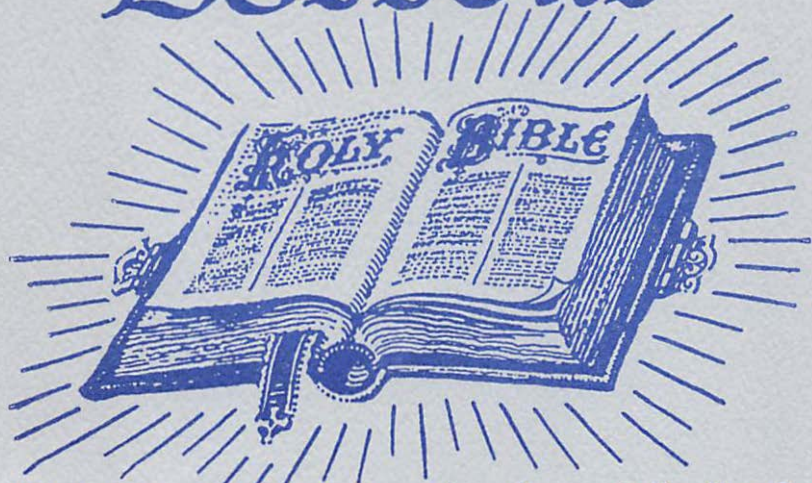


Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

**Vol. 25, No. 3
July, Aug., Sept.
1993**

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

Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People
(USPS054-680)

Volume 25

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**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
Jesus Christ and His Church**
Edited by Leslie C. Busbee and Wayne Murphey

**Subscription Price-50¢ a copy for quarter of year, or
\$2.00 per year, issued quarterly.**
Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Oklahoma

Published Quarterly By:
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
920 W. Mansur Ave.
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044
**Postmaster: Please send address corrections
to above address.**

THEME FOR THIRD QUARTER, 1993

We are greatly inspired to bring forth a series of Bible Lessons for this quarter taken from the Minor Prophets. This will not be an exhaustive study, but will consist of various prophetic passages from the writings of these holy prophets wherein are found great and comforting truths that have inspired our hearts. Prophecies of Jesus and spiritual truths concerning godliness and the fear of God will be seen in these lessons. We have omitted a few of the prophets from this series of lessons, not because we count them lightly, but because our understanding of their spiritual value is limited, and we have not the inspiration to work with them at this time. Thus Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, and Haggai are not included in this series of lessons. The lessons we are bringing forth have been a great inspiration to our souls and we trust they will prove a spiritual blessing to all who participate in studying these lessons. We see that the main theme of all of these sacred prophecies is the foretelling of the New Testament plan of salvation and the victory we can have in Christ Jesus, our mighty Lord and Saviour. And we thank God that these wonderful prophecies have been fulfilled, and are brought to pass in the hearts and lives of the saints today.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



JULY 4, 1993

BETROTHED UNTO GOD IN FAITHFULNESS FOREVER

Hosea 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

Hosea 2:14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

16 And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.

17 For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground; and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

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

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

MEMORY VERSE: For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8:12.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Though we have sinned and come short of God's pleasure, through the love of Jesus we are drawn back to fellowship with God and united with Him in righteousness and faithfulness forever.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (V. 15). "Valley of Achor": The word "achor" means trouble. Achan and

his family were stoned in a place which they called the Valley of Achor for his sin in the days of Joshua. (Josh. 7:24-26.) It carries a meaning today of the trouble and sorrow that we fall into when we sin against God. (V. 16), "*Ishi*": my husband. "*Baali*": master. These two words show the true relationship change that Christ brings to us. Instead of God being just a Master or Owner, He is our Husband. (V. 19), "*Betroth*": to engage for matrimony; to be united forever in love and pure harmony. (V. 21), "*I will hear the heavens, the earth, etc.*": The word "hear" is from the word in the Hebrew which means to pay attention, respond, and give answer to. (V. 22), "*They shall hear Jezreel*": The word "Jezreel" means "God will sow." The phrase literally means "they will respond to the seed of God's word which will be sown in their hearts." (I Pet. 2:9), "*Peculiar people*": a purchased people for a special purpose.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Hosea prophesied in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The nation of the Jews was divided into two nations, that of Judah and Israel. Israel was proving unfaithful, and God was grieved with their seeking other gods. God wanted to give an object lesson to show how he wanted to draw His wayward people back to Him. He also sought to prophesy of the salvation that Jesus would bring that would restore true fellowship between God and man. The object lesson that He portrayed through Hosea was a marriage with a harlot woman. This woman stayed with Hosea for a time and then left him to go after her former associates. She had born two sons and a daughter, each named purposely to portray the condition of Israel's sad condition. Hosea told his children that he would go and try to get their mother to return. Mingled with his longing to bring his wayward wife back are the earnest pleas of a grieved Creator yearning for fellowship with wayward souls. In our lesson we hear God's plan and purpose to win man back to Himself in the plan of salvation that Jesus would accomplish. God allures us to Himself through the love of Jesus and betroths us unto Himself forever. Thank God we can return to the arms of His loving care and be united with Him forever! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. With what does the Lord compare one who goes away from Him?
2. What are some of the "lovers" in the world that a person may be tempted to go back to?
3. What are some of the drawing attractions that help allure souls to Christ?
4. Does a sinner need words of comfort? Why?
5. What is our relationship with God designed to be likened unto?
6. What are the things that we are betrothed unto God in?
7. What does "breaking the bow, sword, and battle out of the earth" mean?
8. Why does being betrothed to God in faithfulness seem to go beyond the other things mentioned?
9. What kind of knowledge does God want us to have of Him?
10. Who were the ones who were not His people and had not obtained mercy?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

God wants to unite every living human being to Himself in a marriage that is sweet and satisfying to Himself and the individual soul. God knows what it is to be jilted, forsaken, and betrayed. Mankind and His professed people have abused and grieved His love so many times. So He has done all possible to allure the minds of men and to draw them into a holy union with Him again. He sent His beloved Son, Jesus, down into this cold and darkened world to take our blame and bear the judgment for our sins. He prophesies in our lesson today of that blessed state of our souls being united with Him as a man and woman are united to one another in marriage. It is a closer relationship than master and servant, father and son, mother and daughter. He wants to be married to us. He wants to be married to us in righteousness. Our union with God in Christ will give us power to live in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. In judgment our union with Him will straighten out our ways to please the Lord. Our relation-

ship with God will be in terms of lovingkindness and tender mercies. How tender and patient He is with us! And this will all be accomplished with such assurance and comfort that it will not be hard to be faithful to our great and wonderful Lord, our Husband, the Bridegroom of our souls. Oh, how sweet to be in the bosom of God, in the holy embrace and fellowship of His holiness! We are warmed and strengthened to overcome the alluring powers of sin and the world. As we learn of Him and His everlasting goodness, we see more and more the vanity and folly of sin. We are not tempted to go back to sin, but strongly cling to Him, our all in all. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The key word in a successful marriage is harmony. In some marriages there is wrangling, bickering and even physical combat. These kinds of marriages are undesirable and many times end in a divorce court. But how different it is in a marriage where both parties are content and working together. The children are contented and well-adjusted to life, and the parents are happy in each other's company. Marriage entails work; housekeeping, raising children and earning a living. When a marriage is properly maintained, these chores go much smoother and are not nearly as difficult.

The spiritual marriage between God and His people is one of harmony, which spills over into all areas of our life. This harmony and peace is typified in what Hosea said in the 2nd chapter, eighteenth verse. "And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely." This can be applied spiritually, but it is also of essence in our natural living. When Adam and Eve sinned, a curse was pronounced upon them, one part of which was, "...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground;..." Genesis 3:17-19. Salvation doesn't take away this duty, but it sure does help

in accomplishing it. An ill-tempered spirit causes a person to fight hardship. Salvation causes things to flow together. Even animals can sense an ill-temper, causing them to be uneasy.

One form of religion promotes, as its main goal, peace with the earth through meditation. Salvation is what accomplishes this. God said, "I will make a covenant for them...." When we are spiritually married to God, He causes many of the hardships and problems of life to smooth out and things to work in harmony.

—Wayne Murphey



JULY 11, 1993

**GOD'S PLEA FOR THE BACKSLIDER
TO RETURN TO HIM**

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge in the land.

2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.

10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the Lord.

11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

Hosea 5:4 They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord.

5 And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

6 They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the Lord; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Hosea 5:15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

MEMORY VERSE: Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. Hosea 10:12.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Being separated from God because of sin and transgression causes woe, sorrow and destruction. God is calling the souls of men to return unto Him with godly sorrow and a willingness to please Him.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Hosea 4:1), "*Controversy*": quarrel, contest, contention. (4:2), "*They break out, and blood toucheth blood*": Sin and wickedness increases so that strife and bloodshed is abundant. (4:5), "*Fall in the day...in the night*": The heart of the souls of men make no effort to overcome sin whether they understand or under-

stand not. (4:8), *"Eat up the sin of my people"*: They commit sin greedily, justifying themselves in seeing that professed people of God commit the same, and it increases their love and pleasure in unrighteousness. (4:11), *"Take away the heart"*: kills the desire for the eternal values of God. The Septuagint renders this: The heart of my people has gladly engaged in fornication and wine and strong drink. (5:4), *"They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God"*: The Hebrew says: Their deeds will not allow them to turn to their God. (5:5), *"Pride doth testify to his face"*: The Septuagint says, "The pride of Israel shall be brought low before his face." Pride, in due season, will show up its bitter fruit in plain view before a person. (5:15), *"Return to my place"*: God withdraws His workings and visible evidence and conceals Himself beyond the comprehension of man into the mysterious realm of the Spirit. (6:3), *"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord"*: The Hebrew says, Then let us know, let us pursue to know the Lord. We must seek God with all our hearts and keep pursuing after Him to learn of Him in His meekness and lowliness of heart.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we have a closer and clearer view of the corruption and sin of the people of Israel. We see that the priesthood and the prophets were corrupt and evil. Spiritual and physical adultery and fornication abounded, taking away holy desire for the things of God and His blessings. Things were in a terrible shape in the eyes of God much like it is today. Things were in this very condition when Jesus Christ came on the scene. The priesthood and leadership in Israel was vile and corrupt. Jesus testified to them from Hosea 6:6 of our lesson in Matthew 9:13 and 12:7. They had lost sight of the spiritual aspect of the law and had merely the letter, along with their corrupted traditions. For this cause God withdrew His power and presence and blessings and left them to the troubles that follow a life of sin and wrong. Hosea pleads with the people to forsake their evil ways and return to the holiness of the Lord, assuring them that God was desirous of coming to them with His manifold blessings.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God have a controversy with Israel?
2. How did the corrupt priesthood and unfaithful prophets affect the people?
3. In what way do people "eat up" the sin of professed Christians?
4. Can we expect people to be inclined to rise above the example of their leaders?
5. What were the people leaving off to do?
6. Is God obligated to reveal Himself to people who will not earnestly seek His face?
7. Why is mercy and true knowledge of God more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices?
8. What has God done in order to cause men to want to seek Him?
9. What does it mean to follow on to know the Lord?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

When we think about what sin has done to the human race, we are so thankful that God has made it possible for us to escape the yoke of the devil and live in righteousness and true holiness before Him! Sin has brought man low and robbed him of happiness and success. All the sorrow and misery that hangs like a mantle over the nations are on account of sin. It looks like people would wake up after awhile and see what the devil is doing to them. The error of their ways so often testifies right to their face. They reap the harvest of their ungodly deeds in sorrow and remorse. But it seems that man is very slow to face up to his wretched condition. He struggles on, thinking that somehow he is going to master the situation. And sin keeps giving him blow after blow of defeat and frustration. Satan allures them on, making them think that things will get better. But they don't get better. Young people really should face this matter of sin seriously. You cannot master sin on your own. It will throw you every time. We need to seek God early in life. Many times I have said, "Oh, I'm so glad I got saved when I was young!" God is still calling souls to repent and turn to Him. He patiently waits and holds out the life line for

whosoever will. He is withdrawn from the sense of the flesh. One has to really get in full and determined earnestness to find God. Only when we seek Him with the whole heart can we find the knowledge of God. Then we must continue on, seeking Him every day to learn of His ways and to experience His holy presence in our lives. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A phrase in our lesson which audaciously stands out to me is, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:..." A person would wonder how that could be. After all God did for Israel in making them a nation, one would think that Israel would be very knowledgeable of God. Yet, it is seen today in our own nation that it only takes one or two generations to forget God. Israel had prophets proclaiming the word of God, yet in practical life the people knew Him not. The lack of knowledge which they had was a willful ignorance, and willful ignorance is almost always self-centered. In Israel's case, it allowed them to continue on in their sinful gratification.

Willful ignorance is fatal. It is fatal to spiritual life and any true happiness. God said He would "...reward them their doings," or that their own doings would be their reward. When you commit sin, you are inflicting pain on someone, and that same kind of pain has a way of coming back around and facing you as your reward.

There is an Aesop fable which tells about a blind woman who made a deal with a physician. She told him that if he could cure her of her blindness she would handsomely reward him, but if not, she would pay him nothing. Seeing she was a woman of means, he accepted the offer, and began paying her regular visits to give treatments. However, his treatments were a sham, and with each visit he carried off some of her goods. After a time, what had been causing her blindness left, and she could once again see, but she refused to pay the quack doctor who took her to court. The woman stood before the judge and told him that she had made the alleged deal with the doctor, but that before her blindness she had many pieces of beautiful furniture in her house, and that though the doctor declared

her cured, it could not be, because she was unable to see a single stick of furniture in her house.

We are told in the scriptures that God is not mocked. You don't play around with God through self-ignorance, for what you reap is what you sow. (Gal. 6:7.) —Wayne Murphey



JULY 18, 1993

GOD'S PROMISE TO THE REPENTANT SOUL

Hosea 12:2 The Lord hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;

5 Even the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is his memorial.

6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

12 And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep.

13 And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.

Hosea 13:9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

10 I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.

14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

Hosea 14:1 O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

8 Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

MEMORY VERSE: Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. Hosea 14:2.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: The soul of man should take heed to what he has forfeited in turning away from God and be willing to take proper steps in returning to His Creator, for God yearns for his fellowship to be restored.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Hosea 12:5), *"The Lord is his memorial"*: The Lord will remind him and bring to his memory past blessings and favors. The Spirit of God can bring things in the past to our minds to help us to see what we need to do now. (13:12), *"Iniquity bound up and hid"*: sin overlooked, justified, and unconfessed. (14:2), *"The calves of our lips"*: The offering of praise and glory to God uttered from a thankful heart. This corresponds with Hebrews 13:15, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks unto his name."

LESSON BACKGROUND

We have in our lesson today God rehearsing some of Israel's history. He reached way back when Jacob was born, and how he took hold of his brother's heel as a sign of triumph over his brother's rule. He reminds Israel of God revealing Himself to Jacob out on the plain in that beautiful dream, the

place which Jacob named Bethel, meaning the house of God. God recalls Jacob weeping and prevailing over the angel when he was about to meet his offended brother; and how when his descendants became a mighty nation in Egypt, God brought them out by the hand of Moses. It is the weakness of man to forget. Much to his woe, he fails to remember where he came from and what God did for him in the past. People forget that they were little babies, helpless and dependent upon God's providence; but the Lord is our memorial. He has a way of reminding us. God also reminded the Israelites of their great sin in not being satisfied to have God as their king, and wanting a king and a prince like the nations around them. Oh, how the people back then and the people of today are so blind and forgetful! But God still is yearning for reconciliation. He promises them salvation, deliverance from the power of the grave and redemption from death. We find Paul referring to Hosea 13:14 in I Corinthians 15:55 when he said, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" God makes it clear that He wants people to be healed of their backsliding. If they will humble themselves and confess their true condition, God will save to the utmost. But the question still stands: "Who is wise, and he shall understand these things, prudent, and he shall know them...." —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What value is the remembrance of past mercies for present distresses?
2. Why does God want us to keep in mind the things He has done for us?
3. Is it possible for things the Lord has done for us to be forgotten?
4. In what way can a person destroy himself today?
5. Was it for the best that Israel was given a king?
6. Why will God allow us to have our way in things that are not for our good?
7. Can a person get help from God as long as his sin is hidden and not confessed?
8. What are the two things that God has promised to redeem us from?

9. What words should we take with us in coming to God for mercy?

10. If we are wise, what will we see in our lesson today?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The Lord had a controversy with Jacob in our lesson and He still has a controversy with the souls of men today. People have forgotten their Creator and are going about to fulfill their own desires and pleasures. They have forgotten that this world and universe are the handiwork of God, created for His glory and the good of man. God would like to remind man of these things, and He does in His own wise way; but man pays no heed. When God sent Jesus, His beloved Son, into the world, it was the highest expression of His love and kindness toward lost humanity. He was treated as a criminal and rejected. The world today still rejects Christ and His holy and humble way. Generally, people are ignorant of the truth because they are not seeking the light and knowledge of God. For those who are seeking in truth the heavenly way, God graciously reveals Himself. He still wants to be the king of our lives. If we will let Him rule us, He will make us happy and supremely blessed. Let us end the controversy that God has with us, and let us settle the old account now and forever. Let us go to the Lord in earnest prayer, and ask him to take all our sins away through the blood of His Son; and we will promise to live for Him and follow Him the rest of our lives. We will praise and honor Him with all of our hearts. Oh, that is the wise thing to do. The blessings we will receive and the hope He will give us will be well worth every effort we can make to restore fellowship with the great Almighty God!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Through the prophet Hosea, God reminded Israel of Jacob's experience at Bethel. Israel needed to return to this Bethel experience. In fact every Christian needs a Bethel. Bethel is where God erected a ladder and came down to man. It is where Jacob received inspiration, hope and direction for

his life. People would be so much better off if they could only find that place with God.

Bethel is not a one-time ordeal. It is something we must keep fresh in our hearts and minds. God was faithful to remind Jacob of Bethel in later years when he was facing problems with his father-in-law, Laban. (Gen. 31:13.) We, too, have problems of life and temptations of spirit to face; but a place of communion with God will give us the inspiration and courage to be victorious. If we neglect thinking upon God and desiring His nearness, we will find ourselves in the same condition Hosea found Israel in.

It is encouraging to know that it was even after Jacob had deceived his father, Isaac, that he had the dream at Bethel. God is a merciful God, and very forgiving. Even after mankind has sinned He will love them, forgive them, forget their sins, commune with them and give them inspiration for living, hope of heaven and direction in life. —Wayne Murphey



JULY 25, 1993

**GOD PROMISES TO RESTORE MAN
TO FULL SALVATION**

Joel 1:4 That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand.

11 And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible: and who can abide it?

12 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, Turn ye even to me

with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

18 Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

19 Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

MEMORY VERSE: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Sin and unrighteousness have ruined the human race and robbed mankind of true life and happiness. But in Christ and the fulness of His grace we can be delivered from the power of sin and experience the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Joel 1:4), "*Palmerworm*": cutting locust. "*Locust*": swarming locust. "*Cankerworm*": locust larvae. "*Caterpillar*": the stripping locust, the ravager who finishes up what is left. These are the various kinds of destroying locusts, typical of the various sins

and evils that destroy the spiritual values of the souls of men. (V. 12), "*Vine, fig tree, etc.*": The trees of the field represent the spiritual fruit that God desires in the life of man. (Joel 2:1), "*Blow the trumpet*": The trumpet is a symbol of the sounding and preaching of the Word of God in His judgments and truth. (V. 11), "*His army*": This can be two different things. In Joel 2:25 the locusts were called his army. But his army can also be the host of Spirit-filled men and women who proclaim the gospel of salvation from sin. (V. 13), "*Rend your heart*": Humble down in true repentance with godly sorrow. (V. 32), "*Deliverance*": salvation.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today from the prophet Joel is the foretelling of God's restoration to the soul of man from the curse of the sin of Adam. The devastation of sin and evil in the heart and life of the souls of men are likened unto the devouring plague of locusts that consumes vegetation and fruit life. It is a condition that works in the individual soul and in the mass of humanity as a whole. God did not mean to allow this condition to remain. The trumpet is sounded to awaken the slumbering souls of men; and the army of the Lord, by the power of the gospel accompanied by the Holy Spirit, goes forth. As man hears the gospel and accepts it, the fear of the Lord takes hold and causes true repentance and reformation of life. In his message on the day of Pentecost, Peter quoted from this prophecy of Joel concerning the pouring out of the Holy Spirit that took place that day. God still wants to pour out His Spirit upon souls who are willing to consecrate and give up all for Him. Only then, through the presence of the Spirit of God in our lives can we be triumphant over sin and the forces of Satan that would drag us down. Paul also quoted from Joel 2:32 in Romans 10:13 speaking about the righteousness of faith and how the Lord is rich unto all that call upon him.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the locusts and palmerworms that eat up lives today?

2. What does the power of sin do to the real joy that God would have us to possess?
3. Is it necessary for us to fear and tremble before God?
4. What does real Godly sorrow and repentance for sin cause a person to do?
5. How can a person rend his heart?
6. What does God promise a person who truly repents of his sins and seeks Him with the whole heart?
7. What does God promise to pour out upon us?
8. Who will prophesy and why?
9. Who will be delivered, and from what will they be delivered?
10. What will be in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Let us consider the life of a person and how sin will ravage and destroy in it all that is worthwhile and of any value. When one is a child he is pure and innocent, tender and easily influenced. As he grows up in the world and among our sin-laden society, the sins and iniquities of the lusts of the flesh and pride of life begin to take hold. Lustful thoughts and desires begin to grow and increase in his heart and mind. Vile and filthy habits beckon and allure him to partake. Smoking tobacco and drugs and liquor are introduced. The ungodly literature and the filth of the radio and television and video ensnares him in their web. His language loses modesty and carefulness and becomes filled with slang, vulgarity and violence. The pride and vanity of the world takes possession of his heart and mind. He becomes without morals or standards, just whatever everyone else is doing becomes his mode. Dishonesty begins to cause him to steal, lie and seek to avoid responsibility for debts incurred. Many other things we could mention are out there in this evil world just waiting to take hold of a person. Health begins to break down and drugs administered ensnare him all the more to bondage. Marriage is heedlessly hurried into and soon he is a divorcee, looking for someone else. Plenty of women are available and his lusts can be satisfied without marriage, and soon he is ensnared in that deep pit. His life is a wreck and the locusts have done their

work. Is there hope for such a one? Yes, if he will rend his heart with true repentance, turn away from all of his evils and seek mercy and saving grace with all of his heart, he can find peace and deliverance. God will restore to him all that he lost in sin. Praise the Lord for salvation from all the power of the enemy.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It has been said that Joel is the prophet of the Holy Spirit, as Isaiah is of the Messiah. Yet he gives us one of the darkest pictures ever drawn by a prophetic pen, and also one of the brightest. Here we note Israel's utter bankruptcy. Their failure and desolation was complete. "What the palmerworm left the locust hath eaten; what the locust left hath the cankerworm eaten." Yet we know that "...He doth not afflict willingly..." Lam. 3:33, but for our profit. As with this nation, so it is with our souls; we need to be stripped and our earthly pleasures withered before we feel our need of God.

This bankruptcy was humanly incurable. What could this nation do to arrest all those adverse forces that were warring against them? In themselves they had no power to resist such a mighty host. Lord, teach us to know our own helplessness, while we war "...not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places." Eph. 6:12. God has declared the bankruptcy of our sinful nature with regard to spiritual power. It is also humanly incurable.

The reason of God's severity with them was to awaken in them a deep sense of their need of dependence upon Him. "Now, saith the Lord, turn ye to me with all your heart. Rend your hearts and not your garments." The called of God are called for God. It was easier for them to rend their garments as a sign of sorrow in the sight of men, than to rend their hearts as a proof of their humility before God. It may be easier for some of us to offer a gift for God's cause than to offer ourselves to Him for His service. —Taken from, *Handfuls on Purpose*.



AUGUST 1, 1993

**TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL AND SEEKING GOD
AND GOOD**

Amos 5:4 For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel,
Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not
to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and
Bethel shall come to nought.

6 Seek the Lord, and ye shall live; lest he break out like
fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none
to quench it in Bethel.

7 Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off
righteousness in the earth,

8 Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and
turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the
day dark with the night: that calleth for the waters of the sea,
and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is
his name:

12 For I know your manifold transgressions and your
mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they
turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time;
for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the
Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judg-
ment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be
gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what
end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light.

19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or
went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a
serpent bit him.

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in
your solemn assemblies.

22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat
offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace
offerings of your fat beasts.

23 Takethou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?

26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.

MEMORY VERSE: Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you.... Amos 5:14.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: God commands all men to repent and turn away from their sins. If they turn not away from their sins, all their attempts at worship or trying to be religious will profit them nothing but will be an offense to God.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Amos 5:4), "*Seek*": follow after; search and ask for; inquire concerning; strive for. It also refers to the worship of God, seeking God with an attitude of living worship and sincere desire. (V. 7), "*Turn judgment to wormwood*": The Hebrew for this verse is clearer—"Those who turn justice and righteousness into wormwood in the earth He hath abandoned. Wormwood is defined in the Hebrew as that which is poisoned and accursed. (V. 8), "*Seven stars*": In the Hebrew this means a cluster of stars, the Pleiades. This group of stars is calculated by scientists to be 490 light years from earth. A light year is the distance light travels in one year, or 6,000,000,000,000 miles (that is, 6 trillion miles.) Imagine a distance 490 times that! That cluster of stars along with the constellation Orion helps to show how great God is, and how we need to rise above the wickedness and vanity of this earth to seek such a great and wonderful God. (V. 12), "*Manifold transgressions*": sins abundant in size, amount, rank, and number. "*Mighty sins*": numerous and weighty. (V. 13), "*Prudent*": wise and understanding. (V. 22),

"Meat offering": donation; gift; tribute. (V. 23), *"Viol"*: lyre, harp, or any other musical instrument. Regardless of the beauty of music produced by man, if he has not broken off from his sins it means nothing to God. (V. 26), *"Moloch"*: The Hebrew word is *"Melek"* which means a king. Evidently God is referring to Israel's rejection of Him and their unholy desire for a human king which He gave to them. Moloch refers also to the chief god of the Ammonites. *"Chūtn"*: The Hebrew word means a status or idol formed by man. God is evidently referring to the sad inclination of Israel toward idolatry which showed up first in the golden calf they formed and worshipped while Moses was up in the holy mount.

LESSON BACKGROUND

God called Amos from herding sheep to go and prophesy against Israel in the days of King Uzziah of Judah, and king Jeroboam of Israel. He prophesied judgment and doom against Damascus, Gaza (of the Philistines), Tyrus, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel. Because Judah and Israel were more responsible before God, Amos directed his main prophecy to them. We draw our lesson from chapter five. Also in his prophecy he warned those who were living in luxury and ease, pointing all to the one plumbline that He was to put in their midst once for all, which was Jesus. Amos' message is still good for souls to take heed to today. Unless a person truly repents and turns away from his sins completely, he will have no favor with God. Our lesson reveals the sad fate of those who refuse to turn from their own ways. Stephen, in his address to the Jewish leaders at his trial (Acts 7:42-43) quoted from this portion of Amos' prophecy. It was a stinging rebuke to sinful people and their leaders who professed to be God's people, but who in their hearts worshipped the works of their own hands.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Can a person really find God if they do not seek after Him with their whole heart?
2. What should the vastness of the heavens and their glory cause us to consider?

3. In what way should we keep silent in this evil time? In what way should we NOT keep silent?
4. What must a person do so that the Lord will be gracious to him?
5. To whom will the day of the Lord be darkness and not light?
6. Will the ungodly and sinner escape if they neglect this great salvation?
7. Why will not God accept many people's religious endeavors today?
8. Does God have pleasure in the beautiful pipe organ that is played in so many places of worship?
9. Did literal Israel as a whole really please God?
10. Who were they really serving?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The message of Amos and these minor prophets (not minor in importance) is needed today because the same devil and evil influence that troubled Israel is still troubling the souls of men. Sin is still ruining people. People still loathe giving up their ways even as Israel did back then. People are still seeking other ways to worship God rather than the way He wants them to. We still have manifold transgressions and mighty sins separating hearts from the blessings of the Almighty. Sin must be renounced and fully repented of and forsaken. In the individual soul there must be an earnest seeking of God with all the heart. All selfish and carnal activity must be silenced in fear and respect to Him who created the heavens! Wormwood and spiritual poison is everywhere in our society. The pride of man keeps him from being humble and teachable to learn the way of the Lord. All these conditions are prevailing now in people just like they were in the days of Amos and literal Israel. It is one thing to say and it is quite another thing to do. Many people can talk real big religiously. They can sing religious songs with such fervor that we wonder how they can do it. But at the same time they are singing so seemingly devoutly, there is sin in their life. Although the music and singing may sound good to the natural ear, in the ears of God it is a stench. It means nothing to Him. Their flowery sermons

and smooth speaking is nothing with God. God wants judgment and righteousness. Israel professed to be God's people, but in reality they were worshipping the gods of their own devising. So it is today. Oh, that people would turn wholeheartedly to the Bible way of holiness in true faith and repentance!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One of the worst things to experience is a bad smell. No one likes to hang around where their nostrils are assailed by something malodorous. It would be a strange person indeed who found pleasure in sharing space with a spraying skunk. When the odor is so strong that you have to hold your breath, survival would only allow about three minutes of tarrying time. This is the analogy the prophet Amos used to express God's dislike for Israel's supposed worship of Him. It was repugnant, and He refused to attend the mockery.

One would wonder, if the conditions were so revolting, how could they themselves find enjoyment in it? One of the wonders of life is the fact that if you create a condition, it is part of you, and therefore acceptable, even if it is unsanitary. I don't suppose a skunk finds his odor that offensive, but to all other creatures of smell, it is very disgusting. We should be aware that how we perceive ourselves, may not be how others perceive us. We should open our hearts to God's likes, dislikes and analysis; for He is the one who sets the standard for purity and righteousness. God told Israel to clear the air of their vile hypocrisy, and then He would be with them. Honesty and a love for that which is good is all that is required for God to find pleasure in our company, and enjoy our praise to Him.

—Wayne Murphey



AUGUST 8, 1993

**THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOUSE
ABOVE ALL ELSE**

Micah 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and the people shall flow unto it.

2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

6 In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;

7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

8 And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

11 Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.

12 But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.

13 Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.

MEMORY VERSE: For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever. Micah 4:5.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: In Christ Jesus and His full salvation, we are lifted up above this present evil world to a plane of peace, safety, strength and victory over sin.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Micah 4:1), "*Flow unto it*": The Hebrew word for "flow" means to sparkle, to be cheerful, to assemble and flow together. (V. 3), "*Plowshare*": a hoe or digging implement for working in soil. "*Pruninghook*": a knife used to trim trees and shrubbery. (V. 6), "*Halteth*": crippled or lame. (V. 8), "*Tower, the stronghold*": the firm and unshaken refuge that we find in Christ, the triumphant peace and safety of the holy and pure heart. "*The first dominion*": the rule, the authority, and power of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Micah's prophecy came at about the same time as Hosea and Isaiah, in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah; kings of Judah. He, like the other prophets, was bold in his denunciation of Israel for their sin and departure from God's ways. Micah sought to maintain his faith and courage in the Lord despite the apostasy around him. He declared in Micah 3:8, "But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin." He spoke directly to the heads and princes of the house of Israel, those who were abhorring judgment and perverting all equity. He charged them that they were building up Zion with blood and with iniquity. He said that they were judging for reward, teaching for hire, and divining for money, saying, "...Is not the Lord among us? none

evil can come upon us." But Micah warned them that Zion and Jerusalem would be plowed as a field, and become heaps. His prophecy came to pass when the city of Jerusalem was ravaged by the Babylonians and the people were carried into captivity. But the Spirit of God pointed him to a day of victory which would come to pass in the New Testament Church which the Lord Jesus would establish. Much of the church world believes that this prophecy will be fulfilled in a thousand year reign when Jesus comes again. But it is fulfilled now in the triumphant Church of God. It is NOW that we learn war no more. It is NOW that we are lifted up above the hills of man-made churches and religions. It is interesting to note that verse 1-3 in our lesson is found also in Isaiah 2:2-4.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. How is the Church of God exalted up above this world?
2. What kind of spirit must people have that will cause them to flow together unto Zion?
3. How do we beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruninghooks?
4. How can we have true peace and security today?
5. What can God do for the ones who confess their needs of Him?
6. What is mount Zion today?
7. What is the tower of the flock?
8. What do the worldly minded think of the true saints of God?
9. How do the saints of God break people in pieces?
10. What will happen to all who hate the Church of God?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

How wonderful it is that we live in the time when the prophecies of these prophets have been fulfilled! In the fulness of the grace of God in Christ we can dwell in the beautiful Church of God, in the top of the mountains, spiritually, and we are exalted up above the hills of man-made and man-ruled institutions and churches. There are many of these hills

around us in the world. Each one is a high place of human effort to worship God, but sin is condoned and not repented of. The Spirit of God does not have a place in their worship. Man-rule and authority is the leading influence. We do not have to be a part of these institutions of men. We can be led by the Spirit of God. We can refuse the works and promotions of the pride of man. The standard of God's word is a high and holy standard. Nominal Christianity will permit one to be a part of the church and still partake of the spirit and ways of the world. You can be in adultery and be a preacher or Sunday School teacher. Many smoke and drink and are still active members of the church. Most of the worldly churches do not believe that we can live free from sin. They do not believe that we can reign now. But they teach that in the thousand-year reign, old Satan will be bound and we can reign then. They are raised up in a form of worship to God, but their standard does not come up to the Bible standard. But God has a way for us to go, and His grace is sufficient to lift us up to a higher ground than what the nominal churches teach. Let us take the Bible way of holiness and victory over sin. Without holiness and purity of heart we will not make it into heaven, and we cannot be part of His pure and holy Church in this world. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One writer makes these comments about prophets. "The prophets of God were anciently called seers, for they had a supernatural sight, which could pierce through the gloom of the future and behold things which are not seen as yet, but which God hath ordained for the last times. They frequently described what they saw with spiritual eyes after the form or fashion of something which could be seen by the eye of nature. The vision was so substantial that they could picture it in words, so that we also may behold in open vision the glorious things which they beheld after a supernatural sort."

One of the most beautiful prophecies is Micah 4:1. "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." No doubt as Micah stood on Mount Zion and

looked at the beautiful temple Solomon had erected, his heart went out in admiration. The yearly sacrifices, the times of Jubilee and the time of gathering of the tribes were dear to him and drew at his heartstrings. Yet his yearnings and his soul went out to something deeper. The vision God gave him caught the glimmer of a spiritual gathering. The golden domes were replaced with grace resplendent. He beheld the priestly duties to be done by the Messiah, once and for all at Mount Calvary, so that the gathering of the people would not be for the sad function of having their sins forgiven, but for the praising of a life victorious over sin. It was the Spirit of God that inspired this vision, and it is the Spirit of God that can open our eyes to its present day realities and beauties. —Wayne Murphey



AUGUST 15, 1993

**CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST
BRINGS US FORTH TO THE LIGHT**

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

7 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

9 Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

Micah 6:6 Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

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

Micah 7:5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

7 Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

8 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

9 I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

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

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Whosoever will humble himself and confess his sin, submitting to God, and will wait upon Him with expectant faith and confidence, will be brought forth to the light of salvation and fellowship with God.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Micah 5:2), "*Ephratah*": another name for Bethlehem, meaning fruitfulness. "*Whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting*": Christ came forth from eternity. The Septuagint says "from the beginning, from eternity."

LESSON BACKGROUND

Today's lesson will be drawn from Micah again. We find that the first verse of our lesson is the prophecy of Christ being born in Bethlehem. This was the scripture that the scribes read to Herod upon the visit and inquiry of the wise men who had come from the east to pay homage to the new born King of the Jews. This is followed by other beautiful prophecies of Jesus and the victory He would bring for God's people. Then we have the comforting and inspiring utterances of the prophet under the moving of the Holy Spirit concerning what is good and what the Lord requires of us. Plain and simple are the counsels of the Lord with regard to what pleases Him. God's controversy with Israel reminds them again of their deliverance from Egypt and how God frustrated Balak, the king of Moab, who consulted with Baalam to curse them. We then have the warning in Micah 7:5-6 about a man's enemies being those of his own household. Our Saviour quoted this in Matthew 10:35-36 when he stated that He came not to bring peace upon earth, but rather a sword. Verses 7-9 are the expressions of faith and confidence to be had in patiently humbling one's self and waiting on God to bring him out. The last three verses exalt the great loving kindness of the Lord in mercy and forgiveness for those who have transgressed against Him.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was there to be in the little town of Bethlehem that would make it to be special?
2. What is said about Jesus that tells us of His eternal origin?
3. What was Christ to do in the strength of the Lord?
4. Why do we not have to tarry or wait for the help of man in our lives?

5. What enemies do we need to cut off from our lives?
6. What can we come before the Lord with that will gain His favor?
7. What does the Lord require of us?
8. Why is it dangerous to put confidence in a guide or friend?
9. What causes our own relatives to be our enemies?
10. What does God do in His goodness to lost humanity?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

How blessed to behold Christ, our Lord and Saviour, coming from the riches of eternal life down into this world to rescue us from the clutches of sin and Satan! He lifts us up from the flesh and its feeble support to faith and confidence in the living God. As the great Shepherd of the sheep, He yet stands and feeds in the strength of the Almighty. He conquered sin, death, and the grave, and fills us with overcoming power to rule in the midst of our enemies! We can be like a lion, in strength and courage to tread down the powers of Satan beneath our feet. We are given the opportunity and invitation to come before our God. And not only does He give us this blessed invitation, but He kindly instructs us how to come; not looking for special gifts that He already owns anyway. God wants to see righteousness, love, mercy, and humility in our hearts as we reach out to Him. Oh, how we need to cast out our pride in heart-felt contrition and humble ourselves to walk with God! His way is a lowly way, far from the thoughts and imaginations of the proud and scornful. And yet how careful and on guard we must be against the devices of Satan and those he works through. We have no confidence in the flesh. Though we love people and yearn to help them, yet we are always aware of their weakness and instability. We cannot trust in man. He can fail and lead us in the wrong direction. We have learned to look earnestly and simply to God for all things He has promised to supply. Even if we fall or sit in darkness, God knows where we are and will bring us out as we wait and trust in Him. We bid adieu to the bondage of sin forever. We will partake of the mercy promised to Abraham and to the children of faith unto the end. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Louis XI of France once made out a deed in which he gave the province of Boulogne to the Virgin Mary but expressly stated that all the income and revenues should forever be paid to himself and his heirs. He gave everything for his religion but did it in such a way that he made no personal sacrifice.

There are some heathen rituals which require the death of a young woman. That sounds like an extreme sacrifice, but the only benefit of a life given in this manner is a temporary assuaging of the societal conscience. Micah realized that young calves or a thousand rivers of oil or even the giving of his firstborn affected no lasting benefit.

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Here is a personal sacrifice that each one must make. It doesn't bring hurt to anyone else for the sacrifice to be made, but rather is a blessing to those around you. It doesn't cause the inner-man to quake with fear, but is something that can be embraced with joy. It isn't a temporary "fix," but an eternal walk with God.

—Wayne Murphey



AUGUST 22, 1993

GOD'S ANSWER TO THE CRY OF A SOUL DISTRESSED BY SIN

Habakkuk 1:1 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.

2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!

3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention.

4 Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder

marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

12 Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.

13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon my tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

2 And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it.

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

9 Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

12 Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of host that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

MEMORY VERSE: Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:38-39.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Despite the presence of sin in the world and its pressing powers around us, we can triumph over it all by obeying God and fully trusting in Him through the faith of His Son, Jesus Christ.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Habakkuk 1:5), "*Regard, wonder marvellously*": The Hebrew expression here is "and be amazed, and be amazed!" (V. 13), "*Deal treacherously*": deal deceitfully. (Habakkuk 2:1), "*Stand upon my watch, and set me upon my tower*": The Hebrew says, "On my guard I will stand and set myself upon the bulwark." (V. 13), "*The people labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity*": In the Hebrew this verse reads: "Behold, is it not from Jehovah of hosts that peoples toil only for fire, and nations grow weary only for emptiness?" This is surely what people of our world are doing today. All their toil and labour is going to be destroyed and all their weary outreach will be for nothing. This is the vanity that God has put upon the human race on account of sin.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Very little is known of this prophet, but what is known gives him much credit for being a holy and venerable man of God. His writings are very sacred and deep with Holy Spirit inspiration. His anguish and sorrow for the sins of Israel are coupled with the joyous anointing of the Holy Spirit revealing to him the answer to his sore distress. The answer in chapter two and verse four is a much quoted scripture in the New Testament. We use its quote in Hebrews as our memory verse. This is the Septuagint rendering of this verse, turned around somewhat. Here is the Septuagint from 2:4 in our lesson: "If he should draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him, but the just shall live by my faith." This scripture is a key note in Paul's writing in Romans, Galatians, and also in Hebrews. The just shall live by the faith of God, the faith of Christ, which faith must become his own individual relationship with God. It is also to be noted that the warning in chapter one and verse five is quoted by Paul at Antioch in Pisidia in Acts 13:40-41 at the close of his message preached to them that day.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Is an abhorrence for sin a necessary element of a godly spirit?

2. Why was God constantly reminding the prophet of the iniquity and sin around him?
3. What kind of conditions were prevailing in Habakkuk's time?
4. What caused Habakkuk to want to stand upon his watch and tower to see what God's answer would be?
5. Should we not today seek God's answer for the conditions of our time and what He would have us to do?
6. What did God say about the vision?
7. What should we do if the fulfillment of our need should tarry?
8. Can faith and pride work together in the soul?
9. What will happen to any work of man that is not founded by righteousness?
10. In what way are people today working for the fire and wearying themselves for vanity?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Our lesson today reveals a great secret of the New Testament plan of salvation. The just shall live by faith is the message that Christ and His apostles established in the earth. This was the answer that God gave to Habakkuk in response to his earnest seeking and sorrow for the sinfulness of backslidden Israel. The Hebrew says, "His soul which is lifted up is not upright in him," and the Septuagint translation (which the New Testament writers used) says, "If he should draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." So we can see that drawing back in unbelief and being lifted up in pride go hand in hand. We must keep lowdown in humility and keep moving forward in our faith. All along the way is opportunity and temptation to draw back or get lifted up in pride. This was Israel's downfall, drawing back in unbelief and being lifted up in pride. Such is the downfall with many souls today. Pride and unbelief genders sin and transgression. Along with this pride and unbelief is a lack of reverence and respect for the Word of God. Had Adam and Eve maintained a proper respect for the commandment of the Lord, they would not have fallen prey to the temptation of the devil. It is for us today to carefully love and give God's Spirit and God's word the rightful place in our

affections. Love and respect for God's Word will cause us to have a listening ear, and by hearing the Word faith is inspired. Faith and humble submission to God produces the fruits of purity and holiness. Yes, the prophet spoke the truth when he said, the just shall live by faith. Faith that works by love is that which avails with God, and will bring the righteousness that God is greatly pleased with in the soul of the redeemed in Christ.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A small boy and his sister had quarreled most of the day. Finally, the little girl, wishing to stop the squabbling said, "Now let's act like we are brother and sister." Doesn't that sound typical? Man is born with the undauntable spirit of self, and is historically bad about taking something in silence. Especially do you not cross or bother someone who is already having a bad day. There are some people, that if the slightest gale of criticism blows their way, you had better batten down the hatches and stay below the decks. But I admire Habakkuk's attitude. He was deeply concerned for Israel, and yes, he was discouraged because things were going badly and God wasn't dealing out justice to the wicked. In his anguish he was bringing these things before the Lord, but listen to how he ended by saying, "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved." In the trying time, he was man enough and had enough grace in his heart to actually look for what the Lord had to say. And he wasn't looking for smooth sayings. He was expecting reproof. Then he would watch to see what he would answer when he was reproved. You can generally tell what kind of mettle a person is made of by the answer they give when they are reproved. If it is an off-the-cuff retort, then they still have childish carnality. If they are careful and watching what they say, then there is maturity that is developed by Godly grace.

—Wayne Murphey



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AUGUST 29, 1993

HABAKKUK'S VISION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

Habakkuk 3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.

2 O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

8 Was the Lord displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

9 Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

11 The sun and the moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundest the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom neither shall the fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

MEMORY VERSE: Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; ...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:17-18.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: God has shone forth upon the souls of men His majesty, His power, His goodness, His holiness and His wrath against sin and evil. It is for every soul to tremble with fear and yield all to God and let Him work His work in us through Christ that we will be prepared for that great day of His final judgment.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Habakkuk 3:1), "*Shigionoth*": The Hebrew meaning for this word is "wandering, erring and straying." It is surely a poem concerning the wrath of God against the straying of man. David has in the heading of the 7th Psalm a word "*Shiggaon*" which is from the same word as *Shigionoth* of the Hebrew. The Hebrew text reads: "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet concerning the erring ones." This seems to be the most likely meaning. However, as we view and study the expressions in this chapter and stand in awe at its deep and mysterious expressions, we may see it as a poem that the definition in Strong's Hebrew Dictionary calls a dithyramb, with great passion and zeal. This is such a poem, filled with wrath and indignation against sin, but with passion and earnestness for salvation and deliverance. (V. 3), "*God came from Teman*": Teman was a capital city of one of the provinces of Edom (Idumea) which was to the south of Palestine. The principle word Teman in the Hebrew means "south". In a spiritual sense south indicates warmth

and goodwill while north means coldness and adversity. God comes from the south in burning wrath and glowing love. It also could have reference to God coming from the rejected (Esau, Edom) unto His chosen, (Jacob, Israel). "*From mount Paran*": The principle meaning of Paran here is brightness. God came in brightness and glory. (V. 4), "*Horns out of his hands*": projections of power and rays of light. "*hiding of his power*": the covering of His strength, clothed with mystery surpassing all human understanding. (V. 6), "*His ways are everlasting*": His goings and doings are backed by the eternal decree. (Cannot you see Christ in all of these things?) (V. 7), "*Cush and Midian*": These two Arabian peoples were struck with terror at the God of Israel as they passed through on their way to Canaan. We see various scenes of God's working with Israel in these things. (V. 9), "*Thy bow, thy word*": This verse gives a clue to help us to understand the spiritual language here. He made naked, He bared (made it to be seen) His word, the gospel. (V. 13), "*Discovering the foundation unto the neck*": revealing the main support of evil and rebellion against God, which would be PRIDE. (V. 16), "*My belly trembled*": This is the expression of fear and deep reverence that should be in every heart before God in response to His mighty works and power. "*That I might rest in the day of trouble*": It should be the highest resolve in every soul to so yield to the Lord so as to escape the day of His wrath that is sure to come.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is a poetical prayer and expression of the prophet toward God concerning His wrath against sin and His manifestation toward Israel and toward mankind in general by means of the gospel of Christ. Mixed in are references to God's manifestations to Israel in Egypt and His bringing them through the Red Sea, the wilderness and Jordan river to Caanan. It is a deep writing filled with spiritual insights to the working of God, not only in ancient times but in this present day of the gospel. He spoke on earth back then, and now in these last days He is speaking to us

from heaven. It ends with a joyous note of victory, a victory that we can all have if we will keep ourselves from sin and continue to follow His holiness. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the reaction in the soul when one really hears what God is saying?
2. Do we need God to revive or give new life to His work in our hearts?
3. Of what value to us is the workings of God in times past?
4. What was God doing in this vision?
5. What is God's bow?
6. How were the natural forces affected by God's coming forth, and what spiritual meaning could they have?
7. How did this vision affect Habakkuk?
8. What desire did he express?
9. What did he purpose to do regardless of conditions around about?
10. Is there anything in this world that need hinder us from loving and serving God?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

In this prophecy of Habakkuk we see the awesome power of the Almighty God going forth for the salvation of His people working through His prophets, His saints and especially through His Son and those who follow Him. He came forth in power and might to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage. He comes now in the personage of His Son, manifesting His power, showing His love and willingness to save all who will turn from their sins to serve Him alone. All the powers of nature and humanity crumble and melt before Him. "...who hath hardened himself against God and prospered?" Job 9:4 Jesus came forth as a Shepherd loving and kind to feed the souls of men; but He also came forth as the Lion of Judah, roaring out against the power of Satan and sin. Yes, Christ is seen in this, even as He bares His counsel and teachings in such plainness and simplicity that the most ignorant of man

can understand. The rod of His strength will break in pieces a rebellious world. If any withstands the gospel they do it to their own hurt and destruction. Christ is triumphant. They turned against Him, and had Him slain on the cross. But did that stop this Mighty One who went forth for the salvation of the meek and the lowly? No, it did not stop Him. He arose triumphant from the grave and ascended up on high where He waits until the time when God will make all His foes His footstool! The day is coming when He will come forth in flaming fire with ten thousands of His saints and His mighty angels to bring an end to this present age and to punish all who have refused to submit to Him. Oh, may we all tremble and deeply sense our human rottenness! May we seek to follow Him and be accounted worthy to escape all the destruction of the world and to stand before Him in that day! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This old prophet with the crooked name had the secret of a happy life. And here it is for you. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom," etc., "yet I will rejoice in the Lord." The meaning is: Although the Chaldeans invade the land and burn up the vineyards and oliveyards, hinder the harvest, steal the flocks, and rob me of every earthly possession; yet I will rejoice in the Lord. Will you and I say that in the day of calamity?

"I will rejoice." Christianity is not a system of melancholy. Many Christians may have long faces, but every true believer in God has a joyful heart. The joy of the Christian is not that superficial kind of mirth that finds expression only in "roars of laughter." It is more like the calm of the settled water in the deep sea, undisturbed by those elements that constantly affect the surface. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding...." Phil. 4:7.

"I will rejoice in the Lord." This joy implies knowledge. You cannot rejoice in the Lord unless you know Him. If you knew Him you would love Him. If you loved Him you would rejoice in Him. See that little dog creeping over to that sunny spot of the carpet? How it rejoices in the sunshine. The reason why so many Christians are not filled with joy is because they don't

abide in the bright warmth of the Holy Spirit. Friends, the cross of Christ is the only bright spot on earth where guilty men can share the joy and happiness of Heaven."

—Taken from, *Handfuls on Purpose*.



SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

ZEPHANIAH'S WARNINGS TO PREPARE TO MEET GOD

Zephaniah 1:14 The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Zephaniah 2:1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

2 Before the decree bring forth... before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you.

3 Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.

11 In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.

13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thy hands be slack.

17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

MEMORY VERSE: The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid. Zephaniah 3:13.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: By the grace of God given to us in Christ we can be changed from the ways of sin and pride unto a life of purity and holiness, fully prepared for the day of the Lord's wrath.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Zephaniah 2:1), "*O nation not desired*": a people unlovely, undone because of their sins. A true sense of the vileness of one's sins and his unfit condition should bring a person to their knees in meekness and contrition (3:9), "*Turn to the people a pure language*": change or give to the people a clear way of speech. "*Serve him with one consent*": The Hebrew says one shoulder, which indicates one mind and purpose. (V. 11), "*No more be haughty because of my holy mountain*": The Hebrew says, You shall not be high (or proud) in the hill of my holiness. (V. 17), "*He will rest in his love*": the Septuagint puts it, "He will refresh thee with His love."

LESSON BACKGROUND

Zephaniah prophesied in the days of Josiah, king of Judah. Although Josiah was a good king, trouble loomed up for Judah in the years that followed. Because of their sins against God, trouble was in store for them. Zephaniah is warning them not only of trouble and recompense in this life, but he points us toward the coming of the last great day of the Lord. The prophet assures the people of His mercy and grace

to help them to overcome the spirit of pride and rebellion that had brought them shame. He pictures them holy people, and though they are poor and weak in the fleshly way, they are precious in God's sight because they are trusting in His name.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. How will the proud and haughty of the earth meet the awful day of the Lord?
2. What does the prophet tell us to do so that we can be hid in the day of the Lord's anger?
3. Does a meek person ever feel that he is meek enough?
4. What three things does the prophet tell us to seek after?
5. What kind of people do we have pictured here who will be ready when the Lord comes?
6. In what way can we not be ashamed for our sins and transgressions?
7. What was He going to take out of the midst of them?
8. What kind of people would He leave?
9. Who can really shout and praise the Lord?
10. How does God feel about those who are saved and cleansed from all sin?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The great day of the Lord is near, 'tis surely soon to be
When from the skies will pour down God's wrath for all to see.

Foretold by holy men of yore, a promise not to fail
Although the years have many been: to some 'tis just a tale.

But to the wise the warning sounds today, afresh, anew:
Oh, be prepared to meet the Lord; doubt not the message true.

The mighty man shall bitterly that awful day behold,
His dark and gloomy fate is sealed, the judgment will unfold.

Oh, seek the Lord, ye meek of earth, Oh seek His righteous way,
Seek meekness and ye shall be hid from anger in that day.

Learn how to wait upon the Lord, and trust His keeping grace;
That when He comes you will be counted fit to see His face.

His grace in Christ affords you all you need to godly be,
A language pure, a holy life from all defilement free.

We need no more to be ashamed, our sins are washed away,
We serve the Lord with one consent, and gladly we obey.

Instead of pride and glory vain, we seek humility;
And in His holy mountain sing with joy of unity.

Though poor and oft afflicted we will trust His holy name;
He never fails to bring us out, forever He's the same.

Deceit and lies we leave behind, the truth we seek to buy;
We're not afraid to live each day, we're not afraid to die.

The Lord our God is in our midst, He's mighty yet to save;
In Him we triumph over sin, death's sorrows, and the gravel

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Here is an encouraging thought from our lesson. "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty...." The salvation of the Lord is past, present and future, as long as time shall last. The great plan of salvation, from the foundation of the world, has been fashioned to save mankind, and God's presence has been in the midst of man through the passing of ages. Sometimes in the dark pockets of sin that we hear about and see, we almost question whether God is still there, but when a soul repents of sin then it is verified to us that He is in the midst, and as Zephaniah said, "...he will save..."

"...he will rejoice over thee with joy..." Someone's recent comment over the picture of a new-born baby was, "It's precious." You probably know the feeling. Here is what Jesus said, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7. It is rather gratifying to think that we can bring joy to the heart of God and

those that dwell in heaven. It is an incentive and a challenge to bring forth fruits of righteousness so that after our conversion God can continue to have joy in us. —Wayne Murphey



SEPTEMBER 12, 1993

ZECHARIAH SEES THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

Zechariah 4:1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me as a man that is wakened out of his sleep.

2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

8 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you.

10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be

these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

MEMORY VERSE: This is the word of the Lord... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: The New Testament Church of God is likened unto a golden candlestick with seven lamps thereon. On either side of the candlestick stands an olive tree from which flows through a golden pipe the oil that furnishes fuel for the seven lamps to burn. These two olive trees represent the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (V. 7), "*Zerubbabel*": The leader in rebuilding the temple of God in the days of Ezra. (V. 10), "*Plummet*": a tin apparatus used in building for perpendicular trueness and leveling. "*Those seven*": the seven eyes of the Lord, pictured in Revelations 4:5, as the seven lamps before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. This corresponds with the seven lamps in our lesson. Jesus as the Lamb of God (in Revelations 5:6) had seven horns and seven eyes, which are also the seven spirits of God. The number seven indicates fulness or completeness. (V. 14), "*Two anointed ones*": the Hebrew text says, the two sons of the fresh oil.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The prophet Zechariah prophesied along with the prophet Haggai during the return of God's people from Jerusalem. Zerubbabel along with others started to rebuild the temple but were discouraged and hindered for a time. Zechariah and Haggai urged the people to continue building, assuring them of God's help and blessing. Along with the exhortation that Zechariah gave for the people to rebuild the temple, the spirit of prophecy pointed forward to the Saviour who would build

the real Zion and temple of the Lord. Our lesson today shows a vision that was given to Zechariah that clearly shows the New Testament Church as a golden candlestick that is fueled by two olive trees and their golden oil. Many people have questioned as to what those two olive trees could represent. With the evening light gospel of the unity of all believers, sanctification by the Holy Spirit, and loving obedience to all, has come the clear light and understanding that these two olive trees, which furnish oil for the light of the golden candlestick, are the Word and the Spirit. The Word of God working with the Spirit of God illuminates the soul and guides us in the ways of truth and holiness. In Revelations 11 we see these two anointed ones in the history of the Church. During the long night of papal darkness the Word and the Spirit prophesied in sackcloth; and in the dark and cloudy day when man rule and human organization held sway in the church world, the Word and the Spirit lay dead in the city spiritually where Christ was crucified. But with the coming of light and truth that showed the evils of sectarianism and human machinery in the Church, the Word and the Spirit came to life and once more took their place in the called out Church of God. Wherever you see an individual or a congregation that allows the Spirit of God free course in their midst and who follow all the Word of God, you will find a true representative of the Church of God that Jesus purchased with His own blood. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Zechariah see?
2. Where did the seven pipes connect from?
3. Where did the seven pipes go to?
4. What stood on either side of the candlestick?
5. How does the Word of God and the Spirit of God light up the Church?
6. What does our individual experience with God have to do with?
7. Can every saved person receive inspiration from the Word and the Spirit?
8. Does every member in the Church of God need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

9. What does the Spirit of God use to inspire, bless, and guide our souls?

10. How can the Holy Spirit and the Word be hindered from working in our lives?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Zechariah saw the picture of the New Testament Church lit up by the fuel of the Holy Spirit of God and the Word of God. We find in the Lord Jesus these two witnesses working also. Christ was begotten by the Word of God from the womb of Mary, and the Word of God worked in Him through preaching, teaching and living the truth of God. He was filled with the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God was in everything He did, even to the sacrificing of His precious life on Calvary in obedience to the Father's will. This same Spirit-filled and Word of God working is the experience that God wants everyone in His Church to have. Oh, it is a blessed experience to have the Holy Spirit inspire and enlighten your soul with the Word of God! This is the New Covenant that He makes with us in Christ! No longer does God write upon tables of stone or paper, but He writes on the tender tables of the innermost part of our being His sacred laws and precepts. And oh, how rich and blessed it is! Speaking for myself, it is the richest experience that I have ever had in my life. To feel the burning of the holy fire of love of the Holy Spirit is the sweetest joy a man can know. And with that blessedness comes the Word of God. We study the Bible, which is the Word of God to us. We read it, ponder on it, read it again, over and over. It becomes deeply rooted in the very deepest part of our love and affection. Thus it is the fuel to burn in our lives for the Master. Without the Word and the Spirit we can really do nothing. Let us seek always with all of our hearts to have these two witnesses ever present and ever working in our souls.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Weapons of warfare are an evolving industry. Countries are continually striving to build bigger, better, faster, stealthier and more high-tech means of defense and destruction. There-

fore God's message to Zechariah is good news to the Christian. "Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Anything that is accomplished for God will be done by His spirit. We don't have to stockpile rifles and hand-granades and build bunkers. A few minutes on our knees before God will produce a far greater effect than a strong-arm tactic. We can rest in the Spirit of God, knowing that He always has had more power than Satan, who will never be able to equal His dominance.

"Is it a strong congregation?" asked a man, respecting a body of worshippers. "Yes," was the reply. "How many members are there?" "Seventy-six." "Seventy-six! Are they so very wealthy?" "No, they are poor." "How, then, do you say it is a strong church?" "Because," said the gentleman, "they are earnest, devoted, at peace, loving each other, and striving together to do the Master's work. Such a congregation is strong, whether composed of a dozen or five hundred!"

"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." Eph. 3:16. —Wayne Murphey



SEPTEMBER 19, 1993

ZECHARIAH PROPHECIES OF GOOD THINGS TO COME

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

11 As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even

to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee.

16 And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.

17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young man cheerful, and new wine the maids.

Zechariah 10:1 Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the Lord their God, and will hear them.

7 And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the Lord.

8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

12 And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the Lord.

13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is

tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

MEMORY VERSE: In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people. Isaiah 28:5.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: We can rejoice and be glad in our spirits because our meek and lowly Redeemer has brought life and salvation, and cleansing for sin and all impurity, beauty and hope and peace and victory in everything that we meet up with in life.

WORD DEFINITION AND CLARIFICATIONS: (V. 10), "*Cut off chariot, horse, battle bow*": These things are cut off by the Spirit of Christ filling our hearts with His love that takes the fighting nature out. (V. 11) "*the pit wherein is no water*": the horrible pit of sin and iniquity. (V. 12), "Render double": restore twice as much as what was lost or sacrificed. Even as God gave Job twice as much as he had previously, so God will plentifully reward those who are faithful to Him. (V. 16), "*Ensign*": signal, beacon, banner. (V. 17), "*Cheerful*": The Hebrew word means flourish. "*New wine*": wine is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. (Zecahariah 10:8), "*Hiss*": to whistle or call. (V. 12), "*Walk up and down in his name*": The Hebrew says simply, "In His name (Jehovah) they shall walk. The Septuagint says, "They shall boast in His name."

LESSON BACKGROUND

From the 9th, 10th and 13th chapters of Zechariah we have gathered a precious series of encouraging prophecies concerning the salvation and hope that Christ was to bring. We have first the precious prophecy of Christ riding into Jerusalem on the colt, which was actually fulfilled, an incident that is vividly recorded in each one of the four New Testament gospels. Along with this prophecy came other encouraging things mentioned, such as: the blood of the

covenant, the strong hold, prisoners of hope, His flock, His goodness, and His beauty. How wonderful the prophecy in 13:1 of the fountain that would be opened in the Saviour's side for sin and uncleanness! And then the third part being refined through the fire as silver and gold, oh, how precious! Surely the prophet was anointed and inspired to utter these glorious prophecies of this blessed gospel day!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Does Jesus come to us in Spirit similar to the way he came to Jerusalem?
2. How will He cut off the chariot and the battle bow?
3. Where is Christ's dominion to be found?
4. What did He say He would do by the blood of the covenant?
5. What is the strong hold we are to run to?
7. In what way are we prisoners of hope?
7. How can we be an ensign or banner for the Lord?
8. What was the fountain that was to be opened for sin and uncleanness?
9. How will the Lord refine us and try us as silver and gold?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Upon the young donkey that His disciples secured for Him at His request, Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah. There was great rejoicing as the disciples hailed Him as the blessed One coming in the name of the Lord. Within a week from that day, Jesus had shed His blood and been resurrected. Still today our Lord comes to us in the Spirit and in the Word. He comes in lowliness and meekness, entreating us to follow Him and His precious holy way. It is for us to give Him welcome and bow down our lives before Him in honor and love. It means much to do this in heart. Perhaps many of those people who

spread their clothes before Him and strewed palm branches in His path did not realize what they were doing; but we can know today when we yield our hearts to Him in full submission and consecration! We turn to that strong hold, that anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, the hope of our salvation! By the blood of that everlasting covenant we are delivered from that horrible pit and the mirey clay that David spoke of in Psalm 40:2! It was a pit wherein was no water, no life, nor comfort for our dying souls. He brought us up out of that horrible pit, set our feet upon a rock, established our goings, and put a new song in our mouth, even praise unto our God! Oh, how blessed it is to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! He sends the showers of blessings upon us, and makes us to lie down in shady green pastures. We can be like mighty men in His strength. He sows us out among the people of the world. We live and let our light shine. We run and are not weary, we walk and are not faint. He brings us through the fiery trials and helps to purge our souls from the dross. We look upon Him with delight as our God, and He looks upon us with delight as His people!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." That was the day blood and water flowed from the pierced side of the crucified Christ. The dying thief rejoiced in that flow, and many a living thief since then has found peace in its stream. And stealing isn't the only sin that it will wash clean, but every transgression that the word of God catalogues.

How deep is this fountain? I think of some of the other of God's handiwork. Let your mind search out the perimeters of space or the length of eternity. Just so, as the sinner is submerged in this fountain, his feet will never reach the bottom. How full is the fountain? Nothing could staunch the love that flowed from Christ's heart for mankind, not even

the cross. This mighty stream swept the cross out of its path like a small twig in a swollen, rushing river. This fountain continually runs over its brink, never stagnating. Salvation is just as fresh today as the day it burst forth from Mount Calvary. What is the cost of this life-giving water? "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isa. 55:1. And as you follow your spiritual cravings, it is just as natural to partake of as the air you breathe. "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Isa. 12:3.

—Wayne Murphey



SEPTEMBER 26, 1993

ENCOURAGING PROPHECIES OF MALACHI

Malachi 2:11 Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the Lord which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

12 The Lord will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the Lord of hosts.

13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye

seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, and it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

MEMORY VERSE: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:10.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Through Jesus Christ and His indwelling Spirit we can be united with God in love and holiness, purified and richly blessed and prosperous in heavenly riches as His jewels and peculiar treasure.

WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: (Malachi 2:11), "*Deal treacherously*": act deceitfully. "*Profane holiness of the Lord*": to break or dissolve, to grieve or to wound the sacred fellowship that he had with God in the Spirit. Here as in other places, our relationship with God is likened unto that of a wife and husband. Here the holiness of the Lord is likened unto the object of our affections like as a man loves his wife. (V. 13), "*This have ye done again*": The Hebrew expression is, "A second thing you have done." They not only had gone after other gods, but they came also to Jehovah in prayer and weeping as if they had done no wrong. (V. 15), "*Did not he make one?*" The language of this scripture is very evidently this: God made man to be united with Himself in perfect holiness. He had the fulness of such union to be in the Spirit. And He brought about this union so that He could diligently heed to our spirit and be true to the holiness of the Lord. It is a serious message to us today. There are many ways that our hearts can be alienated from the holiness of the Lord to go after fleshly and worldly things.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Malachi is generally believed to have prophesied around 400 B.C. after Haggai and Zechariah, close to the time of Nehemiah. He was the last of the prophets that we have on record. His preaching, as with other prophets, was directed toward Israel, reproving them of their departure from the ways of God and pointing them to better things to come. He clearly prophesied of John the Baptist as going before the face of the Saviour to prepare the hearts of the people to receive Him. This is the final study in this series of lessons from the minor prophets. These are valuable truths and they are termed minor prophets only because of the shortness of their record and certainly not minor in importance.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of abomination had been committed in Israel?
2. Is it possible that this can be done today? How?
3. Why did God not regard their prayers, tears, and offerings?
4. Why is it so vitally important for us to take heed to our spirits?
5. Who was the messenger that would go before the face of the Lord?
6. Who was the messenger of the covenant who would come with refiner's fire like fullers' soap?
7. What are some of the things that WE must do if we would have the Lord open up the windows of heaven and pour us out blessings?
8. What does the Lord love to hear us speak one to another about?
9. To whom will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings?
10. What does turning the heart of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers mean?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Since the beginning of the world God has yearned for fellowship with man. But to have fellowship with man there must be a blending of spirits. God willingly extends His presence and help, but He cannot transgress the good and holy principles of Himself. That is why He had to withdraw from communion with man after they had sinned. He had to drive them out of the beautiful garden that He had planned as a setting for His fellowship with man. And then all down through the ages, God sought to have fellowship with man. There were those who did seek to draw near to Him, but even in them there arose that terrible enemy of sin. But He spoke through the prophets of the day when One would come who would bring an end to sin and make it possible for God and man to be as one once again. God was always grieved when souls that He had blessed and dealt with would depart from Him to serve other gods. He wanted a godly seed or nation to cherish and walk together with. He spoke through divine revelations and dreams to the prophets of that day when the soul of man could be truly united to Him as one spirit. This is why the prophet in our lesson counsels us to "take heed to your spirit". It is because it is our spirit that God wants to be united with. He seeks no fleshly relationship with us. He seeks a blending of spirits, and communion of heart to heart with Him. And He knew that a blending with His Spirit would produce a like blending of spirits among us with one another. Thus God would have for a bride a nation of men and women whose hearts would be united with Him, and whose hearts would be truly united with each other.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The laws of nature are often comparable to spiritual laws. Do you know why it is that refreshing showers of rain hardly ever fall on the desert? One explanation said that the more barren the surface, and the greater the degree of heat held by the sand, the higher will be the ascent of the clouds,

and less readily will the vapours be precipitated. The more barren our heart is of God's grace, and the greater the degree of the heat of selfish desires we have, the less likely God will shower His blessings upon us. In this condition we cannot be a fruitful garden for the Lord, and He cannot take pleasure in our companionship. Malachi said, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse..." It was then that the windows of heaven would be opened and blessings poured out.

The tithe was the tenth of the increase given for the priests who served in the house of the Lord. We as Christians are not promised fulness of blessing if we give Him a tenth of our increase, although even this can bring a blessing to the soul. We are called upon to give to God that which belongs to Him. God is not satisfied when we give Him only part of what He owns. Give of yourself to Him, and see if the windows of heaven don't open and enrich your soul.

—Wayne Murphey



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