

The DAWN

VOLUME No. LXXXI, Number 11
(USPS 149-380), November 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

First-class postage paid at Rutherford, NJ. Published monthly by The Dawn Bible Students Association, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. \$12.00 a year.

ARGENTINA: A. Lupsor, Calle Almirante Brown 684, Monte Grande C.P., 1842 Buenos Aires

AUSTRALIA: Berean Bible Institute, P.O. Box 402, Rosanna, Victoria 3084

BRAZIL: A Aurora, Caixa Postal 77204, Nova Iguaçu, Rio de Janeiro, CEP 26210-970

BRITISH ISLES: Associated Bible Students, 102 Broad Street, Chesham, HP5 3ED, England

CANADA: P.O. Box 1565, Vernon, British Columbia, V1T 8C2

FRANCE: L'Aurore, 45, Avenue de Gouvieux, 60260, Lamorlaye

GERMANY: Tagesanbruch Bibelstudien-Vereinigung, Postfach 1103, 64368 Ober-Ramstadt

GREECE: He Haravgi (The Dawn), 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07070 USA

INDIA: The Dawn, Blessington, #34, Serpentine Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore 560025

SPAIN/ITALY: El Alba/Aurora, Associazione Studenti Biblici, Via Ferrara 42, 59100 Prato—Italia

HIGHLIGHTS OF DAWN

Let Us Give Thanks 2

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES

Preparation for Deliverance 16

The Beginning of Passover 18

Beginning of Freedom 20

The Beginning of the Tabernacle 22

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND DOCTRINE

The Mind of Christ—Part 11

Strength and Protection

in Christ 24

Perilous Times 43

Weekly Prayer Meeting Texts 57

ENCOURAGING LETTERS 58

OBITUARIES 62

SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS 62

CONVENTIONS 63

Let Us Give Thanks

*“When thou hast
eaten and art full,
then thou shalt
bless the LORD thy
God for the good
land which he hath
given thee.”
—Deuteronomy 8:10*

GOD HAD PERMITTED HIS

servant Moses to bring his people to the very doors of the promised land, but he who had led them with such fortitude throughout the forty years of the wilderness journey was not to enter the land himself. Realizing this, he rehearsed in the presence of the children of Israel all the various laws and commandments of the Lord which were to guide them while they dwelt in the land, and which were designed to keep them in the Lord's favor. He also reminded them of the good things that would be theirs to enjoy in that bountiful land: “The LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are

iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.”—Deut. 8:7-9

How lovingly and how generously the Lord had provided for his people! Then Moses gave them two admonitions: they were ever to give gratitude and thanks to the Lord for his goodness to them, and they were to remember and keep his commandments. The first of these admonitions is contained in our opening text, while the second admonition is found in the words directly following: “Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day.”—vs. 11

In view of all God had done for them, surely these requirements were not too burdensome. Indeed, it was for their own blessing and happiness that they should keep God’s righteous commandments. Moses knew that the very act of regularly rendering praise and glory and thanksgiving to God would serve to keep alive in their hearts an appreciation of his great goodness to them, and thus encourage them to walk obediently in his ways. However, their carnal hearts betrayed them, and they did not always remember their God with grateful hearts. They disobeyed his commandments, and thus failed to gain the fullness of the promised blessings.

ANOTHER BAND OF PILGRIMS

The words that Moses used to describe the blessings of the land which the Israelites were to possess might well be used to picture the rich bounties of that new world on the shores of which another, but smaller, band of refugees first set feet during the

harsh winter of 1620. These, also, had fled from bondage—religious bondage—and hoped to find liberty and happiness for themselves and their children in the new world across the ocean. That first winter was difficult, and many died, but the following year, when the harvest was in, the survivors gathered together to enjoy the fruits of their labors. Though the harvest was meager, and their baskets not full, they rejoiced in their good fortune, and remembered to give thanks to their Creator.

These were the humble beginnings of what was to become a mighty nation, and that simple celebration on the shores of Massachusetts Bay almost four centuries ago was the origin of our present Thanksgiving Day. In keeping with custom, each year the fourth Thursday of November is proclaimed by the President of the United States as a day of thanksgiving. Surely one would suppose that the people of this most prosperous nation in the world would have much for which to be thankful.

We ask, however: What is happening in this “good land,” this land of plenty, of “liberty and justice for all?” What is the mood of the people? True, there is relative abundance in this land, and the people enjoy a large measure of freedom. Yet, along with the plenty there is still poverty for many. Along with the freedom there is frustration, injustice, discrimination, and general dissatisfaction with the status quo. Social and moral sickness is also poisoning the land, the symptoms of which are revealed in lack of accountability, loss of work ethic, widespread immorality, and increasing disregard for the rule of law.

The world's financial and economic ills seem to defy all attempted remedies by the best efforts of their leaders. Even at this writing, the government of the United States has had to shut down many of its offices and departments, due to a lack of cooperation among lawmakers to overcome the federal budget impasse. While all this is going on, social unrest continues and wars kill and injure thousands in many parts of the world. Growing discouragement and hopelessness among many are heightened by the general feeling that there is no way out of these problems. Indeed, it appears that the solution of any given problem seems merely to beget new ones, or heighten other existing problems.

CAUSE FOR THANKFULNESS?

Under these conditions the mood of many, not only in this country, but in the whole world, seems to be one far from thankfulness. Certainly, for many in the world, as a result of the great increase of knowledge during the last century and a half, the standard of living and general well-being has been substantially improved. However, many in the world have not been the beneficiaries of this increased knowledge. The dwellers in slums and ghettos, the malnourished and ill-housed, the families of those whose sons, brothers or husbands are fighting and dying in war, mothers in third world countries striving to comfort their undernourished children, the enslaved of entire nations existing precariously under the cruel heel of oppressive leadership, and the untold, unhappy millions around the world—these may well ask, for what have we to be thankful? Even the sentiment of many whose lot has been

most improved does not seem to be one of gratitude for the good things they now enjoy, but of expecting and demanding still more.

Not all, however, who dwell upon planet Earth share in the hopelessness and confusion that besets so many of the world's inhabitants. As the Lord's true people view the events of the world in the light of God's Holy Word, their hearts are lifted up in faith and hope. To be sure, they are not unmindful of mankind's sorrow, nor unaware of their despair. Yet, the very events that cause discouragement and even unbelief in the hearts of the world's multitudes bring hope to the Lord's people, while increasing their faith in God and in his promises.

What we are witnessing today is not evidence that God is dead, or that he does not care about his human creation, as some suggest. Rather, it is proof that God is very much alive, and that he is, according to his sure Word of truth, taking an active hand in the affairs of mankind. What we are witnessing, in fact, is the death of an evil world order—an order under the rulership of Satan. The tribulations of this time of trouble in which we live betoken the imminent demise of Satan's evil and oppressive rulership, and the establishment of the kingdom of God with its promised blessings of life, health, peace, and security, for all the families of the earth.

CAUSE FOR TRUE THANKFULNESS—GOD'S KINGDOM

During his ministry, Jesus constantly referred to the coming of the kingdom of heaven which would bring blessings to the people. Having this in mind, and greatly desiring these promised blessings, the

disciples came to Jesus as he sat on the Mount of Olives, and said, “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming [Greek *parousia*: presence], and of the end of the world [Greek *aion*: age]?” (Matt. 24:3) After reciting the events that would occur in the world leading up to the end of the Gospel Age, prior to the establishment of the kingdom, Jesus said, “Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.”—vss. 21,22

The account given to us in Luke’s Gospel of this same period at the end of the age, provides some additional information about these troublous times. There our Lord tells us, “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be . . . upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.” (Luke 21:24-26) The Scriptures reveal that the “times of the Gentiles” is a period during which the dominion of earth would be given over to Gentile powers. It began with the overthrow of Israel’s last king, Zedekiah.

This lease of power in the hands of the Gentile nations came to an end in 1914, when virtually all the nations of what has been known as Christendom became embroiled in World War I. This war wrought great devastation upon those ruling houses representing the exercise of Gentile power in the earth. Later, World War II served further to weaken

the economic and social fabric of the remnants of these nations. How accurately Jesus had foretold the “distress of nations, with perplexity [Greek *aporia*: no way out].” These conditions have continued, and are even now still plaguing the whole world. How vividly was the present mood of the masses described by Jesus as the roaring of the sea and the waves!

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Notice how the prophet Zephaniah describes this day in which we are now living: “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. 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, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD.” (Zeph. 1:14-17) The prophet here gives us not only an accurate portrayal, in symbolic language, of the trouble in the world today, but he also tells us why it is occurring—“Because they [the nations and their rulers] have sinned against the LORD.”

The prophet continues, “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.” (chap. 3:8) Then, after thus

describing the utter destruction of all the evil systems and institutions that presently plague the earth, he tells us of that wonderful time when God's kingdom is established in the earth, when all the world will honor and praise and glorify his holy name: "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."—vs. 9

The Prophet Isaiah gives confirmation of the trouble that shall come on the earth in this day, and shows that its purpose is forever to destroy wickedness and sin. "Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. . . . And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. . . . Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."—Isa. 13:6-13

A NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH

The Apostle Peter also describes the time in which we are living as the day of the Lord which is to bring about the destruction of "this present evil

world" (Gal. 1:4), prior to the establishment of the kingdom of God. It is this work of destruction by the Lord that is bringing the distress upon the nations, with perplexity. This time is also called "the day of his preparation" (Nah. 2:3), leading to the establishment of God's kingdom, which Peter describes as that "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."—II Pet. 3:13

Surely, here is cause for thankfulness on the part of groaning humanity. The whole world should rejoice in and welcome a reign of righteousness, under a just and merciful king. Peter tells us, however, that the world will not understand the meaning of the momentous events in which they are engulfed. The day of the Lord will come as a "thief in the night," he tells us. (vs. 10) Although the very culmination of God's great plan of the ages for mankind's everlasting happiness and blessing is at the threshold, they do not know what is taking place. "As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (I Cor. 2:9) Man cannot hear the glad tidings which herald the coming kingdom, because of the din and uproar of the day of the Lord, and so the troubles through which the world is passing seem to them to be no cause for thankfulness.

UNTO YOU IT IS GIVEN

God's people, however, do understand these things, for he "hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit." (vs. 10) They remember the words of Jesus when he said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption

[deliverance] draweth nigh.” (Luke 21:28) They look up to the Lord, and lift up their heads in thankfulness and rejoice, not simply in their own approaching deliverance, but in the promised deliverance of the groaning and travailing world of mankind. They rejoice, not in the troubles coming upon an evil world, but in the fact that just beyond the destruction of this day of the Lord will come the glorious kingdom of God—the everlasting kingdom of peace, in which they will live and reign with Christ a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6) They are thankful, not merely in their exaltation to power and glory and honor, but because that righteous kingdom will bring “the desire of all nations.” (Hag. 2:7) It will be the time when “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”—Rev. 21:4

As the “present evil world” spins drunkenly on its way to destruction, what a comfort to the Lord’s people is the complete understanding of his plans and purposes, of his times and seasons. Although the meaning of these events is a mystery to the world, it is not so to the consecrated followers of the Lord. “It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”—Matt. 13:11

How blessed we are in this knowledge—and how thankful! We recall how greatly the Prophet Daniel desired to know of these things. Daniel was used of God to describe events that would mark the Second Advent, or Presence, of Christ. He said it would be a “time of trouble, such as never was since there

was a nation even to that same time: . . . many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." It would also be during Christ's Second Presence that the world's dead would be awakened from their "sleep in the dust of the earth." (Dan. 12:1,2,4) Daniel, like all others, had many loved ones and friends sleeping in death. He longed for the day when they would come forth, and so he said, "O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" It was not the due time, however, for this to be known, and the answer came, "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."—vss. 8,9

Even the disciples of the Lord were not apprised of the timing of events in the outworking of God's plan for man. In answer to their question, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" the Master said, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." (Acts 1:6,7) Although they but dimly understood the development of God's plans, they knew that the grand purpose was to bring blessings to all men, and they longed for this blessed time to come. It was not for them to know the details of these times and seasons, but by God's grace unto his people, who are living at the end of the age, it is given to know.

We alone, of all the people of the earth, understand why the world is in turmoil. As a result, we are not of them whose hearts are failing them for fear as we observe those things that are happening all about us. From the lofty vantage point of the revealed Word, we see the mighty power of God, in the hands of our present Lord, directing the course

of peoples and nations for their ultimate blessing, and our hearts are lifted toward him in thankful praise. We, like Daniel, the disciples, and all the unhappy and unknowing multitudes of earth, look with longing hearts for that wonderful time to arrive. We look forward to it with the eye of faith—a faith that is based on the sure Word of prophecy, for through his Word God has revealed to us that “the time is at hand.”

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

God’s plan for mankind in general is a restitution to perfect life on earth for all those who prove obedient in heart and in deed to the righteous laws of his kingdom, for Jesus Christ came to “seek and to save that which was lost.” (Acts 3:20,21; Luke 19:10) To the faithful followers of Jesus, however, the Heavenly Father has something far more wonderful in store. To these he has made heavenly promises. Peter tells us something of these, saying, “His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.” (II Pet. 1:3,4) Later, in this same epistle, Peter tells us of the work to be accomplished in the day of the Lord. (chap. 3:7,10,12) Finally, having these wonderful promises in mind, Peter asks a heart-searching question, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [conduct] and godliness?”—vs. 11

The troubles of the day of the Lord primarily constitute a judgment on the nations, but it will also be a special time of trial to the Lord's people. In his earlier epistle, Peter writes, "Ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (I Pet. 1:6,7) The Apostle Paul also brings this fact to our attention: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. . . . Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire [of trials]; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."—I Cor. 3:11-14

THE TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH

These admonitions are directed to the footstep followers of Christ. They strongly suggest that the Lord's people should give all diligence to make their calling and election sure, and that they should be attending to God's Word. They should be making the Truth their own, and building on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ. It is only as each has done so that he will be able to stand in this evil day. It is also the privilege of each of the Lord's consecrated ones to continue faithfully to tell forth the glad message of the kingdom. By so doing, at the very least, we shall be able to bring some measure of hope and comfort to one here or one there of the travailing world of mankind.

Not many of the world see any present cause for thankfulness. However, when the day of the Lord has done its work; when the church is finally complete and the kingdom established; when the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth as the waters cover the sea; when the righteous judgments of the Lord are abroad in the earth—then all who are in heaven and in earth shall see and appreciate the lengths and breadths and heights and depths of the love of their merciful Father. Together, they will unitedly raise their hearts and voices to their loving Creator in everlasting, thankful praise. Then will come to pass the beautiful words of the Psalmist David, “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”—Ps. 100 ■

*When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view I'm lost
In wonder love and praise.
O, how can words with equal warmth
The gratitude declare
That glows within my inmost heart?
But thou canst read it there.
—Hymns of Dawn*

Preparation for Deliverance

Key Verses: “Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, *The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto . . . a land flowing with milk and honey.*”
—Exodus 3:16,17

Selected Scripture:
Exodus 3:3-17
the bush and gave him

TODAY’S LESSON BEGINS

following some unique experiences of Moses recorded in the Book of Exodus. In the second chapter, details are given regarding his birth, Pharaoh’s daughter’s adopting him as her son, his being raised to adulthood in the royal court, his observing the suffering of his people, and his witnessing the smiting of one of his brethren by an Egyptian. Moses slew this oppressor, and when Pharaoh learned what he had done, Moses fled for his life and settled in the land of Midian. There he married one of Jethro’s daughters and began to raise his own family.

Many years later, Moses saw a bush that burned without being consumed. As he approached to observe this phenomenon, the Lord spoke to him from out of instruction about the covenant

that had been made with Abraham as well as his descendants. Moses learned it was God's intention, through him, to effect the deliverance of the Hebrews from the hands of their oppressors, and to take them into a land where they would find safety and additional blessings.—Exod. 3:3-10

Moses was distrustful of his own ability to accomplish this task. However, God assured him of the ultimate success of this undertaking, and that it would be achieved not through the wisdom and power of Moses, but rather through the hand of divine providence. Still hesitant to embark on this mission, Moses envisioned that his Hebrew brethren would not believe that he was the agent commissioned to bring to fruition what seemed to be a monumental task of leading them out of Egypt. He inquired what he should say if he were asked by what authority he presumed that he had been selected to be their leader. In reply, Moses was informed that he should tell the people, "I AM"—the self-existing one, referring to Jehovah who is without a beginning or end—sent him.—vss. 11-14

Our Key Verses reaffirm the commission given to Moses to return to Egypt and inform the elders of Israel concerning their promised deliverance from slavery into a land flowing with milk and honey.

Faithful Christians who trust God's promises likewise have the prospect of deliverance from all the foes which presently assail them. Let us always have full confidence in our Savior to lead us to this victory, if we hearken to the words of comfort given to us from the Master, as well as those contained in apostolic exhortations. "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."—Rom. 8:38,39

■

The Beginning of Passover

***Key Verse: “This day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”
—Exodus 12:14***

***Selected Scripture:
Exodus 12:1-14***

TEN PLAGUES FELL UPON

the Egyptians before the nation of Israel was released from bondage. Prior to the last plague, God gave detailed instructions to Moses and Aaron so the Israelites would be protected from the great calamity of the slaying all the firstborn males that was to come upon their captors. On the tenth day of the first month, a lamb, an unblemished yearling, was to be chosen by each household, and on the fourteenth day at evening each

Jewish family was to slaughter their lamb and spread its blood on the two door posts and lintel of their home. This would ensure that the destroying angel would pass over their dwelling, and all the firstborn therein would be spared.—Exod. 12:3-7,12

When Jacob and his family arrived in Egypt many years earlier, Joseph wisely had them continue their normal employment as herdsmen rather than place them in positions of prominence in the royal court. Furthermore, he said, “every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.” (Gen. 46:34) Perhaps this

attitude prevailed because the Israelites killed and ate their flocks while the Egyptians adored these creatures and worshipped them as gods.—*Matthew Poole, Commentary of the Holy Bible*, vol. 1, p. 103

If the Egyptians considered livestock as sacred, at the time of the Exodus the Jews would need to exercise courage by slaughtering the lambs the Egyptians venerated. By applying the blood to the doorposts and lintel as directed, the Israelites would give evidence of their faith in God's power to deliver them. "The blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."—Exod. 12:13

Our Key Verse indicates that, as a consequence of the deliverance of Israel's firstborn thousands of years ago in Egypt and the subsequent liberation of the entire nation, Jews around the world were to commemorate this event perpetually as a memorial.

The New Testament indicates that the Passover, as well as other features of the Law Covenant, were designed to bring the Israelites to an acceptance of Christ as the Lamb of God, the true Passover lamb, who was sacrificed on their behalf to take away sin.—John 1:29; I Cor. 5:7,8; Gal. 3:24

Spirit-begotten believers during the Gospel Age have been "passed over" from the plague of Adamic condemnation resting upon the remainder of mankind. Paul wrote, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church." (Col. 1:24) What a magnificent opportunity has been provided for the church—the antitypical firstborn—to have a share in the sin offering now and to assist Christ in blessing all the families of the earth in God's kingdom, soon to be established on earth! ■

Beginning of Freedom

Key Verse: “*Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.*”
—Exodus 14:30

Selected Scripture:
Exodus 14:21-30 **ONCE THE ISRAELITES** were released from Egyptian servitude they must have felt they were on their way to freedom, well beyond Pharaoh’s reach. Perhaps soon they would be in the desert and proceed on their journey safely. God, however, redirected Moses to have them retrace their steps the same way they had come, and camp near Pihahiroth. After following these instructions, they found themselves in a very difficult situation, according to human reasoning, because they were hemmed in by mountains on both sides with a sea in front of them. Additionally, some distance from the rear Pharaoh and his army were approaching to overtake them. Moses assured the children of Israel that the Heavenly Father had the situation under control. Thus he responded that they would see the salvation of God which ultimately would result in their freedom and the destruction of their enemies.—Exod. 14:1-14

God then informed Moses as to the next step to be taken to accomplish this deliverance. “The LORD said unto Moses, . . . speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the

midst of the sea. And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.”—vss. 15-18

The pursuing Egyptians were neutralized by divine intervention, as a “pillar of the cloud” served as a barrier between the camp of Pharaoh’s army and the Israelites. After Moses stretched forth his hand, God caused a wind to part the waters of the Red Sea, and the children of Israel were able to cross the passage in safety to the other side. When the Egyptians attempted to overtake them through the same corridor, Pharaoh and his hosts drowned. “The waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.”—vss. 19-28

Our Key Verse affirms God’s faithfulness in delivering Israel from her enemies, and should inspire confidence in all believers that every promise contained in his Word must surely come to pass.

In considering the experiences of Israel, Paul writes, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world [ages] are come.” (I Cor. 10:11) If, as Christians, we experience difficulties that cause us to complain or even doubt the Father’s concern for our spiritual well-being, we should pray upon the matter, rehearse the precious promises in the Bible assuring us that we will never be forsaken, and recount with gratitude the many ways in which we have been sustained and delivered in the past. Surely, the Eternal One will freely give us all things needful, if we remain loyal and obedient to him. “If God be for us, who can be against us?”—Rom. 8:31,32 ■

The Beginning of the Tabernacle

Key Verse: *“The cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”*
—Exodus 40:38

Selected Scripture:
*Exodus 40:16-30,
34,38*

THE FINAL LESSON IN

Exodus deals with the erection of Israel’s Tabernacle. God commanded that it should be set up on the first day of the year, which was approximately twelve months after the Israelites departed from Egypt. He also informed Moses where each piece of furniture should be placed.—Exod. 40:1-8

Additionally, instructions were given for anointing Aaron and his sons to minister in connection with the Tabernacle arrangement. In these instructions were provided details for the dedication ceremony and inauguration of the priesthood.—vss. 14-16; Lev. 8:1-9,24

As a faithful servant of God, Moses carried out the commands he received exactly as he had been directed. The Scriptures inform us that the visible Tabernacle associated with Israel’s center of worship pictured heavenly realities that pertain to the Gospel Age church as well as the entire human family in the future.—Exod. 40:18-33; Heb. 9:23-27; Rev. 21:1-5

God manifested his approval of the Tabernacle’s

assembly by causing a cloud to descend, and his glory filled the Tabernacle of meeting so that Moses could not enter therein. This cloud was to accompany the Israelites on all their journeys. They were to move only when it moved, and wherever it stopped, they were to remain there until it moved again.—Exod. 40:34-37

Our Key Verse emphasizes God's abiding providence upon the children of Israel. They were to realize that his divine presence was manifested by this cloud during the day, as well as by a pillar of fire that gave them light at night.

Moses was a prominent servant appointed by God to serve as the leader of Israel when they sought to enter an earthly land of promise. We would do well to reflect upon our privilege as believers in Christ of progressing towards a heavenly Canaan, with the prospect of helping to bless the human family when God's kingdom is established on the earth.

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."—Heb. 3:1-6

We can be pleasing to God by obedience to these Scriptural teachings as part of our transformation process. As we continue to complete our pilgrimage in the flesh, let our epitaph reflect that we heeded his counsel and were "doers of the word, and not hearers only."—James 1:22 ■

Strength and Protection in Christ

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
—Ephesians 6:10,11

FOR THOSE STRIVING TO follow in the footsteps of the Master, and who are engaged at this time in developing the mind of Christ, it is of utmost importance to realize that our great Adversary, the devil, is making every effort within his power to stumble and defeat us. It was so with Jesus, and it is no less so with us. To help combat this formidable foe, our Heavenly Father has provided us, through the Scriptures, the illustration of a soldier's armor. A soldier's armor in our Lord's day was made up of numerous items, and each of these served an important purpose. If any piece was not worn properly, the soldier would be vulnerable to attack, perhaps resulting in his death, by the enemy.

The “armor of God” also has numerous pieces. Each of these is vital in the conquering of the great enemy—Satan. Looking back at the life of Jesus, the “captain of our salvation,” although he was a perfect man, he saw the necessity for wearing this symbolic armor. In doing so, he was ever prepared for the attacks of Satan, whether direct, or through those whom the Adversary used to do his bidding. Jesus’ mind was firmly set in this regard, fully realizing the “wiles of the devil.” Thus, to have Christ’s mind developed in us, also means a constant vigilance and awareness of our great enemy. Further, it means that we, as did our Captain, must continually wear the spiritual armor provided by our all-wise Heavenly Father.

PROTECTION FOR THE NEW CREATURE—NOT THE FLESH

It is impossible to appreciate the value of the armor of God unless we understand what is to be protected by that armor. Paul writes, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” (II Cor. 5:17) The Christian is a New Creature in the sense that he, as an individual, has a new mental outlook on life. He is under the influence of the Holy Spirit of truth. To illustrate: one who, through certain influences and willingness of mind, has decided to become a doctor, takes a doctor’s viewpoint. He studies to be a doctor. His mind is alert to everything that will assist him in the practice of medicine, and his sympathies are for the suffering.

So with the Christian—through certain influences, and a willingness of mind, he has the viewpoint of Christ, who said, “Not my will, but thine,

be done.” (Luke 22:42) As Christ looked upon life from the standpoint of God’s plan as revealed in his Holy Word, even so does the Christian. Therefore, the armor of God is for the protection of this mental state—the new mind—the viewpoint of Christ, which the Christian has adopted as his own. Let us then examine each piece of this symbolic armor, and as we do so, we shall find that the proper use of each piece serves as a mighty protecting power.

GIRDLE OF TRUTH

The first piece of armor is the girdle of truth. (Eph. 6:14) In olden times, a girdle was a cloth garment, similar to a belt, used to bind up the robes and other outer garments while work was being performed. Therefore a girdle is a fitting symbol of work or servitude. The girdle of truth signifies that, as Christians, we are servants of the Truth. We find this clearly taught in the Bible—as Christians, we are “ambassadors for Christ,” holding forth the “word of reconciliation.” (II Cor. 5:18-20; Phil. 2:16) One may ask, “How is the girdle of truth a protecting power to the New Creature?” In answering this, we first must realize that man is so constituted that he is made to be active. If he is not active in doing one thing, he is more than likely active in doing something else. In the case of the Christian, if he has not been thoroughly convinced that he is to be a servant of the Truth, eventually he will be influenced to be a servant of some other purpose in life, even though that purpose may be solely one of self-interest. The piece of armor called the girdle of truth protects the new mind—the

New Creature—against all teachings or tendencies which draw the Christian away from being a servant of the Truth.

The girdle of truth, in totality, is comprised of the teachings of the Word of God. If the Christian understands these teachings, and brings his heart into harmony with the spirit and intent of them, he has set up in his mind a barrier to all hostile or intruding teachings. Thus the follower of Christ is protected against every misleading and intriguing sophistry of the world and the Adversary. We might illustrate the point in this way: if one were to be “protected” against losing his way on a highway, he would need to know the designated number of the road, as shown on a map, which would take him to his intended destination. He would then watch for that road number sign all along the way. So with the Christian—if he is to be protected by the girdle of the truth, he must clearly understand that he is a servant of the Truth. Believing this, and looking to the Scriptures for direction, he must act in accordance with the guidelines of the Word of God.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The second piece of armor is designated “the breastplate of righteousness.” (Eph. 6:14) The fact that it is spoken of as a “breastplate” over the vital organs of the body, including the heart, suggests that it is extremely important. There are two very prominent teachings in the Bible concerning the thought of righteousness. The first one relates to the righteousness found in the perfect sacrifice of the man Christ Jesus. He was “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.” (Heb. 7:26) He gave himself

a ransom sacrifice for Adam and his race. We, being sinners by nature, can approach God only through faith in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. We recognize that, only as we are covered by the merit of his sacrifice, do we have a standing in God's presence. This is an important teaching, and protects us from all ideas which would engender in us a feeling of actual personal perfection—a dangerous thought, indeed. It is good for us to know our condition and place, and our debt to God and Christ Jesus for redemption, the only means whereby we have a standing before our Heavenly Father. "The breastplate of righteousness" accomplishes this proper state of mind, and keeps us humble and thankful.

The second prominent teaching concerning the thought of righteousness is that which teaches us to be righteous, just, honest, in thought and motive—and to the greatest extent possible, in action and word. As followers of the Master, we are to love righteousness and hate iniquity, even as he did. This teaching, if heartily accepted and made an integral part of our character, will protect us as New Creatures when temptations present themselves to our mind. Many times we may be assailed by subtle temptations to be a little dishonest or unjust for selfish reasons. If we have on the "breastplate of righteousness," we will resist these temptations, and thus be protected from them.

ARMOR FOR THE FEET

The third piece of armor is for the feet. "[Have] your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Eph. 6:15) The word "preparation" is

translated from a Greek word, the root of which means to prepare or make ready. Therefore, the meaning would seem to be that this piece of armor prepares us, or makes us ready, to walk in the narrow way of Christ's footsteps. The explanation is beautiful and simple. The gospel of peace is the good news of the coming kingdom of God. It is good news, indeed, to know that a kingdom is to be established upon earth in which God's righteous will—not selfish man's will—shall be done, even as it is done in heaven. Then, all wars and trouble and death will cease. In due time, those who "sleep in the dust of the earth" (Dan. 12:2), will awake under these new conditions of God's kingdom, under the rulership of his son, Christ Jesus, and his faithful body members, the "little flock."

The consecrated child of God has been convinced of the truthfulness of this good news. He has accepted it, but he has done more. He has responded to the invitation to walk in the footsteps of the Redeemer, which means that he stands for the same ideals and purposes that Jesus did. He lays down his life in willing sacrifice in the service of God, which is the service of the Truth and on behalf of God's people. In connection with all this are certain precious promises of God's watch care and affection. These precious promises also include the offer of a rich reward at the end of the narrow way—"glory and honour and immortality." (Rom. 2:7) All of this—the good news of the coming kingdom of God, the invitation to walk in the footsteps of the Redeemer, and the precious promises—bring to the footstep follower of Christ a state of mind called "the peace of God." (Phil. 4:7) In the midst of the difficulties

of life, and the trouble in the world, and while he walks in the “valley of the shadow of death” (Ps. 23:4) the Christian has peace of mind. No wonder the third piece of armor is spoken of as sandals protecting the feet. Without the “peace of God,” the child of God would not be prepared to go through such difficulties. Thus, God, in a very simple way, protects his consecrated people against discouragement, and provides them with joy, peace, and hope.

A PEACEFUL CONFLICT

In still another way, we are protected by the sandals of the preparation of the gospel of peace. The Scriptures teach us to use our faculty of combativeness to resist the tendencies of the old will to be selfish and self-reliant. We must be a fighter in the “good fight of faith.” (I Tim. 6:12) We must “endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (II Tim. 2:3) However, we must not use our fighting qualities against our fellowman, but only against evil in ourselves, and in defense of the Truth. Therefore we are taught to be peacemakers: “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”—Matt. 5:9

In developing the mind of Christ, we are taught to prefer peace to an uncontrolled exercise of the faculty of combativeness. Thus we are protected against any natural tendencies we might have to argue or fight just for the sake of opposing something. When we understand that the ultimate object of discussion or resistance is to establish peace upon proper grounds, how it helps us to be self-controlled and kind. Even when we may find it our

duty to “speak sharply,” we are protected against bitterness and unrighteous anger by the sandals of peace. How simple to explain, yet how mighty in effect, is this piece of armor!

SHIELD OF FAITH

The fourth piece of armor is “the shield of faith.” Paul says, “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Eph. 6:16) The apostle, in using the words “Above all,” suggests that the shield is extremely important. If we do not have faith, or confident belief in the teachings of the Bible, then in reality we are not a follower of Christ, neither can we stand the assaults of the Adversary. Faith is increased and strengthened in at least three ways: first, by the knowledge of the attributes of God as revealed by his loving plan of salvation for all mankind; second, by a consideration of fulfilled prophecy in harmony with that plan; and third, by the witness of God’s Spirit in the individual experiences of our lives.

In the first way, how it increases our faith to understand that the Creator is loving and kind, even in permitting the reign of evil for a time. How our gratitude goes out to him when we are assured by his Word that eventually this earth will be made a paradise, man’s eternal home, and that the dead will be awakened from the tomb to live forever, if obedient to the laws of righteousness. How it increases our faith to know that God’s special reward to the bride of Christ—that of joint-heirship with his Son—is an evidence of his infinite wisdom, and not an evidence that the

(Continued on page 36)

INFORMATIVE BOOKLETS . . .

ARCHEOLOGY PROVES THE BIBLE

Designed to increase faith

ARMAGEDDON, THEN WORLD PEACE

Discusses prophecies of our day

THE BLOOD OF ATONEMENT

Basis of reconciliation with God

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

When and how?

CHRIST'S THOUSAND-YEAR KINGDOM

Christ's reign will bless mankind

THE CHURCH

The true church—how to join

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Presents hope for the unsaved dead

EVOLUTION VS. THE BIBLE

Updated text

FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Understandable and Scriptural

THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

A bright hope for Jew and Gentile

GOD'S PLAN

Illustrated by charts

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN

A series of twenty-three Bible-based lessons

GOD'S REMEDY FOR A WORLD GONE MAD

A clear and concise presentation of the doctrine of the kingdom (Available in large print)

HOPE BEYOND THE GRAVE

The Bible's teaching on the soul, spirit, heaven, hell, and paradise

HOPE FOR A FEAR-FILLED WORLD

Mankind will not be destroyed

ISRAEL IN HISTORY AND PROPHECY

Significance of the present re-gathering and rebuilding of Israel

JESUS, THE WORLD'S SAVIOR

Portrait of his qualifications

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Evidence that it is near

PEACE THROUGH CHRIST'S KINGDOM

The world's only hope

THREE KEYS TO THE BIBLE

Helps to unlock the meaning of the Scriptures

FREE TRACTS - FREE CATALOGS - BOOKLETS 50¢

DAWN DVDs—Bible Answers TV programs and convention discourses.

DAWN AUDIO—The Dawn Magazine available in CD and cassette.

Bible lectures available in CD, MP3, and some cassette.

General Convention available in CD and MP3.

SEND YOUR REQUEST TO:

The Dawn, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073

phone (201) 438-6421 and 1-888-440-DAWN

fax (201) 531-8333, e-mail DawnBible@aol.com

Visit the Dawn web page at www.dawnbible.com

... BIBLE STUDY HELPS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Paul gives an insight into the “hidden things” and “better things” of the plans and purposes of God. 150pp-\$3.00

GOD'S PLAN IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS

A chapter-by-chapter study, introducing the marvellous features of God's plan from Creation and Adam to Joseph. 263pp-\$3.00

QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

A good knowledge tester and Sunday School help. 55pp-\$1.00

THE GOLDEN THREAD

Describes the Creator's purpose throughout the ages, as outlined in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. 306pp-\$3.00

CREATION

Completely rewritten—takes you through the creative days, using the latest scientific and geological knowledge, refuting the theory of evolution. 94pp-\$1.75

THE BIBLE—THE SACRED BOOK

Answers questions that are often asked about this literary masterpiece—its origin, its structure, and its veracity. 44pp-\$0.50

HEROES OF FAITH

Two stories of faithful men of God, and their special relationship with him. Adapted from an earlier work. 52pp-\$0.50

THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

Clarifies the confusion which surrounds this universally practiced Christian tradition, and reveals the true biblical understanding of it. 24pp-\$0.50

HOW TO INCREASE FAITH

As the apostles said in Luke “Lord increase our faith”—a fruitage that all need to encourage. 20pp-\$0.50

OUR LORD'S MEMORIAL

A study of the sacred observance of sharing this solemn communion with our Lord in accordance with his exhortation. 34pp-\$0.50

FRANK AND ERNEST RADIO EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS NOTED

ARKANSAS

Little Rock KAAY 900 8:15 p.m.

CALIFORNIA

Riverside (Tuesday & Thursday)
KPRO 1570 7:45 a.m.

FLORIDA

St. Petersburg
WTIS 1110 5:00 p.m.

INDIANA

South Bend
WWCR Short Wave
15.825 MHz 10:30 a.m.

MICHIGAN

Detroit WCHB 1200 10:30 a.m.

NEW YORK

Buffalo WJJL 1440 2:30 p.m.

OHIO

Conneaut
WWOW 1360 AM 7:00 a.m.

OREGON

Portland KKPZ 1330 8:30 a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA

Red Lion (Saturday)
WINB Short Wave
13570 kHz 1:15 p.m.

TENNESSEE

Nashville WNAH 1360 9:30 a.m.

TEXAS

Dallas KBXD 1480 AM 7:15 a.m.

WASHINGTON

Seattle KVI 570 AM 8:30 a.m.

WEST VIRGINIA

Wheeling
WWVA 1170 AM 6:15 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Radio Africa #2 (Monday)
15190 kHz 8:30 a.m.

WEST AFRICA

Radio Africa (Thursday)
7190 kHz 7:45 p.m.

CARIBBEAN

Trinidad Inspiration Radio
AM 730 9:00 a.m.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Panama Radio 1470 7:45 a.m.

ENGLAND

Reflections Europe
Short Wave 3910 kHz 8:00 p.m.

INDIA

Sri Lanka Beacon of Hope
15205 kHz 14:30 UTC

PHILIPPINES

Mandaluyong City
DWSS 1494 kHz 7:00 p.m.

“Dawn Devotional Radio” Internet Radio Station

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

—Web Address—

www.live365.com/stations/dawn_radio

BIBLE ANSWERS TV PROGRAMS EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS NOTED

CALIFORNIA

Anaheim	Chan. 97	4:00 p.m.	Placentia	Chan. 95	4:00 p.m.
Anaheim Hills	Chan. 97	4:00 p.m.	Santa Ana	Chan. 95	4:00 p.m.
Buena Park	Chan. 95	4:00 p.m.	Santa Barbara (Wednesday)		
Cypress (Thursday)				Chan. 17	3:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
	Chan. 35	8:00 p.m.	Villa Park	Chan. 97	6:00 p.m.
Fullerton	Chan. 95	4:00 p.m.	Yorba Linda	Chan. 98	4:00 p.m.
La Palma (Thursday)			IDAHO		
	Chan. 35	8:30 p.m.	Boise (Wednesday)		
Lakewood (Tuesday)				Chan. 11	6:30 p.m.
	Chan. 36	6:30 p.m.	(Sunday)	Chan. 11	7:30 a.m.

**BIBLE ANSWERS on
URBAN AMERICA NETWORK**
Sundays—10:30 a.m. C.T.—Satellite Network
Check local papers and program listings for
UAN (URBAN AMERICA NETWORK)

HARVEST OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to do more to spread the Good News of the coming kingdom, here are two opportunities in which you might be interested:

1. Request a DVD copy of the Dawn's 30-second advertisements. Public Access television stations are always looking for new content. These stations offer free airtime as a public service. Contact your local station and offer to send them a copy.

2. Request a copy of our DVD catalog. Several Bible Students ecclesias are using the *Bible Answers* DVDs on their local cable stations.

Send your requests to:

Dawn Bible Students
199 Railroad Avenue, E. Rutherford, NJ 07073
1-800-234-Dawn or dawnbible@aol.com

(Continued from page 31) non-elect of the world are to suffer loss and cruel punishment.

In the second way, how it increases our faith to understand prophecy and to be able to appreciate the significance of world events, as they fit into the spectrum of God's plan. More than twenty-five centuries ago, Daniel prophesied that in the "time of the end,"—that is, the end of this present evil world, which would give place to the kingdom of God—many "shall run to and fro, . . . knowledge shall be increased," and there shall be "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation." (Dan. 12:4,1) Today, the Lord's consecrated people can see the actual fulfillment of these prophetic words in the many events of the last century and a half. During this time, we have seen with our own eyes exponential increases in man's ability to "run to and fro" by all forms of transportation. We have seen an explosion in man's ability to gain knowledge, particularly by means of electronic communication, and the nearly endless supply of information available at the touch of a computer, or by electronic devices no larger than the human hand. We have seen also the ever-increasing distress of nations, resulting in the current "time of trouble,"—the greatest period of trouble the world has ever known.

In the third way, how it increases our faith to be able to detect in our lives the witness of the Spirit. If we can trace in our life the evidences of the Holy Spirit's influence—the intention and purpose of God for us—then we have reason to rejoice and be full of confidence and trust. God's purpose for us is outlined in his Holy Word. These words of our loving Heavenly Father are especially addressed to us.

If our minds bear witness, or show a fulfillment, of God's purpose in us as expressed in his Word, then our spirit witnesses with God's Holy Spirit that "we are the children of God."—Rom. 8:16

There is much in this turbulent and changing world to challenge faith, and the shielding protection it should provide, if it were founded upon something sound and understandable. The "increase of knowledge" prophesied by Daniel has stimulated the minds of all to think. Yet, much of this thinking, and the so-called "knowledge" resulting from it, has been along the lines of error, and out of harmony with the knowledge of God contained in his Word. As a result, confidence in religious beliefs has suffered. Nothing less than this should be expected, however, because most religious belief is not based on reasonable "substance" and "evidence" (Heb. 11:1), but on ignorance and credulity. Reliance upon the Bible has suffered as a result, because the teachings generally accepted as true Christian faith have been seen to be based upon contradictory and illogical thinking, and it is supposed that the Scriptures encourage such ignorance and credulity. How thankful we are, though, that in this time when knowledge has increased, we have been provided "meat in due season" (Matt. 24:45), and have been given a portion of knowledge more than sufficient to enable us to exercise a strong faith in a reasonable and proven Bible.

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

The fifth piece of armor is the "helmet of salvation." (Eph. 6:17) As with the other pieces of armor, so with this one, the position gives us a clue to its

function in protecting us from the attacks of the Adversary. The “helmet” being worn upon the head suggests a protection in the form of knowledge, intelligence, and information. True followers of Christ all down through the Gospel Age have had knowledge from God’s Holy Word. This knowledge has been an explanation of God’s plan of salvation—a knowledge sufficient to enable each to grasp the Heavenly Father’s will concerning them.

Now, in this “time of the end” spoken of by Daniel, we continue to need the benefits provided by this symbolic helmet. We, as disciples of Christ, have special need of this helmet to enable us to stand in an intellectual world, one full of “foolish” wisdom. The increase of knowledge has discredited many beliefs that were formerly thought to be well founded in the Scriptures. Just at the right time, however, God has provided earnest Bible Students with concordances, Bible dictionaries, and numerous translations of the Scriptures. More than even this, God in his providence has given us access to exhaustive and convincing *Studies in the Scriptures*.

This is of tremendous importance to God’s people, in view of the many appeals to have our minds filled from other quarters than the Word of God. There are tens of thousands of books, websites, blogs, and opinions—all available at the touch of a computer—each one possessing the power to affect the mind in some way. How bewildered we would be if we were not provided with the helmet of a proper knowledge of the Bible, the Word of God. Our helmet proves that the Bible is true. It shows what God’s plan of salvation is, and refutes arguments against the Scriptures. It explains prophecy, and even

interprets the significance of many world events. Suffice it to say that without the helmet, we would be in total confusion, and easy prey for the attacks of the Adversary.

ONLY OFFENSIVE PIECE OF ARMOR

The final piece of armor is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph. 6:17) This is the only offensive piece of the Christian’s armor. It, like all other weapons, can be used properly or improperly. The sword of the Spirit is not intended to be used to cut and wound others, but is intended to be used in defense of one’s own position and for one’s own upbuilding. Our Lord Jesus gave us an illustration of its use, in defense of his position. Let us observe carefully the example he set us.

Turning to Matthew 4:1-10, we read, “Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungry. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding

high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

We understand that these temptations were suggestions to our Lord’s mind by the Adversary. We do not believe the Lord was literally taken to a pinnacle of the Temple, or that he was literally taken to a mountaintop. Rather, his mind formed impressions of these things suggested by the Adversary. Most importantly, though, we observe the use our Lord made of the sword of the Spirit in resisting the temptations. Not once did he bitterly accuse or threaten Satan. Instead, he counteracted the Adversary’s argument with well-chosen and properly applied Scripture. In all three temptations, he vanquished the devil’s malevolent intent with “It is written”—the sword of the Spirit. Satan also used the sword of the Spirit, or so it seemed, in the second temptation. However, he misapplied the Word of God in his attempt to stumble our Lord into unrighteousness.

CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS

The sword of the Spirit is also for the purpose of destroying those things in our character which are contrary to the knowledge of God, that every thought may be brought into full obedience to Christ. We read Paul’s words, “Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty

through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (II Cor. 10:3-5) Thus we see that the purpose of the sword of the Spirit, according to this Scripture, is to nullify all teachings and influences, even those within our own hearts and minds, that would subvert the knowledge of God. Such use of this sword should have the effect of bringing our “every thought” into obedience to Christ.

Thus, we would understand that each piece of armor, when accepted and utilized, erects in our mind an effective barrier to all opposing teachings and influences. As we have discussed, the armor itself is contained in the Word of God. However, in order to protect us, it must be “put on,” as stated in our opening text. Each piece must become essential to us and a very part of our character and disposition. In this respect, some have made a mistake. They know where the armor is and what it is, but they do not take the trouble to put it on, thus failing to make it a component part of themselves. As a consequence, they readily succumb to opposition, not even realizing that they are being overcome.

In concluding his discussion of this subject, Paul cites one more critical element which helps us to put on—and keep on—all the pieces of armor God has provided. He states, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” (Eph. 6:18) Prayer and supplication, as well as watching, are vital to the proper placement

and use of each piece of the armor, not only on behalf of ourselves, but also “for all saints,” as together we battle against the forces of Satan. This communion with God, through prayer, is our life-line in the battlefield of life. Without it, even with the armor, we would surely succumb to the enemy eventually.

Having on the armor, and exercising the privilege of prayer, means that we are alive as a soldier of Christ, alert to danger, and able thereby to defend ourselves. When the armor is properly worn, a state of mind is created, which is nearly as important as the armor itself. Our Lord was forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, weak and impoverished physically. When he came forth, however, he was strong in mind, fortified by the Word and Spirit of God, and by the prayer, supplication, and communion with his Heavenly Father that he had experienced. We also must be molded, as Christ was, by the Word and Spirit of God. We must commune with him in prayer at every opportunity. If this thought is fully appreciated, then we have comprehended the means by which we can be “strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” ■

*Oft in danger, oft in woe,
Onward Christians, onward go;
Fight the fight, maintain the strife,
strengthened with the bread of life.*

*Let your drooping hearts be glad;
March in heavenly armor clad:
Fight, nor think the battle long,
Victory soon shall be your song.
—Hymns of Dawn*

Perilous Times

“Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

—Matthew 24:21,22

THE PRESENT STATE OF

distress in world affairs has convinced many Christians that we are living in the last days as mentioned in the Bible. Consecrated believers eagerly await the reign of righteousness that will end earth’s weary night of sin. (Ps. 30:5) Although many Bible Students anticipated this glorious time of blessing decades ago, the seeming delay has served to be a test of faith. This is in harmony

with the Heavenly Father’s design for us to continue watching, waiting, and praying that daily we may be in accord with his will no matter how long it takes for this order of things to fully end.

In the process of waiting, there are two categories of events that might be useful for our consideration. First, there are those over which we have no control. Second, there are those which impact our spiritual lives directly and, therefore, require an active response on our part in keeping with how we

should order the steps of our Christian walk. In other words, there are current and future events which will impact the world in general, as well as those which will affect our lives quite personally, and to which the Lord will be especially taking note of our individual reactions.

During the first century, Paul wrote about conditions that seem especially pertinent to the day in which we live. “Mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”—II Tim. 3:1-5, *New International Version*

The world is in turmoil, and with each passing year we see changes and new problems, or old ones getting more severe. As watchers we might be inclined to wonder how much worse can things get before divine intervention through God’s kingdom will put a halt to this social order. Here is a partial list of conditions which presently exist either in America, or throughout the world, that fall into this category which we are powerless to change.

Some of these conditions include governmental corruption; moral bankruptcy; global economic turmoil; terrorist activity; trading in drugs; invasion of privacy through technology; availability of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of destruction; violence; wars; murders; suicides; religious and

racial hatred; satanic cults and worship; the Aids disease; a general lack of civility and respect; extreme weather disturbances, including earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes; child abuse; a decline in formal religious worship; pollution of the environment; the spread of new age philosophies; starvation; increasing worldwide population; and continued Middle East instability and conflict, which will only be resolved in God's due time.

There are, of course, many more items that could be added to the above. Although we are anxious for this night of sin and evil to end, we are to bear in mind that we have no control over these matters. Rather, we need to demonstrate faithful endurance in carrying out our vows of consecration, even while living in the midst of such severe trouble. The psalmist provides a helpful admonition to meditate upon in this connection: "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."—Ps. 27:14

In view of the foregoing, let us consider some of the circumstances that particularly affect the body of Christ—the second category of experiences noted previously—and which more directly impact our spiritual lives. Many of these have already commenced, and as we approach the final experiences of the last members of the church, there probably will be an intensification of perils to face and overcome if we are to make our calling and election sure. Five such areas to be addressed include: ecclesia size; family and marriage concerns; sacrifice; relevancy of Bible Student teachings; and spiritual powers of wickedness.

ECCLESIA SIZE

In most locations, ecclesias have become smaller. This is likely to continue because many of the Lord's people are completing their earthly sojourn. In other cases, brethren are aging and unable to meet. Some here and there may hold different views on various Scriptures from what they once believed, and therefore go elsewhere to obtain spiritual fellowship. Finally, fewer individuals are being attracted to the heavenly calling in many parts of the world. Will brethren cease to meet if the ecclesia gets too small? From a practical standpoint, it may no longer be feasible to rent a meeting hall. Thus, the consecrated may be tested as to whether they still hold to the promise that where two or three are gathered together in his name, the Lord will be in the midst to bless them. (Matt. 18:20) This may result in more use of homes for Sunday meetings, which many classes already do. In other cases, brethren of different ecclesias who are in close proximity to each other may initiate some joint fellowship which may ultimately result in coming together as one new class.

There also are online and telephone meetings, which enable brethren to fellowship together even though they may live a great distance from each other, and sometimes even in different countries. As world conditions worsen, however, will brethren become tempted not to meet together because of concerns for physical safety? Even today, many brethren, especially some of the elderly, may feel more comfortable attending a meeting during the daytime rather than going out at night, and if they all are retired, this might work out very nicely for them.

If increased persecution of the Lord's people becomes a greater reality in the future, how will brethren react? Many ecclesias have active witness projects, and their addresses and names can easily be found. Bible Student groups can be found on the Internet, and many of their publications sent throughout the world are accessible to all kinds of people. Broadcasts on radio and television by the Lord's people are commonplace. Consider the difficulties that brethren have from time to time in finding suitable locations for holding conventions, because of doctrine that may be at variance with other established beliefs. If the powers that be wish to locate the brethren, that will not be difficult in this day of widespread surveillance. Suppose the authorities forbade our assemblage together, what would brethren do?

It is not our purpose to say what might be the proper course to take under such circumstances. However, the Early Church also faced issues when the authorities in power attempted to thwart the spread of Christianity. These believers' attitude was that they would obey God rather than man. In view of their attitude, let nothing deter us today from fulfilling our responsibilities to edify and build one another up in the most holy faith, despite the shrinking nature of our ecclesias as the church is diminishing on this side of the veil. "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."—Heb. 10:24,25

FAMILY AND MARRIAGE CONCERNS

The responsibilities involved in raising children in an increasingly godless world will continue to be a matter of deep concern for the consecrated who have chosen to have a family. Challenges for Christian parents in meeting the moral, physical, mental, and emotional needs of their young people will be increasingly more complex.

How will children be guided with regard to the media's influence presented in newspapers, magazines, ads, movies, television, music, videos, the Internet, and other electronic media? How will time be apportioned for school responsibilities, sports, extracurricular activities, clubs, and most importantly, religious training? How will moral standards of conduct be addressed with regard to choice of friendships, wearing apparel, keeping up with one's peers, and responsible use of leisure time? Parents are children's first and most important teachers, and while it is an important responsibility of parents to impart Christian values and righteous conduct to their offspring, there is great truth in the axiom, "Actions speak louder than words."

As a rule, children reflect the life and principles which they see manifested in their parents. They are also anxious to please. Even as they grow into young adulthood and feel the influence of peer pressure, if parents are consistent, loving, and patient, yet firm, children generally will not stray far from their godly upbringing. It has been repeatedly suggested that one of the reasons children, in many cases, appear to be so irreverent and disobedient, is because the behavior of adult models in their own family is being imitated. Let it not be so

among the Lord's people. May we all remember the great importance of using the Scriptures as a guide for parental conduct as a means of modeling reverence, so that children may emulate righteous behavior.—Zeph. 2:3

At the other end of the spectrum, concern for aging parents is not limited to those in the world, but often there is a need for caregiving for the elderly or infirmed among the Lord's people. Whatever the living arrangements, adult offspring frequently must be involved in providing emotional and/or physical support to a mother, father, or other family member. If they are consecrated believers, their spiritual needs also must be supplied. Given the increasing complexity of today's world, whether brethren have dependent children or aged parents, meeting such needs is quite time consuming and often emotionally draining. A great challenge in this regard is finding the proper balance between helping to meet the needs of others while at the same time not neglecting one's own personal spiritual obligations to the Lord in fulfillment of our consecration vows.

Concerning marriage, the decision to marry or not marry is a personal one. Notwithstanding the satisfaction and mutual joy which occurs when serving the Lord with a mate, some of the Lord's dear ones may come to the conclusion that for them, it would be to their best advantage in serving the Lord to maintain themselves in the single state. (I Cor. 7:24-38) Each individual believer, however, should seek to determine the Lord's will with regard to the advisability of entering into marriage. The matter should be committed to the

Heavenly Father in prayer, and should also include meditating upon the scriptural testimony concerning marriage, observing and seeking counsel from brethren who have chosen to marry, and then carefully considering God's overruling providence. After doing these things, if one's consecrated judgment seems to indicate it would be a blessing and a spiritual enhancement to continue serving the Lord within the bonds of matrimony, additional factors, including spiritual compatibility, should be considered in selecting a mate with whom to spend the remainder of one's consecrated life.

New Creatures are to be separate from the aims, ambitions, and spirit of the world, as well as the erroneous doctrines and practices generally associated with those who are merely "nominal" believers. This point is amplified by the words of Paul: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." (II Cor. 6:17) The Old Testament also explicitly reveals God's will on the subject of marriage concerning natural Israel. (Deut. 7:3,4) Such instructions from the Scriptures, and the underlying principles they contain, should surely be of great importance for consideration by Christian believers.

SACRIFICE

In a society such as ours where we are inundated with advertising about various creature comforts, the word "sacrifice" may not have much real meaning. However, as followers of Christ and engaging in self-denial, we should be very wary about the accumulation of personal possessions or cultivating earthly interests at the expense of the New Creature.

Many of the Lord's people have family obligations. These cannot be sacrificed legitimately, according to the clear statements of Scripture. With regard to our own personal time and needs, however, if done in a proper spirit, the Lord would be pleased to accept such sacrifices as a demonstration of our love for him. (Rom. 13:14) Additionally, we are admonished to "seek . . . first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," and that the Lord will provide things needful for us according to his will. (Matt. 6:33) In these matters, we must be very careful not to develop a spirit of covetousness or idolatry.

High on the list of potential idols in our lives could be a desire for wealth, or the things which money can buy. The Master speaks about the "deceitfulness of riches" (Matt.13:22), and we are told elsewhere in the Scriptures that the love of money is the root of all evil. (I Tim. 6:10) Nevertheless, the temptation to acquire wealth is subtle, and needs to be thwarted if we are truly committed to the Lord. This is not to say that the mere possession of means would cause consecrated believers to stumble, especially if it is dedicated to God's service. However, if we are motivated with a desire to increase our goods for the sake of self-gratification, then surely such should be a red flag, signaling danger.

Some questions might be posed concerning certain issues which may affect the consecrated in America who have not yet reached retirement age. Will there be Social Security in place if I live to retirement age? Should I invest heavily in the stock market to provide for my future, since pension plans are being scaled back? How much do I need to put away to reasonably insure that I have health

benefits to help cover illnesses? Does it mean I am lacking in faith if I concern myself about these matters? The Lord's people may well be impacted by many of these issues to an even greater degree in the future. In hearing about brethren in other parts of the world where, of necessity, sacrifice seems to be a way of life, what an example these dear ones have furnished as an aid to strengthening our own resolve to be faithful—here in a land of comparative plenty—as we look to a possible future of increased hardship and financial uncertainty.

RELEVANCY OF BIBLE STUDENT TEACHINGS

A century ago, Bible Students lived in a state of expectancy that the fulfillment of the prayer, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," was imminent. Despite the disappointment of having the expected kingdom's establishment delayed, a majority of the Lord's people have continued to hold fast to the prophetic understanding that we are living in the day of our Lord's Second Presence, and still strive to be faithful unto death. Such continue to appreciate the relevancy of the Scriptures which give us, as watchers, an indication as to where we are on the stream of time. "Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent

heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”—II Pet. 3:8-11

Another prophetic marker in the Old Testament also reminds us of the very times in which we live. By reflecting upon its import, we may be strengthened in our resolve to press on with diligence in our service to God, rather than to become discouraged if some earlier expectations may not have materialized at the time we might have assumed. “I will take my stand to watch, and station myself on the tower, and look forth to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. And the Lord answered me: ‘Write the vision; make it plain upon tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seem slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.’”—Hab. 2:1-3, *Revised Standard Version*

Additionally, other fulfilled prophecies, such as the return of Israel to her homeland, are supportive of the fact that we are living in the day of the Lord. The fact that everything has not proceeded in line with some of our expectations was foretold in the Scriptures, the foregoing being one example. From God’s standpoint, however, all things are progressing exactly as he has planned. Perhaps the real challenge in the future for those who continue to believe the message associated with Bible Student teachings is to press on and live their consecration with a state of expectancy, a sense of urgency, and not to be weary in well doing; but “call to remembrance

the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”—Heb. 10:32-36

SPIRITUAL POWERS OF WICKEDNESS

Another concern in these perilous times is the tremendous amount of literature concerning Biblical interpretation that is available from many sources. As more and more materials are published by those in various religious denominations, we should make very judicious use of these. This is especially true since many of their views would be inconsistent with Biblical teaching regarding such matters as: Christ died for all mankind; there is no trinity of co-equal gods; the dead know nothing; and man does not have an immortal soul. “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.” (I Cor. 10:21) Surely, no matter how much further the footstep followers of Christ must journey into the future, imbibing the pure food from the Lord’s table, coupled with a determined prayerful attitude, will be essential ingredients towards overcoming the wiles of the Adversary and his minions.

It also appears that Satan and his hosts are especially active in attempting to deceive the Lord's people through artifices along various lines, including faith healing, spiritism, or even by participating in a "social gospel" of engaging in causes to help the downtrodden, or those with chronic illnesses. Included in this might also be efforts to make this world a better place by volunteering to assist those with special needs, and surely there are many individuals who could temporarily benefit if we would devote large portions of our discretionary time to any number of noble causes. Yet, we must remember that the ultimate—and only—solution for all humanity's problems will be the kingdom of God. It should be noted that it is a scriptural principle for Christians to do good to all as we have opportunity, but primarily our focus should be on the "household of faith" and their spiritual interests.—Gal. 6:10

One of the possible means by which the Adversary and his cohorts might seek to ensnare the consecrated relates to the issue of health. All mankind can attest that physical and mental deterioration are very much a part of life, and the desire for optimal well-being is a very natural desire. We seek medical advice and treatment for a variety of ailments, but because of the death sentence passed upon Adam, all his progeny eventually die. Paul spoke about his "thorn in the flesh" (II Cor. 12:7-9), only to learn that it was not God's will for him to be relieved from it, but instead, sufficient grace would be provided that would enable him to bear this adversity.

When we suffer some type of pain or illness, and cannot obtain relief from traditional medical

practitioners, we may be encouraged to try some alternative form of treatment. Although many of these may be deemed acceptable to the Lord's people, others seem to violate the spirit of a sound mind, in that they rely on practices that contradict our understanding of the Scriptures. One such example is Reiki. Practitioners of this mode of therapy indicate it will enhance relaxation, reduce stress, and promote healing. It is administered by "laying on hands," and asserts that an unseen "life force energy" flows through us, which is what gives us life and relative health. Furthermore, if the "life force energy" is low, so it is claimed, then we are more likely to get sick whereas, if it is high, we will likely be more healthy. If such a temptation should come to any of us to try this, or some other similar approach to improve our health, in contradiction of scriptural principles, we would be well-advised to follow the wisdom contained in the Bible. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."—James 4:7

In our consideration of the perilous times in which we live, we should be ever mindful that God's kingdom will create a new world order. If faithful, we will have the privilege of helping to share in the blessings that will accrue to the human family at that time. It is apparent also that Satan is eager for his present reign as the "god of this world" to continue and, therefore, will seek to use his influence to prevent us from making our calling and election sure.

May we continue to employ those principles of godliness, prayer, study, fellowship, obedience to the Word of God, and the cultivation of the graces

of the Spirit, so as to be faithful footstep followers of the Master. “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”—II Pet 1:10,11 ■

*“Keep the form of those true words
which you had from me, in faith and love
which is in Christ Jesus.
That good thing which was given to you
keep safe, through the Holy Spirit
which is in us.”
—II Timothy 1:13,14
Bible in Basic English*

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

NOVEMBER 7—“And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God.”—Revelation 20:4 (Z. ’00-285 Hymn 134)

NOVEMBER 14—“Take heed unto yourselves, . . . for grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”—Acts 20:28-30 (Z. ’04-74 Hymn 293)

NOVEMBER 21—“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.”—James 1:2 (Z. ’02-133 Hymn 275A)

NOVEMBER 28—“When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?”—Job 34:29 (Z. ’96-259 Hymn 106)

ENCOURAGING LETTERS

FUNERAL HOME WITNESS

Dear Dawn: Thank you for your recent letter. We once received this publication from you, but had not heard from your company in a while.

I give the booklet, *Hope*, to each family I service in hope that they will find hope during the time of their loss of a loved one. We thank you.—LA

GIVING HOPE

DawnBible: [DawnBible.com] is very helpful in giving hope to/in our struggles in this life.—WA

MYSTERY TO MANY

DawnBible: Thanks my dear brethren for your research into the Scriptures, for digging deep into the truth about our creator Jehovah and his son Jesus Christ which is still a mystery to many.

The truth as it is hidden in the Scriptures which had been expounded has brought light into the world for those who diligently seek him.—Nigeria

HEBREWS STUDY

DawnBible: I have just looked at your site and found it very interesting, although I have only had a brief look at a lesson on Hebrews, chapter one [*Study on the Book of Hebrews*]. I will certainly revisit soon.—United Kingdom

FINDING THE TRUTH

DawnBible: I truly enjoyed reading several of your articles. Your articles seem to be based on facts, scientific approach and I can tell your desire of finding the truth. Thank you and God bless.—Canada

A GREAT BOOKLET

DawnBible: I am enjoying the booklet that was sent to me, *Archaeology Proves the Bible*. It's a great booklet. Thanks so much for it.—OR

LITERATURE AND LECTURES ONLINE

DawnBible: I have been reading the literature online as well as listening to the lectures. I loved it so much, I just was talking to

a nice lady and ordered a year's subscription. May the Lord bless you wonderful people. Have a great day.—Canada

CREATION LESSONS

DawnBible: I am a graduate of Dallas Theo. Sem. and Mission Theo. Sem, and over 50 years experience, I have found your lessons on creation [*Creation*] the best I have ever seen and proud to present to all the churches I visit.—MA

A NEW BOOKMARK!

DawnBible: While searching online more about Ezekiel and his vision, I was lucky enough to find your site. Now a new bookmark!—NC

HAPHAZARD FIND

DawnBible: Its amazing to see this beautiful site. It happened in a haphazard manner while sending a message to my wife I wrote Jesus Christ in the message and then I reached your site and so many wonderful things. God bless you, to be prosperous for human beings. Thanks.—Pakistan

SEARCHING TO KNOW

DawnBible: In search to know more about God and for knowledge I came across the Dawn and I am sure I will learn a lot from you.—Zambia

HOPE BEYOND DEATH

DawnBible: I am a Brazilian singer and I like to read good books about God. A friend gave me a booklet from you, I liked.

Please tell me how can I get your magazines monthly. Please send booklets about the hope that we must have beyond the death! Please send me in Portuguese. I know English, but I prefer Portuguese, my mother language. Thank you!—Brazil

NEED ANSWERS

DawnBible: I had the desire to have the Holy Spirit explained more fully for me, that was when I found your website. I am looking forward to read the booklet you are sending me [*Father, Son & Holy Spirit*].

I know that the Lord is speaking to me. He knows I need answers so that my faith will be steadfast. Thank you.—NY

HANDS FOR THE TRUTH

DawnBible: Am receiving *The Dawn* magazine from Bangalore Bible Students. I wish to join in our rendering hands for the truth, am proud to be a part in it, am studying and practicing to spread this truth efficiently.—India

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

DawnBible: As a Sunday school teacher I always look for ways to make the lessons fresh and exciting for my students. This [website] was a jewel for me!—MI

INSPIRING ARTICLES

DawnBible: I found this site while looking for secular news on Yahoo. I saw an ad for this organization that was about when Christ would become the Prince of Peace [*Peace Through Christ's Kingdom*].

I ended up reading an article on spiritism [*Spiritualism-Its Claims*]. As a Christian, I felt deeply convicted by a section of that article.

Thank you for placing that ad there and for your wonderful and inspiring articles.—FL

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DawnBible: I had not viewed your site before. I love the presentation of the information available to me. I will be a regular visitor to find answers to questions. Thank you for your studies and hard long hours of work.—GA

DELVING INTO SUBJECTS

DawnBible: I am a Sunday school teacher who would like more scriptural references/more guides/more delving into the subjects being taught than what is available in our church's present literature.—TN

THANK YOU

DawnBible: Thank you for your hard work. I have always loved reading *The Dawn* magazine. The subjects you provide are uplifting and encouraging. Keep up the wonderful work, brethren. God bless.—India

2013 General Convention Recordings

A complete set of 2013 General Convention recordings includes all discourses, vespers, and Melodies of Praise.

AUDIO TAPE—A complete set of 15 cassette tapes is available for \$30.00. Any 2 discourses on a single tape are \$2.00 per tape.

AUDIO CD—A complete set of 16 CDs is available for \$16.00.

AUDIO MP3—A complete set of 2 CDs in MP3 format is available for \$4.00.

The above prices include postage. Shipping overseas, add \$5.00.

DVD—A complete set of 15 High Definition DVDs is available for \$15 plus \$3 postage.

Individual DVDs are available for \$2 each plus postage.

Send your requests for Tapes, CDs, MP3s, or DVDs to:

Dawn Publications
199 Railroad Avenue
East Rutherford, NJ 07073

You may also send requests via e-mail to dawnbible@aol.com. Please put “General Convention” in your subject line.

SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

The speakers listed below are routed through the Pilgrim Department of The Dawn. Their visits are furnished free upon request. Write to: The Dawn Pilgrim Department, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. A visit will be arranged whenever possible.

K. Fernets

Toronto, ON, Canada

November 17

The speakers listed below are invited by individual classes, or their services have been arranged by their home classes:

T. Alexander

New Haven, CT November 3

E. Blicharz

Atlanta, GA November 10

D. Christiansen

San Diego, CA

November 29-December 1

O. B. Elbert

Toronto, ON, Canada

November 17

B. Keith

Delaware Valley, PA

November 10

T. Krupa

Louisville, KY November 29,30

J. Parkinson

San Diego, CA

November 29-December 1

D. Rice

New Haven, CT November 3

OBITUARIES

The following brethren have recently finished their Christian course. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to their family and friends in the loss of these dear ones.

Brother Richard Lonske, Columbus, OH—September 28. Age, 92

Brother Dudley Chastain, Columbus, IN—October 2. Age, 88

Sister Marie Borowiec, Lievin, France—October 5. Age, 88

Sister Ruth Powell, Denver, CO—October 7. Age, 85

Brother Gene Balon, Detroit, MI—October 11. Age, 84

CONVENTIONS

These conventions are listed by request of classes who sponsor them. So your convention can be placed in these columns in time, make your request in writing three months before the date of the convention to Dawn Magazine, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073.

NEW HAVEN CONVENTION, November 3—Westwoods Italian-American Club, 85 Chase Lane, West Haven, CT. Contact A. Suraci, 171 Johnson Road, Hamden, CT 06518. Phone: (203) 248-3793 or E-mail: annasuraci@comcast.net

NEW ALBANY-LOUISVILLE CONVENTION, November 29,30—Fairfield Inn & Suites Louisville East, 1220 Kentucky Mills Drive, Louisville, KY 40299. Contact M. Moody. E-mail: jmmmmem1874@bellsouth.net

SAN DIEGO CONVENTION, November 29-December 1—Alliant University, 10455 Pomerado Road, San Diego, CA 92131. For accommodations at Alliant University, contact B. Bach, PO Box 323, Alpine, CA 91903-0323. Phone: (619) 445-4879 or E-mail: bbach1@cox.net. Other information, contact R. Rice, 13084 Treecrest Street, Poway, CA 92064. Phone: (858) 486-0381 or E-mail: rice@gmx.com

IBADAN END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING CONVENTION, December 7—Place of fellowship. Contact C. O. Egbu, #2 Darlington Street, Mokola Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Phone: 2348033339949 or 2348082146621 or E-mail: egbucaje@gmail.com or egbucajetan1@yahoo.com

CHICAGO CONVENTION, December 28,29—Alta Villa, 430 N. Addison Road, Addison, IL 60101. Contact L. Manzuk. Phone: (630) 660-1874

PHOENIX CONVENTION, January 18-20—LaQuinta Inn Phoenix North, 2510 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023. For room reservations, contact the hotel. Phone: (866) 527-1498. Specify "Phoenix Bible Students" for special rate. Other information, contact J. Zardja. Phone: (602) 363-2612.

LOS ANGELES CONVENTION, January 26—Burbank Auditorium, 406 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91605. Contact J. Wojcik. Phone: (818) 438-1086 or E-mail: jrbwojcik@yahoo.com

SACRAMENTO CONVENTION, February 14-16—Holiday Inn Express, 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821. Contact J. Freer, 8012 Vintage Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Phone: (916) 879-4655

FLORIDA CONVENTION, March 1-3—Howard Johnson Hotel, 230 West State Road 436, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. For room reservations, contact the hotel. Phone: (407) 862-4455. Specify “Florida Bible Students” for special rates, which expire on February 17, 2014. Other information, contact S. Jeuck. Phone: (407) 834-7592 or E-mail: sjeuck@aol.com

GREATER NEW LONDON PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, March 30—East Lyme Community Center, 37 Society Road, East Lyme, CT. Contact V. Grillo. Phone: (860) 823-7099 or E-mail: millennialview@sbcglobal.net

DETROIT PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, April 6,7—Quality Inn-Troy, 2537 Rochester Court, Troy, MI 48083. Contact P. Nemesh. Phone: (248) 649-6588

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope
without wavering, for He who promised is
faithful; and let us consider how to
stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
not forsaking our own assembling together,
as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another;
and all the more as you see the day
drawing near.”*

*—Hebrews 10:23-25,
New American Standard Bible*