the shadow. The Israelites' worship to God was a shadow of the real that was to come in Christ. Let us talk about the shadow and then the real. Remember what the shadow is and you can better understand the real.

The house, or great temple, that Solomon built was beautiful and was covered with gold. Gold is a precious metal and sought after more than anything else in the world. Our money is supposed to have gold backing it. Gold does not change easily with heat or corrosion, but is very durable. So, we see that the house was covered with the most valuable material on earth and one that would hold the building together with the least change. Is not God's love the greatest thing we can have and does it not hold His children together?

—M. Miles

#### Questions:

1. What does the type of the offerings, and the two altars stand for in the real? (There was an altar before the door of the holy place and one before the door of the most holy place upon which blood was put.)
2. When Solomon's house was finished, there were 120 priests and when they "were as one" the glory of the Lord filled Solomon's temple. What does this foreshadow?
3. The singers were all dressed in white. What does this foreshadow?
4. They had instruments. What does this foreshadow?
5. When the Holy Spirit moved into the hearts of the temple of men and women on the day of Pentecost, how many were saved after Peter preached to them?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

God had Solomon build the temple because He wanted to get as close to His people as He could. Since Jesus Christ had not yet died on the cross, the closest He could get would be to let His Spirit dwell in their midst in the temple.

Solomon gathered together the Israelite people. He sacrificed sheep and oxen in such great numbers that they could not be counted. This was a shadow of Christ's dying on the cross. Jesus was called the "Lamb of God." (Remember a shadow has something real behind it.) Now Solomon called the Levite singers together. They were arrayed in white. They had their instruments. Today we are to sing praises to the Lord as the Lord touches our heartstrings. The Bible says God cannot be "worshipped with men's hands," (Acts 17:25). Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) So the instruments are a shadow of the real thing. God touches our spirits by His Spirit, and then we can worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Praise God! They were also dressed in white. The Bible says that God's people are "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." (Rev. 19:7,8).

There were 120 Levite priests and when they were all "as one" God sent the glory, and His Spirit came down and filled the temple. That is a shadow. Now what is the real? We read in Luke and Acts about Jesus' telling the disciples and others to "tarry [or wait] in Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." After Jesus ascended, 120 gathered in the upper room, praying and waiting for God to send the Comforter, or the Holy Spirit, down into their hearts, or bodies, which are the temples of God (I Cor. 6:19). These were saved, having on white robes of righteousness, and were of "one accord." That was when the real took place. —M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We will quote from Stephen's defence before the council in Acts 7:46-50. "David found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?" He had just given an account of the history of Israel and showed the various ways that Israel

had displeased God and grieved His Holy Spirit. He reveals here that the literal nation and commonwealth of Israel without the essence of faith and the promise of the Messiah was not compatible with the true nature and pleasure of God. It was all but a shadow of the real. The house that Solomon built, despite its grandeur and beauty, had but one importance as far as God was concerned. That was the fact that it typified the spiritual tabernacle that Jesus would build. Otherwise God had no interest or pleasure in the building made with hands. In fact, the literal system of Israel void of the Spirit of God and its sanction was an offense to the very nature of God. God wanted to dwell in the human heart. This was the rest that He desired. How foolish to think that God could dwell in temples made with human hands! Heaven is His throne, and the earth is His footstool. If size requires that much space for the throne and footstool alone, see how futile is man's efforts to build a HOUSE for God! What a foolish dream. It just shows how foolish a dream literal Israel had, and how far they were from the real truth. They were like the Greeks whom Paul informed at Athens that God dwelleth not in temples made with hands, is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. —L. Busbee

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June 3, 1979

### TRIUMPHAL REIGN OF OUR KING

Psalms 21:1 [Prophet speaks] Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying,

3 [Adversaries speak] Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 [Prophet answers] He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

6 [Jehovah speaks] Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 [Messiah speaks] I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 [Jehovah answers] Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

10 [Prophet exhorts] Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

**Memory Verse:** Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. Psalms 2:6.

**Central Thought:** In this Psalm we have pictured that Christ is exalted above all kings and nations. Christ is of Divine nature; His redeeming work was Divine work; and His mediatorial reign is of Divine authority and force.

**Word Definition:** "*Serve the Lord with fear.*" There are two kinds of fear. One is servile and the other is filial. Fear and joy seem contradictory yet they compliment each other. If a person is too joyful the soul becomes too relaxed and light. If too fearful, it destroys the freedom, nobility, and joyfulness of the soul. The two states of feeling, completing and balancing each other, secure the true development and perfection of the soul. The two states of feeling are essential to the security and development of the Christian life. Paul said, "When I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:10. In seeking God, the soul is enlarged and is being exercised through hope and fear, joy and sorrow, strength and weakness. —M. Miles

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We have a wonderful Psalm to study today. Don't forget our theme for this quarter—the predictions, or foretelling, by the prophets of the coming of the Messiah. Remember that they did not know all about Him as you do. Over a thousand years before He came, God, by His Spirit, let them have a glimpse of what He would do and what He would be like. Isn't that wonderful? Jesus Himself read the Psalms and even quoted from them. Today we are reading them, too.

### Questions:

1. Discuss the battle against Christ by the men and kings of the earth?
2. What is the "holy hill of Zion?" Where is sectism?
3. Check the many places in the New Testament that the phrase, "Thou art my Son: this day have I begotten thee,"

is referred to. (Acts 13:33 Heb. 1:5; Heb. 5:5—by Paul).  
5. Why is it that people do not want Christ to rule over them?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

The context of our Psalm brings out a positive statement that Jesus Christ, or the promised Messiah, would be King. He would be a King above all kings. Today we know that He is our King and is sitting at the right hand of God, His Father. He is ruling over His Kingdom, which consists of all who have been "born again." He lets the wicked do wickedly, yet they can go only so far. The heathen or unsaved rage, and even the kings of the earth try to break down those who love and serve our King, but they can't. People have faced the firing squad rather than deny their King. One person I read about was knocked down, kicked and then thrown into water, trying to get her to do wrong and deny God. Another person was burned at the stake. While the flames leaped around him, he looked up and praised the Lord. No one can take the love for God out of our hearts unless we let them. God will give us victory. Jesus said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to destroy the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt. 10:28). When we leave this body we go to a better place than this world. Oh, how wonderful heaven will be!

Many people hated Jesus when He was here. One day He rode into the city of Jerusalem on an ass. (The kings rode on asses at that time.) People praised Him and threw palm branches before Him. They cried, "Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." He was not stopped although His enemies hated Him. They had to stand back that day. He was crowned as King by God and it was to be declared before all. (Matt. 21:1-11). Many said, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." Luke 19:38.

The Jews said, "We will not have this man to reign over us." Luke 19:14. History tells us that the Israelites, or Jews, have suffered much because they rejected Jesus Christ. The Jewish people were scattered over the world. In late years they again have a country, but it's not a strong nation.

In verse 10 and 11 the prophet exhorts, "Be wise . . . serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling." Remember that "all power" is given unto Christ, and we need to love and serve Him. Woe to them who resist him. Christ is referred to as a stone. "Whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken;

but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Matt. 21:44. When we come to the Lord, broken in spirit over our sins, and fall before Him, pleading for mercy, we can be saved. Those who resist Him, will, one of these days, meet Him at the judgment. They will be cast out of His presence forever into eternal suffering with the devil and his angels. Oh, how sad! "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way."

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The second Psalm is filled with New Testament philosophy and doctrine. It declares Christ in eternal Sonship with the Father by the resurrection from the dead. He laughs and holds in derision all who withstand and rebel against Him. He alone is triumphant. The worst that a man can do to a person is to kill in physical death. They did that to Jesus, and He triumphed over it gloriously. The earth is His possession. There is one thing that Christ is really interested in concerning this earth, that is the souls of men to believe and be a partaker of His risen glory. We should rejoice that such a glorious blessing is willed to us. We should fear lest we fail to qualify to receive it. "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little." Oh, the dire warning these words bring to us! Oh, how the devil works in every conceivable way to keep souls from seeing the Son and believing on Him! "Kiss the Son." Embrace or worship purely the Son. Ally yourself to Him with all of your heart. It is foolish to fight against Him, for He is triumphant. None can prevail against Him. It is wise to bow at His feet and be willing to serve Him all of your days. Love Him, and obey Him in all things. "Lest he be angry." It is displeasing in His sight for men to esteem lightly and disbelieve and be indifferent to the exposition of His love for them. To slight His love so true is to endanger the offender of terrific consequences. "And ye perish from the way." This is a warning. Christ is our only hope to escape the snares of death and eternal destruction. "When His wrath is kindled but a little"; there can be only one meaning to this phrase. After all that Christ suffered and went through to bring deliverance to the soul, it does not take much rebellious unbelief to incur a blazing of His wrath. Be wise, O mortal soul. Flinch not at the rugged demands of the gospel, but accept them and be glad that God has had mercy upon you. Thus you can share the Sonship that Christ has inherited and reign with Him through the ceaseless age of eternity.

—L. Busbee

June 10, 1979

## THE CHURCH AND HER LORD

Psa. 45:6 [God speaks to Son: Heb. 1:8,9] Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

8 All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

9 Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

10 [Exhortation to Church] Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

13 The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

14 She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

17 I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.

Gal. 5:22 [Glory of Church] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**Memory Verse:** Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Rev. 19:7.

**Central Thought:** Christ has a throne that will last forever. The King's daughter is all glorious within and as her glory (the fruit of the spirit) is expressed, she honors God and is honored by man.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

This Psalm has a definite Messianic prophecy in it. One commentator said that "the forty-fifth Psalm is a picture of the

peaceful and glorious union of the King Messiah with His visible bride—the Church of redeemed humanity. Messiah is introduced as a Divine King reigning among men. His form is of more than human beauty; His lips overflow with grace: God has blessed Him forever, and has anointed Him with the oil of gladness above His fellows. Messiah is also directly addressed as God; He is seated upon an everlasting throne.”

In Heb. 1:8,9 the Apostle Paul referred to the first verses in our printed portion of the Psalm and definitely says that God said this to His Son. His throne will be forever. Earthly monarchs have to yield up their crowns and sceptres at the bidding of death, but the Messiah-King ever lives. “Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.” Isa. 9:7. The praise of the Messiah-King will be eternal, and ever-increasing in fervor and depth and fullness.

—M. Miles

### Questions:

1. What does the Apostle Paul say about the first verses in the printed portions of our lesson? Discuss their meaning. (Hebrews 1:8,9).
2. The King's daughter would refer to the church. How is the church honorable in the world today?
3. What does it mean that the “King's daughter (church) is all glorious within”?
4. What brings rejoicing and gladness to God's people, the church?
5. Name some of the fruits of the Spirit and discuss the glory in each.

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

In the first verses God is speaking to His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ's throne will be forever and ever. A sceptre is a golden wand, or rod, that the kings held out to those who came before them, giving them notice that they were accepted. (You can read about this in Esther 4:10-17. She was afraid if she went before the king that he would not hold out his sceptre and she would die.) The sceptre that Jesus is holding out to us is a “kingdom of right.” If we will come into His “kingdom of right” we will be saved. Verse 7 is quoted by the Apostle Paul as referring to Christ. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness. Then we know that Jesus was blessed, or anointed,



in a greater measure than His disciples. We read in John 20:17 what He said to Mary while in the garden after He arose. He said for her to tell the "brethren" that He would "ascend unto my Father, and your Father: and to my God, and your God." In verse 8 we note that He would have some bitter things to bear, yet some wonderful things to make Him glad. Jesus Christ is our King and His daughters are "honorable women."

In verse 10 we read about the prophet's making an exhortation to the church, or those who are in Christ's kingdom. Notice in verse 13 that the "King's daughter is all glorious within." This is speaking of the church, which includes the men and women. We are pure and clean in our hearts because we have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no hatred for anyone, no evil thoughts toward others, and no wrong desires. In fact, all of the things that are mentioned in the last part of our lesson are in the hearts of those who are the King's children, or those in the Church of God. What a glorious thing it is to have peace in one's heart!

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It was instituted in the foundation of the world by the first man Adam that a man should leave his father and his mother and should cleave unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. It follows that a woman should do likewise. She must leave her father and her mother and cleave unto her husband. This is a hard time in many lives to face. The father and mother who have reared the daughter from childhood and infancy now are called to give her away to a young man who has won her love and affection. It is an emotional and sometimes a spiritual battle to really do this gracefully. A dowry on the part of the bridegroom was at one time expected without fail. There had to be some recompense to the parents to atone for the loss of the daughter. This is a like figure of what happens when a soul is united with Christ. The fleshly ties must be broken and we are united with the Lord in one Spirit. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. Old companions are given up and turned away from. Old ways of life and practices are discarded. The old man is laid aside, and the new man is put on. It is "Good-bye, old world, I'm through!" Yes, there are many things that one must give up in becoming a Christian; but to know what one gains in becoming a member of the Body of Christ far outshines the loss.

The things we leave behind are temporal and fleeting with time, but that which we gain in becoming men and women of God is eternal. It is only those who really catch a vision of the glory of eternal life who are willing to turn loose of the vain pleasures of this present world. But our love and devotion to Christ turns the tide of the attraction of this vain life. We have caught the sight of immortality. And as Paul, we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, and we forget the things we have left behind, and we press for the mark of the prize of the high calling of God. It will be worth it all to be with Jesus in eternity.

—L. Busbee

## IN A LUMBER CAMP

It was the daybreak hour of an autumn day. In the dim light two men were threading their way through a pine forest. On either hand the straight trunks rose like pillars and far above the heads of the passing men, the branches formed a dense, green canopy. Under foot a carpet of pine needles deadened the sound of their footfalls.

Tim was short and humpbacked, with long, sinewy arms. Notwithstanding his deformity and his tangled dark hair and beard, it was a kindly, if not a clever face which peered up at Raymond.

Raymond who had newly arrived in camp was younger, tall, broad shouldered and carried himself proudly erect. He had a fair, clear-cut face and steel-blue eyes.

"Ray, ye've got a lot to be thankful for."

"I?"

"Yes," and Tim cheerily refused to note the scorn in the other's voice. "I don't jest know what's in the few years behind ye, nor what brought the likes of ye here, but ye're straight and strong, ye know books and ye've had a chance. The boys here air different, but ye've had a chance, Ray."

They had reached an opening in the forest. Tim threw aside his coat, seized an ax and began, with sturdy strokes, to chop down a tall pine. Raymond stood lost in thought. A chance? Yes, he had had that, and he had thrown it away.

"It's nobody's business but my own," he said to himself, trying to forget the counsel of his aged father. "Well, I'm free from the old superstitions, yet I sometimes ask myself if freedom is worth the price I paid for it."

Tim had been a member of the crew for many years. Notwithstanding his dullness and physical deformity, he was a

general favorite. To the surprise of all, he seemed attracted to tall Raymond. He expressed his preference in many unobtrusive ways, and won a kindly tolerance from the young man.

Thanksgiving Day came. On that morning, Raymond awoke from a troubled sleep. All night his dreams had been haunted by visions of the past.

Snow was falling rapidly, for winter had already come to that Northern land. Raymond and Tim were working with a large party of choppers.

At that moment a monarch of the forest came to the ground with a resounding crash. Above this noise rang out a cry of terror and pain.

It was poor crippled Tim. He had chanced to stand where the great branches swept him from his feet and pinned him to the earth. Raymond was the first to reach his side. Carefully the men freed him, finding the poor bent body fearfully mangled.

"I guess it's all over with me, boys," he said, trying hard to keep his voice steady.

"Ray, stay by me. O, be careful!"

They carried him to the camp. A man was started on horseback to the nearest village, twenty miles distant, for a doctor. All feared Tim would not live until the doctor arrived, and his suffering was great.

When he had been laid on a rude bunk near the great stove, he looked up wistfully into the faces of his companions.

"It's death, boys. Tell me 'bout God — no one ever told me."

A strange silence fell upon the group of men, a silence broken only by the howling of the wind outside. Tim spoke again, "Ray, tell me. It must be ye know, 'cause ye're different from the rest of us."

All eyes turned toward the young man. He bent lower over Tim asking: "What is it you want to hear?"

"All 'bout Him. Will He be mad 'cause I never thanked Him? You see, I don't know much, and nobody ever told me. Can't you tell me about Him? Can't you, my boy? Pray for me."

Raymond Lee's face grew stern and white. His father was a minister. The influence of a skeptical classmate and the reading of books loaned by him had instilled doubt into Raymond's mind. Dominated by an idea of his own mental superiority, the youth went on, until a day came when he scoffed at the faith of his dead mother and denied God. He

resolved to cut himself loose from home ties. He wrote defiantly to his father of his change of views, and went out into the world, leaving no clue whereby he could be traced.

Dark days followed. He had to learn the emptiness of a life without hope in God. He hungered for the sound of his father's voice, but was too proud to return home and beg forgiveness. In a fit of desperation he had hired out to the foreman of Haskin's lumber camp.

All those things flashed through his mind in a moment. This dying man was asking him to pray. A groan broke from his lips. "Tim, I cannot. I—" and he paused, unable to say that he did not believe in the God to Whom, in the hour of death, even Tim had returned.

"Can't! Why, I 'sposed ye knew Him. Ye've had a chance."

Raymond could bear no more. Turning away, he rushed out into the storm. For hours he strode back and forth through the trackless forest. He heeded not the wind nor the snow. Face to face he met and grappled with the problem of man's relation to his Creator.

Raymond Lee was alone with God. In that hour his boasted skepticism fell from him. The theories of science and law, upon which he had rested, gave way beneath him. There was but one sure foundation.

Shadows were beginning to gather in the room where Tim lay when the door opened to admit Raymond. With a firm step he crossed to the side of the dying man.

"Tim, I have been with God. He has forgiven me, sinner that I am. Now I have come to tell you of His love."

Simply, tenderly he told the story of God's love in sending His beloved Son into the world to die for sinners — to become the Sin-bearer of all who will put their trust in Him as Saviour.

"God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

"The Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

Others gathered around the bed. Could they doubt the truth of the words spoken when they saw the light that came in Tim's face? "I see," he gasped.

Raymond knelt down. First one and then another of the rough men dropped upon their knees. Never had Raymond Lee prayed as in that hour. God was with him. Round him were men who, in Tim's own words, had "never had a chance." He

prayed with a faith born of absolute belief in God's willingness to save.

"It's all right," Tim murmured. "I'm going to Him. Ray, you tell everybody."

"Yes, Tim. I will spend my life telling this story."

The dying man said feebly, "I thank Him." A few moments more and all was over.

Raymond faced his fellow workmen. "Tim is gone. Boys, I have come back to the service I pledged to God many years ago. You heard my promise to Tim. Will you forgive the spirit I have shown toward you, and let me begin by telling you?"

"Yes, we will," was the reply of the leader among the men. "When we come where Tim is, we will wish we had heard." He told the "Old, Old Story" of Jesus and His love to them.

Before Raymond slept that night he wrote a long letter to his father. He would remain where he was until he received an answer to the letter. The next night he held a meeting and began to tell the story of the life of Christ, His death and resurrection.

The third evening came. At the close of Raymond's informal but heartfelt talk, the door opened to admit a stranger, a tall, spare man with snow-white hair. "Father!"

"My son! I came to help you here." and Raymond Lee was clasped in his father's arms.

The work begun at Haskin's camp went on until seventy souls were brought to know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

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**June 17, 1979**

### **TO SPEAK IN PARABLES**

Psa. 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry.

**Memory Verse:** And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house . . . Deuteronomy 11:19a.

**Central Thought:** Let us so teach the law of God to the oncoming generation that they will regard it as "holy, just, and good," a divinely wise and benevolent thing, and will loyally and heartily seek to comply with its requirements.

**Word Definition:** *Parable* means "side by side." It is a story that teaches a truth. Jesus spoke in parables to bring truth to souls and it worked.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

This day is set aside to honor our fathers. We are thankful for godly fathers. They have a great influence upon their children and help them to have a solid background upon

which to rely. It is a manly thing to love and obey God. It takes great courage to stem the tide of the world and be God's man. We appreciate good moral fathers but they will have to give an account for not leading their family to God, even if the family does not follow. Today we rise up in honor to godly fathers and also have a great respect for all fathers, just because they are fathers. Being a father is a great responsibility and all children should show respect to their fathers in the flesh.

The first verse in our lesson refers to the prophecy of Jesus speaking in parables. We read in Matt. 13:35 about this Psalm which was a prophecy. Then the next verses speak about fathers teaching and showing their children what God wants us to do. Fathers are to teach their children as they sit in the house, walk down the street, or drive in the car, and see that they are under godly influences. They have a great responsibility.

We chose one of Jesus' parables about a father and his son. His great love and compassion were shown in a great way in this parable. Just so, our heavenly Father has great compassion for us. He is waiting and ready to forgive those who come to Him with godly sorrow—those who will arise and come to Him.

—M. Miles

### Questions:

1. Discuss parables and what they mean; also refer to Jesus' parables.
2. What does it take in a man to be a godly father and what are his duties to his family?
3. Discuss the boy who went out into the world and wasted his inheritance.
4. Compare this parable to the sinner and our Heavenly Father.
5. Who rejoices in heaven and the earth when a sinner comes home?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We have chosen one of Jesus' parables. It's about a boy who got tired working for his father. He wanted his father to divide with him the money that he would get after his father's death. He wanted to leave and go to a far country. Maybe he had never lived in a big city. Perhaps he thought that it would be fun to hit every beer joint and night club, sit at the bars in the taverns, take the girls out to dance, and try a little dope. The lights of the city dazzled before his eyes

and he wanted to try out everything that was there. This grieved his father, but he gave him his money. His father knew that what the young man was seeking was not to be found in the bright lights and night clubs. His father knew that it would be better never to try the terrible things that sin offered, because there is a law of God that every person will reap what he sows. Sow goodness and you reap goodness. Sow evil and you will reap evil. It's an honorable thing never to go deep in sin. It's a shameful thing for a person to brag about his terrible sins, even though God may have saved him from that kind of life.

The young man did not find all that he wanted in the city. Soon his money was gone. His willpower was weakened, his morality was lost, his so-called friends forsook him, and he was hungry and an outcast. The only work he could find was caring for hogs. He was so hungry he ate the hogs' food. Finally he came to himself. He said, "I will arise and go to my father and tell him that I have sinned against him and heaven." This was a wise thing to do. His father was looking for him, and what a welcome he received! God is looking for the sinner to come home. He will forgive everyone of his sins and give him grace, or help, to do the reaping of the sins he has sown.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is to be noticed that Jesus spoke many parables, but He did not throw their interpretations around freely. He would usually speak His parables openly, but their dark meanings were withheld for only those whom He counted fit and worthy to entrust them to. The truth contained in the parables was so evident that many times they needed no interpretation. It was clearly seen just what He was referring to. The disinterested and indifferent were not impressed nor did they seek the real meaning. They just let it pass by and enjoyed eating the loaves and fishes. The parables that Jesus spoke had great important weight on the issues of the day. The truth that was contained in the parables was vital and very needful to understand and get hold of. The condition of men's hearts, their blindness and dullness of hearing (spiritually) called for a ministry of parables. Jesus put them on a level with men of Isaiah's time who were blind and deaf to the Word. If the Word had been preached to them openly and clearly they would have disregarded it, because they were spiritually incapable of grasping the significance of it. Thus their eyes had to be closed and



their ears had to be stopped. It had to be declared in such a way that would seem like it was being shut up to them. It had an adverse effect. To try to hide the truth might invoke curiosity, especially if it were closed up in a parable. They will hear the parable, and begin to think: "I wonder what He is referring to?" If that soul is attracted and interested he will begin to seek to find what the meaning is. People brought face to face with the truth are tempted to turn it aside for lack of perception, but in an illustrative parable, their curiosity is aroused as well as their minds being enlightened. You will find that this is the reason that Jesus spoke in parables.

—L. Busbee

### LARRY AND THE SILENT KILLERS

"Come on, Larry," Uncle Will called from the hayrack, "if you're going to preach tonight, we'd better get going."

"Well, Larry," a young farmer teased, "so you're a preacher!"

"Oh, yeah," continued Uncle Will gleefully. "A scientist, too!"

Larry Holden had grown accustomed to teasing in the past two months so he merely smiled. "Of course I'm not a preacher, but I'm always glad to tell what the Lord has done for me." He ambled toward the rack and scrambled abroad, explaining meanwhile, "I've been asked to speak at Young People's this evening—at the Lakeside Chapel."

The rack creaked it's way out to the road and Larry leaned wearily against the sideboards. He didn't mind the raillery, but he felt keenly that he had failed in the most important part of his mission. It had been his father's idea that he work on his Uncle's farm this summer to fill, in some measure, the place of the son lost in the war, and at the same time, to witness to him and seek to win him to Christ. Now the summer was almost over—and Uncle Will's attitude toward spiritual things remained unchanged.

"Pretty tired?" Uncle Will asked.

"Plenty!"

"I'll say this, Larry, for a city person you haven't done bad this summer. We might make a man of you yet if—"

Larry had spied a patch of purple beside the road and had hopped off the slowly moving rack to investigate. In a minute he was back.

"Now what kind of a weed have you got?" his uncle demanded.

"I don't know, Uncle Will," Larry replied. "But I intend to find out. Pretty isn't it?"

"Hum-m. Not bad—for a change," Uncle Will conceded grudgingly. Then, whimsically, "Larry, you got weeds on your mind all the time. Ain't you 'fraid you'll get 'em mixed with your sermon tonight?"

Larry laughed. "Well, that might not be such a bad idea. I guess I could talk on the evidences of God in nature, but I've decided to talk on Romans 8:28 tonight."

"What's that?"

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God," Larry quoted.

Uncle Will's expression changed instantly to one of hardness, and he shot out the words with vehemence. "Humbug! Then why'd Chuck get killed!"

Larry was less surprised at the fierce bitterness in his uncle's voice than of hearing him mention his son. It was the first time.

"I don't know why," he answered earnestly, "but I do know that God is love, and that He must have had a sufficiently good reason for permitting it to happen. Besides," he added gently after a pause, "Chuck isn't complaining, I'm sure of that!"

His cousin had written him of his conversion in a Christian Service Men's Center just before sailing, and Larry knew he had written his parents about it, too.

After they had jogged on in silence for a minute, Larry ventured softly, "Chuck can't come back to you, Uncle Will, but you can go to him—if you'll follow the directions in the Book."

"Save your preaching 'till you get to church, Larry." Uncle Will's tone was sharp.

When they drove into their own yard a few minutes later, Larry went to get the cows while his uncle took care of the horses.

"Duchess isn't here," Larry said when his uncle joined him in the barn.

"She would have to be different," Uncle Will sputtered as he picked up his milk pail and stool. "Maybe she'll straggle home while we're milking."

But no Duchess appeared.

"What are we going to do now?" Larry wanted to know.

"You run along to your meeting. I suppose I'll have to go look for that fool cow. She always did like to wander off by herself. Tell your aunt where I'm going." Uncle Will started down the lane.

When Larry returned after the young people's service he found his relatives in the kitchen eating fresh blackberries, cream, and cake. "Did you find Duchess?" Larry asked.

"Not a trace of her. The only thing I can think of is that maybe she broke through the fence and got mired down in Larsen's swamp. But I thought that fence was all right. Been out there lately?"

"Not since I first came this summer. It looked all right then."

Upstairs in his room Larry reached for his flower book and the flower which he had brought up earlier and placed in a glass of water. It was easily identified as a tall blazing star. In his notebook he carefully recorded its name and the date and place of its discovery. That was the hundred and eighth new plant acquaintance he had made that summer. Not bad for a beginner, he thought. He was about to put the book away when he remembered something he had come across a few days before. He leafed through the pages until he found it, then read the paragraph with some excitement. After carefully marking the place and setting the alarm for fifteen minutes earlier than usual, he prepared for bed.

The next morning, clutching his flower book in one hand, and with Sport trotting along beside him, he started down the lane. Straight for the farthest corner of the pasture he headed. When he was almost there, he noticed that Sport had been missing for some time. Several whistles brought no response, but soon Larry noticed him nosing about a clump of bushes. He hurried over. There lay Duchess, dead. She was lying on her side, her legs extended rigidly. Around her mouth were evidences of frothing. Larry lost no time in getting to the fence corner a few rods away—the corner adjoining Larsen's swamp. Yes, sir, there it was, the thing he was looking for! To be entirely sure, he began to compare the plant growing out of the water with the description in the book. The tall, jointed, purple-specked and hollow stem and the alternate, pinnately-compound leaves all tallied with the description in the book. Yanking the plant out of the ground, Larry split the root-stock lengthwise and studied it. Finally he examined the ground around the pool. He was satisfied.

Taking the plant with him, he rounded up the cows with Sport's help and drove them home.

Uncle Will was already in the barnyard. "See anything of Duchess?" he asked.

"Sure did! I hate to tell you this, but—Duchess is dead. And here's the silent killer! It's water hemlock—one of the most poisonous plants in North America!"

Quickly Larry recounted where and how he had found Duchess.

For once Uncle Will was really interested in one of Larry's weeds. "Hmm. It doesn't look so vicious."

Almost before he realized it, Larry had blurted, "I know a much worse silent killer."

"You do! What's the name of it?"

"Sin! And the Book that identifies it is the Bible!"

Uncle Will seemed startled for a moment, but he didn't say a word—just stared at Larry for a second, then turned abruptly and went into the barn. All the while they were milking and eating breakfast he spoke only when necessary. Larry wasn't sure whether he just felt bad because of losing a good cow, or whether he was really peeved at him. He could only pray.

Immediately after breakfast they went out and fenced off the dangerous part of the pasture. Then they took care of Duchess. Through both of these operations the strange silence continued. Larry had never seen his usually jocular uncle in such a mood.

When they were on their way back to the house, however, Uncle Will finally loosened up again. "Larry," he began awkwardly, pushing back his hat and leaning against the barnyard gate, "I don't rightly know how to say this, but if it hadn't been for your interest in weeds, there's no telling how many more cows I might have lost. I figure you've earned a reward, and I reckon I know what you'd like better'n anything else, too."

"What's that?" Larry asked quickly.

"This evening after the chores are done, how would you like to take your Book and tell me all about that other silent killer you mentioned?"

Larry could hardly believe his ears.

"You're not joking?" he half asked, half stated.

"Not this time." Uncle Will smiled faintly. "You see—in his last letter Chuck called sin a silent killer, too; said he was more afraid of it than bullets, and—well, we've had enough casualties around here."

"When you go to church tomorrow," Uncle Will continued, "I'm afraid you'll have to haul a couple of extra passengers. Your aunt wants to hear the new preacher—and I don't aim to stay home alone."

—Selected

**June 24, 1979**

**BETRAYED BY A FRIEND**

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

**John 13:18** I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Luke 22:47** And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

**Memory Verse:** A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. **Proverbs 18:24.**

**Central Thought:** Let us pray for such a strong confidence in God that we can be victorious over any weakness or falseness of professed friends, and the scheming malignity of enemies.

**Word Definitions:** *Sop* is a morsel. A piece of bread is broken off and dipped in a dish common to all. "*Leaning on*  
(59)

*Jesus' bosom*": The guest reclined on the left arm, leaving the right free; the back of the head of the guest on the right reached the bosom, and perhaps lay in the fold of the robe of the guest on his left.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The first verse in our lesson is a prophecy found in the Psalms of what would happen to Jesus. In this Psalm we read the bitterness of soul by David in being treated as he had been by one supposed to be a friend. It was one who associated with him and in whom he had peaceful relations. This friend had lived on a footing of confidence with him. In the unprinted portion of the Psalm, David brings out that his friend had turned to be an enemy and had come to him "speaking vanity: his heart gathering iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it." This caused those who hated David to "whisper together against me . . . to devise my hurt." How sad! The friend had David's confidence and he confided in him and then he went abroad telling it. This was picked up by his enemies and much hurt came from it. A person who is guilty of such evil surely will meet a sad end.

Queen Elizabeth said, "Rare is true love; true friendship is still rarer." "In trust, I have found treason." Oh, this should never be by those who are among God's people! We should never be careless with what others say or do. Even if we are not told to tell something, we should be careful how we handle anything told to us; how we repeat it and to whom we speak of it.

The last part of our lesson is about Judas. It shows what terrible results there are to those who betray a friend in such an awful manner. Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus and His disciples were at the Passover Supper and were about to institute the Lord's Supper when this incident took place. The Lord's Supper was instituted on Thursday, the 14th Nisan. The Lord's Supper is to be observed in memory of his death on the cross.

—M. Miles

### Questions:

1. Discuss the reason that David wrote the part that is a prophecy of what happened to Jesus through Judas. (Psa. 41:5-7,9).
2. Discuss how children of God should handle anything told to them or what they see among them. Should we tell

it abroad or what responsibility do we have before God in handling what we see or hear?

3. Give the background of the institution of the Lord's Supper and its meaning.
4. Tell something of Judas' background and also his end.
5. Are false prophets or teachers today, who bring in "damnable heresies," as bad as Judas, and what is their doom? (Jude 6—angels are ministers, see Rev. 1:20).

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Oh, the suffering that is in the world through the betrayal of confidence placed in another person! When a friend or a person betrays your confidence it brings such a shock, heart-ache, distress, tears, yet a disbelief that a person could ever stoop so low as to do such a thing. The person betrayed feels as Jesus felt, "troubled in spirit." Yet there is a balm in Christ. He went through it and knows how to succor us when we fall into such a terrible grief. He can heal the heartache and can give that sufficient grace.

The disciples had a self-examination as they stood in the presence of their Lord and Saviour who knows the very thoughts and intents of every heart. "Is it I?" "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Only through the grace of God can any of us stand blameless before our Lord and Saviour. Grace comes through prayer and watchfulness. It comes through ever seeking the will of God and putting a watch upon our thoughts and our mouth. The love of God needs to be continually burning in our hearts, keeping a deep love for truth, being honest with ourselves. We should regard it a possibility that the strongest may fall, and even the oldest may betray his trust. Thus Judas stands as a warning example for all time of the deceitfulness of sin and the righteous judgment of God. How terrible is a faithless spirit that has plunged from the height of a blessed calling, scattered all his gifts and powers, and come to ruin. Thus sorrowfully many have trifled with their high destiny in this world so that others have taken their crowns. Can the terrible reward of sin be more clearly seen, than in the case of Judas? He passed as Jesus' disciple, and then became His betrayer. Peter gently speaks of Judas with holy sadness. "He . . . was guide to them that took Jesus. He was numbered with us . . . fell, that he might go to his own place." Acts 1:16,17,25.

Do you suppose there was but one betrayal of the Lord once and for all, and that the infamous crime can never be

repeated? How glad we would be if this were so, but down through the years, and in years to come, there will be those who will betray the Lord. ". . .there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them. . . ." 2 Peter 2:1. Let us never have a boastful attitude but be ever in prayerful watchfulness that we be true to the end. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Think of the two different men mentioned in our lesson. One was close and dear to Jesus and leaned on His loving bosom. The other had a heart that was reaching out to other things. What a privilege we have to lean upon the bosom of Christ. How we can be near to His heart! It is terrible to think of Judas in his error and the sad ending of his life. Jesus is a refuge to the weary heart from the toils and cares of this life. The story is told of John Wesley's brother, Charles, standing before an open window one night watching a terrible storm. As he stood there watching the lightning flash and the trees bend before the wind, suddenly a bird flew out of the storm almost right into his bosom. It inspired him to write the song: "Jesus Lover of My Soul, let me to thy bosom fly while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is nigh. Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, till the storm of life is past; safe into thy haven guide, O receive my soul at last." It is such a wonderful experience one can have to find the Lord and the refuge of His loving breast. The world is full of weary, laden hearts, tossed and beaten with the storms of life. If they could just be assured that coming to the Lord would afford them an escape! We can all lean upon the bosom of our blessed Friend! He is no longer here in human form, but He is ever present in a much greater way. His divine Spirit is here for all to share and enjoy. Christ has gone within the veil, into the very presence of God to intercede for us. He has sent the Holy Spirit which gives us liberty of access to fellowship with Christ even more than was possible when He was here in the flesh. It is even more important now that we see to it that we will be one of those leaning on His breast rather than one of those who will betray Him. —L. Busbee

### A FATHER'S LOVE

I will never forget when the modern tide struck our home. My sister weighed one hundred pounds and was nervous and temperamental. She was an artist, while we had to make our



own living. She got music and some other ideas in her head, and came home from college the first year. That morning after breakfast, when we had prayer, she rose sweetly and excused herself and went upstairs.

She got away with it that morning, but father "took note of it." The next morning when she excused herself he said, "Sit still."

"But really," she pouted, "I don't care to stay!"

"That doesn't make any difference—stay!"

"I think a person should have some liberty in religion," she answered.

"You can have all the liberty you please in religion," father told her, "but I run this house; I paid for the grub; I bought the clothes you have on; I paid for your education. Sit down there quietly and listen while a father who loves you reads and prays."

My big brother came home one day. He had made money for himself. He had a big fat cigar in his mouth. He smoked it for a while on the porch. Father came out, reached out his hand, took the cigar, and throwing it into the garden, said, "Don't smoke them around here anymore."

"I would like to know what right you have to throw that cigar out," brother complained.

"You know my idea," father answered. "This is my house. I am rearing boys and making a specialty of it, and you do not get by with that kind of stuff. When you are working for a man he can tell you whether to smoke in his office or in his warehouse. I am running this house. God gave me the command to do so."

"I will go somewhere else," my brother threatened.

"I am sorry. I love you," Father replied quietly, "but if you want cigars worse than you do the home, you can go."

He went away three weeks, and came back and said, "Dad, you are right. I submit and will play the game according to rules."

Most people say, "Well, you have to let children have their way."

Is that so? Then good-bye to home, to government, to everything—God will not stand for that.

I had a father who stood by the river of life, thank God, an old pile driver, and smiled when he drove down the jetty. He never licked me in his life, but I knew I had one coming if I needed it. He raised ten children and he did it as an undermaster of God.

You never saw a spoiled boy in your life to whom the mother had given everything she had, that would not take that little mother and trample on her heart before he got through.

God intended parents and children to live together in the unit He ordained. He commands parents thus, and with a covenant attached: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

I thought I was getting away with something. I left my father's Christ because of the teaching in the universities to which I went. The anti-Christ spirit attracted me. I lost my faith. Before my father died, he turned his face heavenward with the happiest, most beautiful smile. Someone leaned over the bed and said, "Mr. Rader, how can you smile like that when there is not one of your children serving the Lord?"

He smiled back as he answered, "That does not matter a bit. It was settled long ago. I bro't them up as He had commanded me. They will everyone be in. They are a strong-headed group, but God will lead them; He will bring them in."

And every last one of them is in today—yes, everyone.

God talks to fathers and mothers, and God stands behind fathers and mothers with all the army and navy of Heaven when they stand God-ward for their children. Oh, for a praying fatherhood in our nation, and mothers that pray for their children! I tell you, God hears them. He hears! He hears!

Whether your children reach heaven or hell depends a great deal upon the training they receive in the home. If they are not taught to obey their parents, they will find it difficult to obey God and be saved.

"Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: for he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole." Job 5:17,18.

"Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee." Deut. 8:5.

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

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

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.

"Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:19.

—P. Rader



