

# The Dawn

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**Italy:** Aurora, Via S. Leonardo 21, Ottaviano 80044, Napoli

**New Zealand:** P.O. Box 1358, C.P.O. Auckland

**Spain:** El Alba, Via S. Leonardo 21, Ottaviano 80044 Napoli, Italy

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### Isaiah's Vision Was for Us

***"I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the Temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."***

***— Isaiah 6:1-4***

THE SCRIPTURES INFORM us that no man can see God and live. (Exod. 33:20) It follows, then, that Isaiah did not see the LORD literally, but in a vision. In this revelation he witnessed a marvelous display of divine glory. The seraphims were part of the vision. We do not know today just what might be represented by the six wings possessed by each seraphim Isaiah saw in the illusion, but the important thing to note is that everything in the vision combined to impress the prophet with the holiness and the glory of the LORD.

In the vision Isaiah saw "the LORD sitting upon a throne," and he wrote that "the whole earth is full of his glory." While the LORD has permitted evil to flourish throughout the earth since the disobedience of our first parents in the Garden of Eden, he has always maintained his commanding position of control, not only over the affairs of earth, but of his entire universe. He has never vacated his throne. And although it is true that the whole earth is filled with his glory, certainly there is much in the earth that is inglorious. The sin-cursed and dying race, itself, does not reflect the glory of God. But those

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who reverence the LORD see his glory displayed all around and above them.

"The heavens declare the glory of God," the psalmist wrote. (Ps. 19:1) The glory of God is displayed in all his marvelous creative works—the mountains, the oceans, the trees, the flowers. Jesus said that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as beautifully as the common lilies of the field. (Matt. 6:28,29) To a large extent, however, Isaiah's statement that the glory of the LORD fills the earth was prophetic of the time when the restitution feature of the divine plan will be complete. It will be then, in the fullest sense, that the glory of the LORD will fill the earth, and it will be then that all flesh will recognize that glory and rejoice in it.—Isa. 40:5

Seeing the LORD "high and lifted up," caused Isaiah to feel very unworthy. He said, "Woe is me, for I am undone [**Margin**, 'cut off']; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts!" (vs. 5) Seemingly the vision was so real that the prophet thought he had seen the LORD literally, and therefore would be 'cut off'. He knew that in any event he was not worthy of life.

But the LORD had other plans for Isaiah, who explained, saying, "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." (vss. 6,7) Isaiah further states: "Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Isaiah quickly grasped the meaning of the vision. He realized that the LORD was calling him into his service, and his immediate and hearty response was, "Here am I: send me."—vs. 8

Other instances are recorded in the Scriptures in which God used a vision to call individuals into his service. There was the incident of Moses at the burning bush. Ezekiel was introduced to his prophetic ministry by "visions of God" which he saw when "the heavens were opened" to him. (Ezek. 1:1)

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The 'heavens' were also opened to Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. (Matt. 3:16,17) The Apostle Paul referred to his experience on the Damascus road, which brought about his conversion and entrance into the ministry, as a "heavenly vision," to which, he declared, he had not been disobedient.—Acts 26:19

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*. . . This vision was so real to Isaiah, he thought he had literally seen the LORD!*

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No two of the special visions mentioned in the Bible were alike, although they all served to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the glory of God for those to whom they were given. The LORD's people during the Gospel Age have also been given the privilege of 'seeing' God—not by means of a miraculous vision such as was given to Isaiah and others, but through an understanding of his plans and purposes.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8) It is true that those who partake of the high calling, and make their calling and election sure, will, when exalted to the divine nature, see God face to face! But we are privileged to 'see' him now in the sense of discerning the majestic attributes of his character as they are revealed to us through the glorious Gospel of Christ. And it is only the "pure in heart" to whom this information is given in such a revealing manner.

Purity of heart, however, is not the only qualification for seeing this revelation. Throughout the Gospel Age there have doubtless been millions whose hearts were pure, but God does not necessarily bless them all with an understanding of his divine plan of the ages. The "time of visitation" for these will be during the Millennial Age, when the knowledge of the LORD fills the earth as the waters cover the sea.—Isa. 11:9

Jesus explained to his disciples that many in the past—holy men, and even prophets—had desired to see the things which

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they saw, but did not see them. (Matt. 13:16,17; Luke 10:23, 24; I Pet. 1:10,11) How highly the disciples were honored in that to them it had been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven! (Mark 4:11) There were only a few at that time and since who have been given eyes to 'see' and ears to 'hear'. This should increase our appreciation of the fact that we have been among the few honored ones to whom the LORD has given this vision by which we have been enabled to see him "high and lifted up."

The vision of truth with which the Heavenly Father has favored us is glorious indeed. It begins with the creation of man in the divine image, and the knowledge that it was the Creator's design that man should multiply and fill the earth with a perfect and happy family, basking in the sunshine of divine love, and enjoying the blessings of continuous health and everlasting life. Then we saw the fall of man into sin and death, and his expulsion from his garden home, eastward in Eden, which God had prepared for him.

These basic truths are set forth clearly in the first chapter of the Bible, and one would think that all who read the Bible could understand them. But they cannot! The general conception is that man's existence on earth is merely temporary. Death is looked upon, not as the extinction of life, but as a portal into another life in some unknown state which, it is hoped, will be a happy one. Holding such views, it is impossible to understand Paul's simple assertion that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Rom. 6:23

When, through the Holy Spirit, we come to understand the simple truths pertaining to the creation and fall of man, we are prepared to see God in his true light as revealed by his wise and loving plan for the recovery of fallen man from death. How meaningful and precious becomes the text, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16

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As we know, the death penalty upon Adam, which was passed on to his children, would have been permanent but for the love of God in providing a Redeemer. The word 'perish' describes the thought very well. But because Jesus came into the world and gave his life for Adam and his race, there is now no need that any should 'perish'. What would have been eternal oblivion, has, by God's loving provision of a Redeemer, been transformed into a temporary 'sleep' from which there will be an awakening in the resurrection. Paul expressed it clearly when he wrote, "Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."—I Cor. 15:21,22

The details of the divine plan for the recovery of mankind from sin and death are revealed step by step throughout the Bible. God made a wonderful promise to Abraham that through his seed, all the families of the earth would be blessed. (Gen. 12:3) Later he confirmed this promise by his oath. (Gen. 22:15-18; Luke 1:73) In Galatians 3:8, 16, Jesus is identified as this promised seed of Abraham; and in verses 27-29 of this same chapter, it is disclosed that those who are baptized into Christ—his dedicated and self-sacrificing followers—are also considered by the LORD to be part of Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

In Acts 3:19-26 is recorded part of a sermon preached by Peter, in which he stated God's purpose to restore the world of mankind to life. He spoke of the era in the divine plan when this will be accomplished as "times of restitution of all things," and added that this blessed work of restitution had been spoken by the mouth of all God's holy prophets since the world began. And then, to the Israelites to whom he was speaking, Peter added, "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."

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God's promise was that Abraham's seed would bless all the families of the earth, and Peter assures us that there will be "times of restitution of all things." But "first," he explains, God sent his Son, the promised seed, to bless the Israelites who accepted Jesus at the time of his First Advent. Not many of the natural descendants of Abraham accepted Jesus, whom the Heavenly Father had sent into the world to be the Savior and Deliverer of mankind. Those who did accept him were richly blessed. They did not receive the blessing of restitution, but were invited to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and if faithful in laying down their lives in sacrifice, were assured of a place with him in his kingdom when it would be dispensing the blessings of restitution to the remainder of the world of mankind. Shortly after Pentecost, this richer blessing of joint-heirship with the Master was extended to believing Gentiles.

As the plan of God has moved forward throughout the ages, certain important events are seen. There was the giving of the Law at Sinai. The purpose of the Law, Paul explained, was to serve as a "schoolmaster" to bring them and us to Christ. (Gal. 3:24) This means that the inability of the Israelites to keep the Law, and thereby gain life, has taught us the need of the Redeemer, and of his shed blood on our behalf, and on behalf of the whole world. Thus the Law will stand as an everlasting testimony that God's way of redemption through his beloved Son was the only way mankind could be delivered from sin and death.

The First Advent of Jesus was another important event in the outworking of the divine plan of salvation. Jesus was born of a woman, and thus "made flesh" to be sacrificed for the life of the world. (John 6:51) During the period of his short ministry Jesus selected his apostles, and together with them and seventy others, sometimes termed evangelists, bore witness to the Gospel of the kingdom throughout the land of Israel.

The earthly ministry of Jesus was concluded by his death on the cross. There he poured out his soul unto death, that Adam and his children might live. Isaiah wrote, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth:

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he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand."—Isa. 53:7-10

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*The 'pleasure of the LORD' is essentially, the same vision Isaiah the prophet saw . . . redemption!*

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The 'pleasure of the LORD' is his loving design to bless all the kindreds of the earth through Christ and his church, as the promised seed of Abraham. Jesus' death did not interfere with this plan, but instead made it workable, in that it provided a redemption. Thus salvation could be offered to all who would accept it on the terms of belief and obedience. Jesus was raised from the dead—another important event in the divine plan—that he might become man's Deliverer. It is thus that his days were prolonged, making it possible for the pleasure of the LORD to prosper in his hand so completely that in due time even death itself will be destroyed.

The outworking of the plan of God throughout the Gospel Age is another important event in the divine plan of the ages. It is during this age that the LORD calls out from the world those to whom the opportunity is offered to suffer and die with Jesus that they might live and reign with him for the future blessing of mankind with health and everlasting life. While denominationalism has presented an imposing spectacle



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to the world, the dedicated followers of the Master have been but a little flock, and they have been largely unnoticed and unknown by the world. (Luke 12:32) God's work in them has been one of grace in their hearts. He accepts their imperfect service through the merit of Christ's blood; he guides and helps them in their every time of need. The course of each and all of these is finished in sacrificial death, and their death has been "precious" in the sight of the LORD.—Ps. 116:15

Still another important event in the plan of God is the return of Christ at the end of the age. His second visit, which according to the Scriptures has already begun, will continue until the end of his reign, even until all the enemies of God and of righteousness are put down, and death itself destroyed. In the early period of Christ's second presence he serves as Chief Reaper in the harvest which Jesus foretold would take place just before the "children of the kingdom . . . shine forth as the sun" for the enlightenment and blessing of the people.—Matt. 13:37-43

As Jesus was raised from the dead and exalted to glory, honor, and immortality at the beginning of the age, so his followers are brought forth in what the Bible describes as the first resurrection at the close of the age. (Rev. 20:6) The Scriptures indicate that those who finish their course in death during the harvest period do not remain asleep in death, but at once receive their resurrection and exaltation.—I Cor. 15:51; I Thess. 4:16; Rev. 5:9,10

Then there is that blessed work of restitution, when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads," and when "they shall obtain joy and gladness" and "sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isa. 35:10; Rev. 21:4) This will be the glorious consummation of the divine plan of salvation. It will be then that restored mankind will say, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, . . . we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."—Isa. 25:9

In his plan, God has made provision for the punishment of any who willfully oppose his grace after they have been given

a full understanding of the issues involved. Peter mentioned this in connection with his discourse pertaining to the times of restitution of all things. He said, "It shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." (Acts 3:23) "The wages of sin" will still be death, and any who prefer willfully to transgress God's law will be punished by what the Scriptures term the Second Death. (Rev. 20:14,15) Thus the earth will be cleansed from sin and cleared of sinners, and the willing and obedient of mankind will rejoice in the love of God forever.

We have not undertaken to mention all the details of the revealing vision of truth with which the LORD has blessed his people at the present time, but in what we have noted we can see God in the sense of discerning the four cardinal attributes of his character, those attributes which combine to proclaim his glory. We see his wisdom in all his creative works—and particularly in man, his crowning earthly creation. It is impossible for us today even to imagine all the virtues and capabilities of a perfect man.

We see God's justice in the condemnation of man because of sin, and also in his plan to redeem him from death through the provision of another perfect man to be a Redeemer. In this provision we also see an outstanding demonstration of God's love, even as we do in many other features of his plan. Indeed, in one way or another all God's attributes are displayed in essentially every aspect of his plan. We see his power in creation, in the resurrection, in the care of his people. To call attention to all the various ways in which God's wisdom, justice, love and power are revealed in the outworking of his plan of the ages would require books—not just a short article such as this is!

And it is this glorious plan of the ages which has served as a vision to enable us to see God high and lifted up! What has been the LORD's purpose in giving us this vision? It is the same purpose he had when he revealed himself in that vision to Isaiah. Through the vision of present truth the LORD is asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" In other

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words, God has enlightened us with a knowledge of his plan because he wants us to make known his Gospel of the kingdom to others.

It is a wonderfully satisfying thing to know the truth! This is especially so today when there is so much fear and uncertainty in the world. The truth gives us peace of mind, and of heart. It gives us security for the present, and a glorious hope for the future. These are among the benefits of truth's vision. Doubtless Isaiah many times recalled the details of the vision in which he saw the LORD, and rejoiced in his reflections. But he knew at the same time that the main purpose of the vision was to inspire him with the desire and strength to serve his God as one of his holy prophets. To this grand commission Isaiah was faithful.

Have we responded to the vision as Isaiah did? Have we said to the LORD, in the spirit of full consecration, "Here am I, send me"? (Isa. 6:8) Over and over again in the Bible it is emphasized that the followers of Jesus are to be his witnesses. Each text of the Word in which our privilege of bearing witness to the truth is mentioned is a reminder that we have received the vision of truth, not merely to treasure it up for ourselves, but to proclaim to others. In Revelation 20:4 we are informed that those who will live and reign with Christ are the ones who "are beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God."

What is accomplished in the witness work relative to the enlightenment of others is not our special concern. It is God that gives the increase. Our responsibility in obeying the revelation of truth is to proclaim the message, and this we are to continue to do, so long as the way is open, and until we have been faithful unto death. And what a glorious privilege it is to proclaim the virtues of our God as we see him revealed in the divine plan of salvation! Truly we have been honored to receive this marvelous vision. May we show our appreciation by being faithful to all our opportunities for service! □

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# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDY LESSONS

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## LESSON FOR JULY 1

### The Priority of Wisdom

**KEY VERSE:** *"Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."* —Proverbs 4:7

**SELECTED SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 4:1-13

**S**OLOMON'S OWN WISDOM was displayed in asking God to bless him with understanding rather than with riches, but the wisdom he displays in his writings must be credited to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Proverbs was written by Solomon. It is styled, "The proverbs of Solomon, the Son of David, king of Israel." Solomon ascended the throne of Israel as a young man. He became renowned for his wisdom, and the Book of Proverbs reveals that he well deserved the reputation which he gained.

True, we look upon Proverbs as one of the inspired books of the Bible, and we know that Solomon's wisdom was a special gift of God to him, yet he was a fitting instrument through which these nuggets of truth relative to practically every walk of life, as well as the divine plan, are set forth for our instruction.

The opening verses of the book lay down a most fundamental rule for the attaining of understanding. Verse 5 sums up the thought in this way: "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." How true! One of the outstanding manifestations of true wisdom is the willingness to listen to the counsel of others. A person who goes through life disregarding the viewpoints of others, who insists always upon being heard, and is never willing to listen, lives in a very small world—the world of his own conclusions, and restricted thoughts.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom," writes Solomon. Personifying wisdom, he wrote, "She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her." But how may we be sure of attaining

true wisdom? Where is the fountain source of this most precious treasure? Failure to discover the answer to this question has resulted in the vast majority of searchers failing to find 'her'.

It is always possible to learn a few things from our fellow men. Man, by comparing his understanding with other men, can increase his knowledge to some extent. But wisdom thus attained is limited. The real source of our understanding is the Creator, our Heavenly Father. In his Word is treasured up that which "maketh wise the simple." But alas, how few there are who are willing to accept the authority of the Bible, yet by scorning the marvelous wisdom set forth in its sacred pages they keep their own understanding stunted, and go through life without knowing why they live, and what their final destiny will be.

And among those who profess to have confidence in the Bible there are many who show a disposition to teach the Book, instead of being taught by it. It is as though they would tell the LORD what his plan ought to be, rather than being willing to listen to the instructions of his Word as to what he has designed for them and for the race.

Our relationship to God is in this respect similar to our relationship to one another. Just

as we can be poor listeners when in the presence of our fellows, so we can be poor listeners to what God may have to say to us. In the first case, the result is barrenness of understanding which could be ours, but in the latter case the result is tragic, for it means that we close our minds to the riches of knowledge and understanding concerning God and his plan which comes down from above.

The Apostle James wrote, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth of all men liberally, and upbraideth not." (James 1:5) The wisdom which God gives in answer to the prayers of his faithful people is a wisdom which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17) Only those fully consecrated to God are prepared to receive such wisdom, and only these are able to appreciate its value, to know that it is a reflection of the character of God, a revealing of the principles which govern all his purposes toward mankind.

Solomon concludes the matter in these words: "Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man."—Eccles. 12:13,14 □

## The Value of Wisdom

**KEY VERSE:** *"Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not."* — **Proverbs 8:33**

**SELECTED SCRIPTURE:** **Proverbs 7:22-36**

SURELY THE LORD's people are a favored people! While the world is groping on in darkness and fear, we are blessed with the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. And not only so, but we have the assurance that the LORD will teach us how to use this marvelous knowledge in a manner to make us his acceptable co-workers. James writes, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not."—James 1:5

But when we ask God for wisdom, we should be prepared to follow his instructions as to how to obtain it. And those instructions call for earnest study of his Word and a humble surrender of our hearts and lives to all of its righteous requirements, regardless of what the cost may be. So let us keep on striving in this direction. Let us not permit either our own imperfections or the Devil's efforts to beat our courage down and cause us to become indifferent to the unspeakable privileges which have

become our portion as sons of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ our Lord!

The "wisdom from above" James 3:17,18 declares, is full of mercy and "good fruits" and, as he further states, "the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." Those who make peace are referred to by Jesus as peacemakers—"blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matt. 5:9) The word peace is a translation of a Greek word, the basic meaning of which is 'to join', or 'to make a pact'. The sons of God, those who are to be with Christ in the kingdom and see him as he is, are invited to joint-heirship with Christ for the very purpose of being associated with him in making a pact—even the New Covenant between God and men.


This, then, is to be the ultimate "fruit of righteousness" which will be produced by the wisdom from above. The apostle explains that this fruit of righ-

teousness is "sown in peace." The entire period from our consecration until we make our calling and election sure by being faithful unto death, is the sowing time, and Paul wrote, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7) From another standpoint we could say that we are now in training for the future work of making peace between God and men. Because of this, we must now learn and apply all the principles of righteousness represented in the wisdom from above which will be taught to the world and used as a basis of the covenant to be made with the people.

Those who make progress in this way will not be able to compromise in their obedience to the laws of the kingdom. With them it will be "first pure," even as with us, hence the importance of our learning well this lesson now. For this same reason every element of divine wisdom will need to become a very part of our lives during this training period. This means that there will be good fruits in evidence even now—the fruits of joy and peace and kindness and love, which gives evidence of our own heart-harmony with God and his will.

And if our harmony with God's will and our union with Christ are complete, and the divine will is manifesting itself in

our daily words and deeds, those around us will have an opportunity to partake of the good fruit of our lives and themselves be blessed. Our service as peacemakers is by no means limited to the next age, when, if faithful, we will be united with Christ in glory, honor, and immortality. It begins now, and to be wholly under the influence of the wisdom from above means that we will be active in telling all, as we have opportunity, God's great plan of the ages, encouraging all who have a hearing ear to surrender themselves to God and to the doing of his will.

It is indeed a blessing to be able to quote many texts of the Bible, and to know where they are found. It is a further blessing to be well acquainted with the beautiful and meaningful stories of the Bible. And every Christian should endeavor daily to become better acquainted with the life and teachings of Jesus; in fact, we should ever seek to become more and more fully acquainted with every part of the Word of God. However, all this would merely be the acquiring of increasing knowledge, and regardless of how important that may be—and it is important—we would be very unwise if we did not properly apply our knowledge as the governing factor in our lives. 

## Lessons from Life

**KEY VERSE:** "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver or gold."—Proverbs 22:1

**SELECTED SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 22:1-16

AS THOSE WHO have named the name of Christ, we are continually called upon to make choices involving the values of this life on the one hand, and the good name and loving favor of our Lord and bridegroom on the other. The choices should not be difficult.

Our pastor wrote: "How many have built their hopes upon earthly things only to find them but illusive bubbles, mocking delusions, leaving the heart at last broken, crushed, and barren! The treasures of wealth, fame, social distinction, of houses and lands, of friends and home and family, of power and influence, are subject to change and decay! And if the heart be centered in them, they are liable in a moment to be swept away, leaving the life desolate.

"The wealth, laboriously gathered and husbanded with great care, may vanish in a night. The fame so dearly won may change to censure and reproach at the caprice of fickle

public sentiment. The social prestige which bade you to the uppermost seats may a little later relegate you to the lowest seat, and your name cast out as evil, and you be ostracized. Houses and lands and carefully hoarded belongings may disappear under the sheriff's hammer. Friends long trusted may suddenly grow cold and turn their backs upon you, and even become your enemies. The home you love must some time break up, the family be scattered or invaded by death. The love that glows upon the home altar may flicker and become dim or extinct. How many have found the high hopes of youth and early life turn to ashes in a few short years or months."


Represented in the name of Christ and his loving favor to his bride are all the treasures of heaven! The pastor continued: "The very chiefest of all treasures is the personal love and friendship of God and of Christ. Jesus becomes to us 'the fairest among



ten thousand, the one altogether lovely'. He is an unfailing refuge in every time of need, our daily joy and solace.

"When we have gained this treasure, we have gained the one who never changes, one whose love never grows cold, one from whom nothing can separate us—'neither death', which to his loved ones will now mean our blessed 'change'; 'nor life', which means further opportunities for suffering with him that we may also share his glory, and which permits further works of loving service for him whom we love; 'nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers', for these cannot harm us who are sheltered in Christ; 'nor things present, nor things to come', for 'all things shall work together for our good', and in every trial he will direct the issue that we may be able to bear it; 'nor height' of temporary exaltation; 'nor depth' of trouble or sorrow, for our refuge and strength is ever near; 'nor any other thing' in creation, for he has promised to 'keep the feet of his saints', and that nothing shall touch them as New Creatures in Christ, and that his presence shall be with them wherever they may be.—Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Sam. 2:9; Luke 10:19; Exod. 33:14

"Nor will any other creatures in heaven or in earth receive

such marks of special favor as are and ever will be the portion of the beloved bride of Christ. Although the whole family in heaven and in earth will be blessed through him, his wife—cooperating with him in his work—will alone be his companion, his confidante, his treasure. Hear the LORD's exhortation to the bride class: 'Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear. Forget also thine own people and thy father's house [the ambitions, hopes, and aims of the children of Adam]; so shall the King [Jehovah's Anointed] greatly desire thy beauty [beauty of character, of heart-loyalty]; for he is thy Lord, and worship thou him'. (Ps. 45:10,11) Cant. 4) How unworthy we feel of so great honor and love from our beloved Bridegroom! And no wonder! When we look at all our imperfections, it seems that there is little in us to call forth such love and admiration. To think that the angels with all their purity and faithfulness should have been passed by; and that we poor, blemished mortals, should be chosen instead! Is there not some mistake? Ah, no! We have the infallible words of inspiration to assure us that it is even so."—Excerpts from the Reprints 

## Proverbs in Pictures

**KEY VERSE:** *"If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth."*—Proverbs 30:32

**SELECTED SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 30:18-33

THE LESSON OF this text seems to be the recognition of pride—a great evil—which we are all in a measure subject to, and to take action against its encroachments.

Pride, which is merely foolishness in the world, takes a much more serious aspect when it is found among the LORD's true people. Why should this be? Because the world and merely professing Christian people are not on trial at this present time, whereas the true people of God are. "Now is the day of salvation" for the church, so judgment is taking place "at the house of God."—II Cor. 6:2; I Pet. 4:17

The Christian has no cause for pride or glory in himself for he has nothing that he did not receive. (I Cor. 4:7) All that he has, all that he is, and all that he hopes for, comes from the LORD. The LORD has blessed and enriched his people, he has taken them "out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay," and

has set their feet upon the Rock of Ages. He has clothed them "with the garments of salvation," and has covered them "with the robe of righteousness."—Ps. 40:2; Isa. 61:10

Indeed, as the Apostle Paul said, he "hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Eph. 1:3) How altogether unbecoming for any who have been so blessed and so benefited by the grace and favor of the LORD, to endeavor to glorify themselves or to take pride in what they have or are! Surely only a small mind could feel that pride in any form becomes the saints. All the glory belongs to the LORD, so "let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."—Jer. 9:24

The Scriptures declare that "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

(1 Pet. 5:5) Hence, we can safely conclude that to the extent any of the LORD's people possess pride, to that degree God is resisting them, and to the same extent they are without the grace that otherwise would be their portion if they had the proper attitude of humility.

The Christian is exhorted to be "clothed with humility," and oh, how such attire becomes and beautifully adorns the saints! And contrariwise, what wretched apparel is the cloak or covering of pride! Not only is humility beautiful clothing for the saints, but it helps to cover any of the imperfections of their fallen humanity. But pride is so ugly and undesirable that it hates to be known for what it really is, and so it often uses modesty of statement to give it the same appearance as humility.

The Christian should prepare his mind and heart to resist pride in every form, however small or insignificant the symptoms may be. He should also learn to detect in himself pride in whatever form it appears, whether as envy, evil-speaking, stubbornness, touchiness, self-assurance, a know-it-all attitude, aspiration or ambition, spitefulness, vanity, hypocrisy, a proud look, or even a proud tone of voice. He will be

better prepared to slay this adversary, who learns to recognize it upon sight. It is well to examine ourselves, and to ask ourselves regularly:

- Do I fret and feel offense when my counsel and suggestions are ignored or set at naught?

- Do I quickly challenge statements that underrate my abilities and impugn my goodness?

- Do I feel great embarrassment when others, with less background, can answer questions that I cannot?

- Do I feel indignant with faultfinders who point out my misdeeds?

- Do I encourage compliments and praise?

- Do I hasten to put people "in their place"?

- Do I shun reproof and hate instruction, especially when it comes from the 'less noble' of the LORD's people?

- Do I belittle the deeds of others?

If our answers to any or all of these questions are in the affirmative, there is need of correction, for it could mean that there is a measure of pride in our hearts, which, if allowed to develop, could be damaging to us as Christians. □

## The Failure of Human Wisdom

**KEY VERSE:** *"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."*—**Ecclesiastes 1:14**

**SELECTED SCRIPTURE:** **Proverbs 1:2-8, 12-17**

THROUGHOUT THE TWELVE chapters of this unique book of philosophy, the writer sees every phase of life as experienced by fallen man to be "vanity and vexation of spirit." If Solomon were living today he would no doubt reiterate the words of our text as he gazed out upon the world. In spite of many attempts at improvement since his day, the world has not changed in this respect. It is, overall, still a place of vanity and vexation of spirit.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 15:4, makes the following significant statement, "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." He here recognizes an important fundamental truth respecting the Bible; namely, that it presents to the enquiring mind a comprehensive and harmonious picture of God's great plan for human salvation, and that the things which happened aforetime were not merely obser-

vations to be read with casual interest, but were lessons fraught with meaning for those who would come after them.

To those who study the Scriptures carefully, the prophetic import of the apostle's words is clearly discernible. The present time is seen to be the dissolution of a world system which has grown up since the fall of Adam, and has been consolidated into an empire of evil under the direct control of Satan, "the prince of this world." Under his influence the world has indeed been a place of vanity and vexation of spirit for all mankind.

Today we are experiencing the climax of this evil world's history and amidst the perplexity and confusion of mind there appears to be a marked absence of spiritual guidance from leaders of religious thought in all denominations. The thinking man, be he a recognized church member or not, rightly looks to such leaders for guidance in these critical days; but so far from

receiving comfort and encouragement, he finds conflicting theories and outworn dogmas, while failing religious standards add to his perplexity and to an increasing fear of what the future may hold.

The great statesmen of our generation have been unsure of what lies before them, as their public utterances so often denote. In a speech to the House of Commons, Sir Winston Churchill once had this to say: "It does not matter so much to old people; they are going soon anyway. But I find it poignant to look at youth in all its activities and ardor, and most of all to watch little children playing their merry games, and to wonder what would lie before them ***if God wearied of mankind.***"

Although these words were spoken thirty-five years ago, there is no reason to suppose that Sir Winston would have less cause for uneasiness today. The shape of things to come, as patterned over the ensuing decades has certainly not eased the anxiety of those who have serious doubts respecting the ability of mankind to solve the problems of a degenerating society.

But Solomon said, "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether

it be good, or whether it be evil."—Eccles. 12:13,14

Has God wearied of mankind? No indeed! Mankind as a whole may have wearied of God; that is, those among mankind who have no real knowledge of him. But divine love and mercy are infinite. As with his rebellious people of old, so with the poor groaning creation in its entirety. The chastening experiences of the time of trouble marking the end of this present evil world are but the precursor of the "new heavens and new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"—new powers of spiritual control and new powers of earthly control—when all authority under God will be invested in Christ Jesus and his glorified church.—Rom. 8:22; Gal. 1:4; II Pet. 3:13

There is much to distress mankind in these days, but to those who rest their faith in God's Word the way is clear and the end sure. To such, the realization of his abiding faithfulness brings a peace and joy which passes all human understanding. Behind the scenes of man's feverish activity the divine purpose is being fulfilled in state-ly steppings which will, before long, bring true happiness and life everlasting to all who will obey the righteous laws of his coming kingdom. □

### Winning God's Election

ONE OF THE admonitions frequently given to the New Creation in the Scriptures is that we are not to love the things of this present world. If any man love the world, we are told, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15) These are strong words—powerful words—given by our Heavenly Father and penned by the Apostle John. They have been preserved in the Holy Scriptures throughout the Gospel Age for the Christian's admonition. These words are important guidelines of instruction along our pilgrim way, urging us to center our lives upon the doing of God's will.

Our subject, "Winning God's Election," seems to especially commend itself to our attention because the LORD testified in the Scriptures that preparatory to the establishment of the kingdom of Christ on earth that he would send forth his angels to gather his elect from the four winds of heaven. This elect class will become joint-heirs with his beloved Son, Jesus, in this grand and glorious future kingdom, designed to bless all the families of the earth.—Matt. 24:31; Rom. 8:17

In this study we would like to compare a few of the similarities, and some of the differences between the election of a president, and our winning God's election. This position of becoming co-laborers with our beloved Master in the kingdom is undeniably the most wonderful privilege ever offered to anyone in the universe, and is indeed the greatest election to be imagined! When we think upon the so great salvation to which we have been called, it should assist us to realize what an extraordinary privilege has been offered to us, greater than anything ever offered prior to the Gospel Age, and never to be repeated again. We have been offered the opportunity to help restore the dominion lost in Adam, long ago in

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the Garden of Eden. Therefore, we must "lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us."—Heb. 12:1

We would also like to suggest some of the things which we might do to ensure that ultimately we will become members of this elect class, described as the "called, chosen, and faithful," by the Revelator.—Rev. 17:14

When political parties of this country hold their national conventions, they presume that after all the deliberations are over, and the podium has been removed from the convention hall, and all the banners and balloons have been removed, that the delegates will go forth throughout the length and breadth of the land and will capitalize on the momentum and excitement which was generated during the sessions of the convention. It is their desire and hope that what they planned together will assist them to gain the coveted prize—victory in November when the election is held.

We too join together in conventions. Although for us these are not times for frivolity, but serious times of spiritual refreshment. As we are gathered together to drink deeply from the wellsprings of truth which have been provided for us from the very throne of God, we are strengthened, fortified, and assisted toward the successful completion of our heavenly race. As we join together on these occasions we find them greatly exciting as we rejoice together as a family, basking in the most precious words of truth and enjoying holy fellowship with one another—receiving divine instruction—being immersed in spirituality! These gatherings are a most vital consideration in our lives! The joys we derive from assembling together exceed a thousandfold more any pleasure that man might find afforded them when they get caught up in the excitement of selecting a candidate for the presidency!

Let us pose a few queries to help us contrast the distinction between these two elections—the election of an earthly head of government—the president—and the elect class that will be

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"born in Zion," and who will be associated with our Head and Master, Jesus Christ.

The first question for purposes of contrast and comparison is, "How was the intention to run in the race announced?" The answer is very simple for the political aspirant. Great fanfare takes place at the time that the candidate's name is announced to the news media. It is necessary to keep the nominee's name in the news and to maintain a high profile so that people will become familiar with his interests and aims. Engagements are arranged on TV and radio programs, where his statements and attitudes can be studied. Eventually a press conference is held so that all the world, all the nation hears his statement, "I formally declare for the highest office of the land."

Our decision to enter the spiritual race is quite different. Our desire to run for this high calling is based upon our desire to seek after righteousness because of our dissatisfaction with our present state. We felt a lack of ease with our sinful condition, and turned to the LORD for assistance. We began a reverential study of God's Holy Word. In our studies we found that the Biblical truths satisfied our hearts as nothing else could do. We were receiving God's call to run for the great prize!

Next we ask: "Who is the opposition?" The political candidate has many opponents. Everyone and anyone who will stand in the way of his attaining the presidency is the opposition. Initially the focus is upon eliminating all the contenders within his own particular party. But once that has been accomplished, energy is devoted to defeating the standard-bearer of the opposing party. The opponents of the LORD's people are the world, the flesh, and the Adversary. Speaking of our foe the world, Paul admonishes us not to be "conformed to this world," but rather to be "transformed" by the renewing of our minds that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.—Rom. 12:2

With regard to the "flesh" as our foe, we are encouraged by the same apostle, by his example, when he stated: "I keep my body under, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any



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means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”—I Cor. 9:27

And the Apostle Peter indicated that the Adversary is our most formidable opponent. He uses both the world and the flesh as his tools. Peter told us that “your Adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” We must never underestimate this wily and crafty foe, for unless we trust in God’s almighty help, he will conquer us; for we are no match for him.

As the New Creature battles against the world, the flesh and the Adversary, unlike the presidential candidate who sees as his chief opponent other candidates running for the same office, we have the major task of keeping our own new will in a position of ascendancy, and our old will—dead. We are to mortify the deeds of the flesh; we are to prevent the old man from resurrecting itself, and controlling us. Parenthetically, one of the unique features of our running for this race is that we are assisted in making our calling and election sure by helping others make theirs sure also! The presidential hopeful, on the other hand, has no thought of assisting anyone—only himself!

Question number three: “Where does the battle occur?” The presidential candidate’s battleground is the length and breadth of our nation. The organizational plan is that he might visit as many places in the nation as possible, to reach and influence as many people as possible in the short period of the electoral race. In the cities where he cannot visit, headquarters have been established by a network of supporters, in an attempt to persuade the people of that region to vote for their candidate on election day.

But we, as a “little flock” (Luke 12:32) of Jesus’ followers, are desirous of walking in Jesus’ footsteps, and of following his example. We read, “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.”—Heb. 13:12,13

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We are still *in* this world, but we are not *of* this world. We recognize that although we have our service toward God to perform in connection with holiness and spiritual things, nevertheless we have this treasure in an earthen vessel. So daily we are in contact with the things of the world which would defile us. But if we are faithful in carrying out our sacrificial course, resisting the world's influence even though these actions bring reproach upon ourselves, then that will be pleasing to the Heavenly Father. Our sacrifice and devotion in laying down life itself in God's service will not be appreciated by the world of mankind. Often men think that ours is a foolish course. And yet we know that the same reproaches which fell upon the Master are to fall upon us if we are faithful—in the same manner, and for the same reasons.

Question four: "When may one enter the race?" The candidate for the presidency may declare his intent every four years within a specified time limit, governed by the laws of our nation. In contrast to this, the Christian is told that the entire Gospel Age is the acceptable year when we may run for the high calling. Of course, however, we are limited to the time span of our own life. It is during this period that we may seek to make our calling and election sure as joint-sacrificers, joint-participants, with his beloved Son, who first walked this way nearly two thousand years ago. Just as he was spoken of prophetically by Isaiah, we too are anointed by God's Holy Spirit: "The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."—Isa. 61:1,2

We believe that once this opportunity ends, it will never be repeated again. "They that were ready went in with him, . . . and the door was shut." (Matt. 25:10) This signals the end of any possibility of running for candidacy for this office. We are, therefore, spurred on to greater fervency and zeal in the

doing of God's will, so that we will not lose this marvelous opportunity.—Jer. 8:20

Question number five: "What are the qualifications for entering this race?" Would-be aspirants to the presidency must be 35 years of age, at least. They must be natural-born citizens of our country, and should have been a resident here for fourteen years. Requirements as candidates to the high calling are also very specific. They are very demanding. Not, however, along the lines of age, race, creed, social standing, or any other earthly designation so important to men. The church has been "redeemed . . . to God by [Christ's] blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." (Rev. 5:9) This electoral race ends only with the cessation of our last breath. Hear the words of Jesus: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"—Matt. 16:24-26

Question number six: "What will be the reward for the successful completion of this race?" We know that the candidate who is selected as the president of the United States receives great honor from men. He will be the leader of the free world. He will be the head of the mightiest nation in the universe! He will be sought out from across the globe for his counsel and wisdom, as individuals from every quarter seek solutions to the many perplexing problems which beset this planet. It will be demonstrated, however, that the president, as a member of the fallen human race, just as his predecessors, does not have power to improve the world scene, because this present evil order is under the dominion of the "god of this world," and no real, lasting solution for the problems which afflict mankind can be found without God's help. Therefore, we will find that as long as this arrangement continues, in another four years a new aspirant will step up and declare what he will do to solve the still-continuing, ever-increasing problems of mankind.

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We read this about the portion of the overcoming saints: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." This will indeed be our portion if we remain faithful! And the glorious results of the new government are vividly described by the Revelator—he tells of a "new heavens and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1-3) which will be the real solution to world problems—"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." The wonderful privilege of administering and controlling this grand government with our Lord Jesus Christ is what will be our reward if we are faithful unto death. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life!" (Rev. 2:10)—which includes the wisdom and ability to guide an administration such as this!

"Who will assist in carrying out the mandates of the new administration?"—question number seven. We know that the new president has a vice-president to assist him, as well as various individuals with talents in different fields, whom he will select as his cabinet to administer key functions of his government. In the case of our beloved Head, Jesus, who will be the chief executive in this new order, it will be similar. We read in Psalm 45:13-16, "The king's daughter [the church class in glory] is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions [the Great Company] that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace. Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes [Ancient Worthies] in all the earth."—Ps. 45:13-16

The Great Company, the "companions" of the church class, as well as the "princes in all the earth," the Ancient Worthies, will not be idle during the thousand-year reign of Christ. They will have a part in the administration of the

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government which will minister, guide, direct, assist, and lift mankind back to perfection.

Question eight: "What strategy will be used to gain the victory?" The successful presidential candidate must speak and proclaim those things which sound good to the ear so he can convince the widest spectrum of the electorate that there is something in his ideas that will benefit them. His desire is to have the electoral college give him the largest number of votes in order that he may have enough to become president when the ballots are cast. However, he quite often does not feel compelled to actually carry out the promises upon which he based his platform, once he is elected to office.

With the church it is different. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." (Ps. 24:3-5) So we see that the development of purity and all the graces of the Spirit, is essential if we are to gain this victory: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life."—Rev. 2:10

Number nine: "What will be the portion of those who cease to run for this office?" In the case of the presidential candidate, no harm is done. In fact this is a common occurrence. The reason is given, "This is not my year; I will try again in four years." But the church must persevere in the race despite trials, persecutions, hardships. It is a difficult, strait and narrow pathway we follow, but Paul said, "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

Knowing this, we are not to cast away our confidence in his saving grace, because "if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." (Heb. 10:38) However, the follow-

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ing verse is strengthening and encouraging to read: "We are not of them who draw back unto perdition [Second Death]: but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

Question number ten: "How does the candidate respond to vilification and attacks by others?" As has been the case in the past, almost universally, the presidential candidate generally responds in kind, to portray his opponent in an unfavorable light. He will do almost anything he deems is necessary to gain the victory, stopping at nothing to effect his goal. Publicly he might indicate that he will not stoop to the level of his opposition, but he may give tacit approval to his advisors who are adept at developing demeaning advertisements to portray a negative image of the other candidate. He might allow them to develop what are called—interestingly enough—"truth squads." 'Truth squads', as they are defined, are teams which follow the opposing candidate to his lecturing appointments, and as soon as he is finished speaking, the 'truth squad' informs the press that everything which has been said is false.

How do we as members of the New Creation act? We must follow the Master's example. We read of Jesus, that "no guile was found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." Therefore, as the footstep followers of Jesus we must do the same. We must not—cannot—speak evil of any man. We recognize that "there is . . . no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1), because his robe of righteousness has covered our defects and blemishes. We need never respond to any accusation made against us, because "who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?"—vss. 33,34

As we draw to the close of this study, we must remember that the accomplishment of any earthly goal requires an evaluation of the progress attained at various intervals. In this way we can make further plans, and alter those plans which need altering, so that our ultimate goal will be attained. How important this is to the Israel of God! It is necessary for us to

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take inventory of our status, to see how well we are succeeding in carrying out the principles of truth which we have embraced. Each morning, in order for our prayers, our review of our morning resolve, our devotional studies, our reading of the Daily Heavenly Manna, and our discussions of the truth, to have their maximum benefit, we need to assess how much spiritual growth is taking place in our lives. The truth is not a 'talking religion' it is a 'doing religion'!

And so we pose a few additional queries, with no answers offered, for us to ask ourselves—to determine whether or not we are moving in the right direction, standing still, or, possibly experiencing retrogression which will require immediate attention and remedy? We might put these questions into a time frame, and consider in what direction, and how far we have progressed during the past year. This kind of introspection is something we should do regularly, continuously, so that we can determine whether or not we are on a proper course. This sort of review allows us to nip bad habits in the bud, rather than to tolerate them, or allow them to accumulate. Here are the questions:

- Have I demonstrated a greater ability to redeem the time so that a larger percentage of it is now spent upon spiritual things?
- Has my faith in God's plan grown stronger as a result of having personally applied its various features to myself?
- Has my confidence increased so that I will ultimately prove to be a member of the little flock?
- Am I truly experiencing a greater purity of thought, and is this evidenced by a life of increased holiness?
- Have I rid myself of any unnecessary 'weights' which I have been carrying around?
- Is my motivation for doing good to others solely from a desire to be a faithful, righteous servant of God, as opposed to securing approval from my fellow-man, or obtaining recognition from my brethren?

(Continued on Page 37)

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The Homecoming of our Dead

Human Destiny

God's World of Tomorrow

Do You Know?

The Truth about Hell

Where Are the Dead?

Prophecies Fulfilled

Death Itself Will Die

Israel Fulfilling Prophecy

# "FRANK AND ERNEST" . . .

## Sundays unless otherwise noted

### ARKANSAS

Little Rock KAAY 1090 6:30 a.m.

### CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles (Mon.) KTYM 1460 6:30 a.m.  
 Monterey KNRY 1240 8:30 a.m.  
 Sacramento KJAY 1430 10:00 a.m.  
 San Francisco KEST 1450 3:30 p.m.  
 Tehachapi KTPI-FM 103.1 10:15 a.m.

### FLORIDA

Orlando WNSI 1400 6:45 a.m.  
 Jacksonville WBIX 1010 1:15 p.m.

### ILLINOIS

LaSalle WLPO 1220 9:45 a.m.  
 Rockford WRRR 1330 6:15 a.m.  
 West Frankfort WFRX 1300 9:15 a.m.

### INDIANA

Hammond WJOB 1230 8:30 a.m.  
 LaPorte WCOE-FM 96.7 10:00 a.m.

### KANSAS

Goodland KLOE 730 7:15 a.m.  
 Coffeyville KGGF 690 9:05 p.m.

### KENTUCKY

Bowling Green WLBJ 1410 8:00 a.m.  
 Winchester WHRS 10:30 a.m.

### MICHIGAN

Detroit CKLW 800 7:45 a.m.

### MONTANA

Kalispell KGEZ 600 9:45 p.m.

### NEW JERSEY

Salem WNNN-FM 101.7 9:45 a.m.

### NEW MEXICO

Los Alamos KRSH 1490 6:45 a.m.

### NEW YORK

Buffalo WHLD 1270 12:00 noon

### OHIO

Cincinnati WNOP 740 9:00 a.m.

### OREGON

Portland KKEY 1150 7:00 a.m.

### PLEASE TAKE NOTE

of the many adjustments which are being made in the "Frank and Ernest" schedule. Each month, for several months, new stations will be added, and some old ones will no longer carry our program. You may wish to check this schedule regularly, to see what is happening in your area.

### PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown WHOL 1600 10:45 a.m.  
 Jenkintown (Wed.) WIBF-FM 103.9 12:30 p.m.  
 Pottstown WPAZ 1370 12:45 p.m.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Charlestown WOKE 1340 7:06 p.m.

### VIRGINIA

Richmond WGGM 1410 7:45 a.m.

### WASHINGTON

Spokane KUDY 1280 9:45 a.m.  
 Tacoma KAMT 1360 7:30 a.m.

### WISCONSIN

Milwaukee WNOV 85.6 7:00 a.m.  
 Jackson WYLO 540 2:15 p.m.

# .... WORLDWIDE RADIO BROADCASTS

## Canadian Broadcasts

### ALBERTA

Banff	CFHC 1340	11:45 a.m.
Brooks	CIBQ 1340	10:15 a.m.
Canmore	CFHC 1450	11:45 a.m.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Duncan	CKAY 1500	8:15 a.m.
Duncan	CKAY 1500	7:30 p.m.
Grand Forks	CKGF 1340	9:00 a.m.
Nanaimo	CHUB 1570	8:30 p.m.
Qualicum-Parksville	CHPQ 1370	8:15 a.m.

### MANITOBA

Winnipeg	CKJS 810	9:00 a.m.
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### ONTARIO

Leamington	CHYR 710	5:00 p.m.
St. Thomas	CHLO 1570	10:45 a.m.

### QUEBEC

Montreal	CFMB 1410	5:15 p.m.
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### SASKATCHEWAN

Rosetown	CJYM 1330	10:00 a.m.
Weyburn-Estevan	CFSL 1190	8:45 a.m.

## Overseas Broadcasts

### BRITISH ISLES

Radio Caroline (Tues.)	KHZ 819-AM	8:45 p.m.
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### BRITISH WEST INDIES

Grand Cayman	Radio Cayman	9:30 a.m.
Trinidad	Radio Trinidad 610	10:30 p.m.

### ECUADOR

Quito Radio Anoranza	99.7-FM	8:45 a.m.
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### HONG KONG

Radio Villa Verde (Fri.)		6:00 p.m.
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### ITALY (Italian)

Europe Radio Milano	83.3-FM	11:30 a.m.
Euro Tele Radio Calabria (Fri.)		
	MHz 102	5:30 p.m.
Radio Corleone Centrale		
	FM-88-500 FM-92	11:00 a.m.

### MEXICO (Spanish)

Culiacán Ranchera	XECQ	8:30 a.m.
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### NEW ZEALAND

Dunedin	4XD	11:15 a.m.
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### NIGERIA

Radio Africa (Thurs.)		7:45 p.m.
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### PANAMA

Panama City	HOQ 1250	10:30 a.m.
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### PHILIPPINES

Manila (Sat.)	DZAM 1026 KHz	7:15 p.m.
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### SOUTH AFRICA

Joubert Park (Thurs.)	SWAZI Music	
Radio 1400 & shortwave 49 & 60		9:00 p.m.

### SPAIN (Spanish)

Radio Gerona (Mon.)		9:45 p.m.
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### SRI LANKA

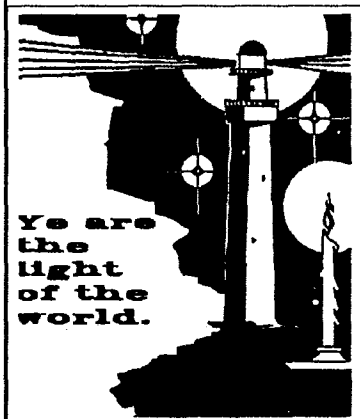
Columbo (Sat.)	Radio Sri Lanka	7:15 p.m.
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### TONGA

Nuku' Alofa (Mon.)		10:15 a.m.
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### URUGUAY (Spanish)

Montevideo Radio El Espectador	810	9:15 a.m.
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# THE BIBLE ANSWERS—TV Programs

## CALIFORNIA

Arroyo Grande Channel 66

## FLORIDA

Daytona Beach Channel 42

Fort Myers Channel 7

Ocala Channel 7

Orlando Channel 4

St. Petersburg Channel 35

Tampa Channel 57

## GEORGIA

Atlanta Channel 4

Cordele Channel 55

Savannah Channel 55

## IOWA

Cedar Rapids Channel 13

\*Des Moines Channel 33

## LOUISIANA

Jennings Channel 13

New Orleans Channel 61

## MAINE

Portland Channel 57

## MASSACHUSETTS

Hyannis Channel 41

## MICHIGAN

Detroit Channel 26

## MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Channel 13

## MISSISSIPPI

Philadelphia Channel 20

## MISSOURI

St. Louis Channel 7

## NEBRASKA

Lincoln Channel 67

## NEW YORK

Buffalo Channel 67

Glens Falls Channel 8

Oneonta Channel 15

Rochester Channel 40

Syracuse Channels 14, 18

## NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh Channel 68

Reidsville Channel 14

## OHIO

Cleveland Channel 29

Columbus Channel 62

## OKLAHOMA

Tulsa Channel 33

## PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg Channel 40

## TENNESSEE

Helksell Channel 12

## VIRGINIA

Norfolk Channel 68

## WEST VIRGINIA

Huntington Channel 55

\*Logan (Mon.) Channel 12

## PUERTO RICO

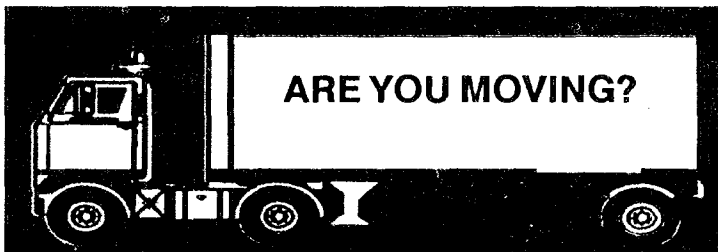
Arecibo Channel 28

**"The Bible Answers"** television programs are aired each Sunday afternoon from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the stations listed above. The times, days and channels of those listings marked with an asterisk (\*) can be found in your local newspaper.

(Continued from Page 31)

- Do I habitually approach the LORD for guidance in the trivial affairs of life, as well as those which are large concerns?
- Have I grown in patience, and do I make allowances for my brethren's seeming faults?
- Is my love for God, the Lord Jesus, the truth, and for the brethren growing stronger, demonstrated by greater spiritual-mindedness?
- Have I taken the initiative to reduce or eliminate any barriers to full fellowship with any brother or sister with whom I might feel a sense of distance?
- Am I spending more time in prayer?

If we can give an affirmative answer to these questions we can feel certain that we are on the proper course, and that our campaign has a firm and proper platform! With faith in God, and our hand in his as we walk down this Christian pathway, we will surely win God's election, and have the privilege, with our Lord and Master, Christ Jesus, of inaugurating an everlasting government of peace, health, life, joy, and righteousness to the blessing of all people, and to the glory of our great God! To him be praise forever and forever. Amen! ☐



**ARE YOU MOVING?**

It will save the Dawn Publishers considerable expense in postage if you will notify us of your new address three weeks in advance of your move.

Thank you!



## God's Love for Abraham

**A**T THE TIME the three angels came to visit Abraham to repeat God's promise that he and Sarah would have a son, they also brought another message. It was not good news. They told Abraham that God intended to destroy the cities of the plain—Sodom and Gomorrah—because of the great wickedness of the people who lived there.

Abraham was upset by this information because his nephew, Lot, lived in Sodom with his wife and two daughters. He pleaded with the LORD not to annihilate the righteous with the wicked, and bargained with God that if there were fifty good men in that city, the LORD would not destroy it. The LORD agreed, because he loved Abraham, and knew he was concerned about Lot. Abraham kept reducing the number

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from fifty, to forty, and finally God said, "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." But not even ten righteous men could be found in Sodom!

God was even kinder and more merciful than Abraham was! He sent two angels to warn Lot to take his family out of the city quickly, since they were the only ones living there who were not engulfed by wickedness. The account in Genesis 19:1-29 is very strange, and amazing to read! While the angels were at Lot's house, all the people of the town—young and old—gathered at his door, demanding that Lot turn the angels over to them. They grew into such an angry mob that Lot stepped outside in an attempt to calm them. Even as he stood there, they began to pound upon the door to break it down! Suddenly the door burst open, the angels snatched Lot and pulled him inside to safety!

Immediately God struck the people outside the house with blindness. But they were so enraged, irrational, and moved with passion to attack the angels, that they continued even then to attempt to break into Lot's home by brute force! Eventually, they must have become tired in their efforts, because we read next that before it became fully light the next morning, the angels took Lot and his family, and leading them by the hand they escaped speedily and unseen out of Sodom to the nearby city of Zoar.

As the angels left the little family just outside the city, they gave the warning, "Look not behind ye!" And neither Lot nor his two daughters had any desire but to obey the angels and to arrive safely at Zoar. But Lot's wife was tempted to look back—and she instantly became covered with the salt which was being belched up out of the volcano. She was so completely covered, in fact, that she looked just like a pillar of salt!

That same morning, Abraham looked out over the plain from a mountaintop. In his anxiety concerning Lot he was, no doubt, offering up a prayer for his safety. His heart must have sunk as he saw that "the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace." He did not know then that God had

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remembered his friend Abraham, and because of his great love for him, he had rescued Lot from Sodom before he destroyed it and Gomorrah. These cities were decimated so completely that nothing has been found of them even to our day, although there are historical records indicating and confirming the existence of these two cities.

### **Abraham's Extremely Severe Test**

Abraham continued to trust God implicitly. However, God gave Abraham another, final test, to see if his faith would survive even this last critical scrutiny. This test was the hardest trial that could be put to a man. God asked Abraham to take his son, Isaac, to Mount Moriah, and there offer him on an altar as a burnt offering to the LORD. Never before, and never since, has God made this kind of request of anyone.

First, Abraham had to resolve the question in his mind, would God ask anyone to offer his son as a sacrifice to him? This was so completely out of character with all Abraham's understanding of Jehovah—particularly since God had promised him this son so many years before, fulfilling that promise by Isaac's miraculous birth after Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children by natural means.

After very serious consideration, Abraham was convinced that God had some deep, unknown purpose for making such a request. He knew God was powerful enough to resurrect his son from the dead, and so he probably reasoned that this might indeed be his plan. He rose up early in the morning, taking his son, Isaac, and two servants with him. They loaded the donkeys with supplies, including split wood to make the fire. Then began their three-day-long journey to Mount Moriah. When they reached the ascent to the mountain, Abraham spoke to his servants, telling them to wait there with the donkeys while he and Isaac offered the burnt sacrifice. "I and the lad will go yonder, and come again to you." How completely he trusted the LORD, knowing that they would return safely together!



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Abraham gave Isaac the wood to carry, while he himself took the fire, and the knife. Isaac began to wonder where the lamb for the burnt offering was, and asked his father about it. Abraham said, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb." "How curious," Isaac must have thought! After Abraham had built the altar and laid the wood in order, he bound Isaac, placing him on the altar upon the wood. According to the Bible record, Isaac offered no resistance to this frightening procedure.

The time came for the actually slaying of the sacrifice. As soon as Abraham had raised up his arm, firmly claspng the knife in his hand, an angel called out to him, saying in a loud voice, "Lay not your hand upon the lad!" And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns! And Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son.—Genesis 22:1-13

As we have learned, Abraham's life was an allegory. In giving his son for a sacrifice, Abraham pictured the fact that God—many long years later—would offer his Son, Jesus, on an altar of sacrifice—the cross at Calvary. There God "gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," because "God so loved the world!" (John 3:16) In Abraham's case, the very fact that he was willing to give his son in obedience to God's command was enough. Showing his faith in the fact that God could resurrect Isaac from the dead, was all God found necessary. The ram in the thicket was then an acceptable sacrifice in Isaac's place.

Never before, and never since, has God tested the love and loyalty of any of his created beings, angels or humans, as he tested Abraham. He does not desire, or in any way approve, any sacrifice other than our hearts. He says to us, "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." (Proverbs 23:26) He does expect us, however, to have complete faith in his promises to bless all the families of the earth in his own due time, just as Abraham did.

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## QUESTIONS

1. What bad news did the angels bring to Abraham?
  2. What did God do for Lot and his family?
  3. What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah?; to Lot?
  5. What test did God put to Abraham? Why?
  6. What does God require of us, nowadays?
  7. What is an allegory, and how was this portion of Abraham's life an allegory?
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## WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

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**JULY 5**—"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth, . . . and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."—II Corinthians 10:4,5 (Z. '99-11 Hymn 242)

**JULY 12**—"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."—John 8:36 (Z. '99-57 Hymn 15)

**JULY 19**—"The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"—John 18:11 (Z. '99-118; '01-91 Hymn 177)

**JULY 26**—"To him that overcometh will I give . . . a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."—Rev. 2:17 (Z. '99-140 Hymn 32)

### The Image of God

PHILOSOPHERS TELL US that man, as he exists today, is far more brilliant, far more advanced than he ever was before in history. Their claim is that evolution has brought us to this exalted point. This idea, naturally, makes us feel quite satisfied! The contention that each generation is much brighter than the preceding one, has been reached because these scientists have ascertained from their calculations that man has existed on earth for 'millions of years', improving with each generation. And with each generation having become more advanced, they conclude that man has now reached a very high level, indeed!

Is this philosophy correct?

How glad we are that the great Creator of the universe has provided us with a source of information from which we can discover what is truth and what is error! He has extended an invitation to us, saying, "Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Ps. 122:1), and by entering his house of learning we will come to find God's own testimony regarding man.

We learn from this source, the Bible, that man is "of the earth, earthy" (I Cor. 15:47), and that God formed him from the "dust of the ground." (Gen. 2:7) By breathing, or infusing into him, the "breath of life, . . . man became a living soul." In this succinct description of the creation of man, there is not even a slight suggestion of one form of life evolving from another, or of a less complex variety becoming a more complex being. God created each species as a separate and distinct variety of life, as we read in Chapter 1 of Genesis. After each step taken to prepare the earth to support life, and after each separate creation of plants, fish, birds, and earth crea-

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tures, God declared that "it was good."—Gen. 1:10, 21; 25; 31

In Genesis 1:26,27 we read that "God said, Let us make man in our image." We notice in God's statement that he suggested a plural thought: "Let *them* have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, . . . and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." From this declaration it is evident that when God created man in his own image, "*male and female created he them*," he meant that both Adam and Eve would be quite similar to himself in various ways.

The word image, in the Hebrew language means 'resemblance'. So man was made to resemble God. In the Greek language the word image means 'likeness', 'copy', 'resemblance', 'vivid representation'. How was the perfect man, Adam, a copy of God? Surely not as far as his body was concerned. Our Creator is a far superior being—a spirit being—and man is only a fleshly creature, of the earth, earthy. However, our Creator did make man as a reflection of his image in some respects. In part, this reflection, or likeness, lay in man's ability to reason, to remember, to perceive abstract as well as straightforward ideas, to make moral judgments, and to possess intellectual and aesthetic qualities.

The perfect man, Adam, was given a God-like quality of conscience which enabled him to distinguish between right and wrong. He was given a free will so that he possessed full exercise of his powers of choice. Were this not so man would be a mere machine; we would all be robots and our actions would be controlled by someone else. But this is not the case. If it were, there would be no exercising of abilities or talents, and no chance of developing individual characters. This freedom of choice, of course, can be good or bad, dependent upon how it is utilized.

Adam, that glorious, first-created human being, was endowed with every physical and mental blessing; and all of his surroundings had been prepared to maintain his well-being. The Creator very clearly forewarned Adam of the results of

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his choice, that if he would obey the righteous law of God he would live; and if he disobeyed God's just command he would die. It was as simple as that. The entire responsibility of Adam's worthiness to live forever in Paradise depended upon his own freedom of choice. But he was tempted to sin by the Adversary, which, sadly, led to his choosing sin through disobedience. And as a result of his fall from perfection the entire race that Adam and Eve brought forth were born under the pall of sin, and under the penalty of death through inheritance.

God's provision for the salvation of man from his righteous sentence of oblivion was an act of free grace. There was no compulsion whatsoever on the part of God that man must be released from death. God was never obliged to do anything for man—and there is no Scriptural support for such a thought. In fact, the Creator had the authority and right to blot Adam and Eve out immediately, and forever. But this was not his loving plan.

And so the reign of sin and death has continued, and will continue, until God's purpose for permitting it has been served, and the due time for it to come to an end arrives. In his love God did provide a redeemer, a ransom, even his own beloved Son, despite the fact that mankind did not do anything to warrant these magnificent favors and blessings, and was not worthy of them.

Man is portrayed in the Bible as being in the image of God even here and now in his earthly tabernacle. In this dark night however, those qualities which from the beginning identified man as being in his Creator's image have been found in only a small portion of the entire human family to any marked degree. Of all the billions of people who have existed since Adam's day—perhaps fifty, or sixty billions till today—of all these people there is only a very, very minute portion who still retain some of this original 'likeness'. Some noble beings have sought to cultivate such graces of his majestic character; while there are others who have merely put on a 'veneer' of grace. This veneer can result in a pleasant outward demeanor, but

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little of the genuine purity of character with which God created our first parents may be truly in their hearts.

Since God cannot work with those lacking in the true graces, he has diligently sought out those of the human family who *have* shown the qualities of mercy and love from the very core of their beings. These he has favored throughout the ages, to accomplish the outworking of his plan. Let us consider one of these favored ones, who during a major portion of his life did display some of these finer qualities. This was David's son, Solomon.

Solomon's freedom of choice in later years led him to fall victim to the demands of his heathen wives, and as a result he displeased God very much. Yet in his youth he was highly favored of God. Solomon seemed to inherit from his father the qualities of thoughtfulness, the ability to rule, appreciation for the goodness of the LORD which David had earlier learned at the feet of Nathan, that holy prophet.

When David became aged and too feeble to rule, Solomon, at the youthful age of twenty, took the heavy responsibility of ruling Israel. We can well appreciate the prayer David uttered on behalf of his dear son, Solomon. Those who are fathers with sons can readily appreciate David's concern for Solomon. We share this same feeling toward our sons, that they might find grace in the sight of God, that they might walk with him uprightly.

In I Chronicles 28:9, the prayer of David is recorded: "Thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts. If thou seek him he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever. Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it."

The LORD had chosen Solomon for the building of a sanctuary—David's life-long dream! Helped and advised by God's faithful prophet, Nathan, and with the favor of God, Solomon entered quickly into the spirit of his father's plan for

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building the Temple. He knew that the welfare of Israel rested in their adherence to the the Law of God, and their worship of Jehovah.

In Solomon's great love for God he offered a thousand burnt offerings at Gibeon! He wanted so much to please God that he prepared this great offering to his Creator. While he was at Gibeon the new young king had a dream in which the LORD appeared to him. (I Kings 3:5) God said unto Solomon, "Ask what I shall give thee," and Solomon's answer was a beautiful one—one which could only come from a loving heart. Solomon said, "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"—vss. 7-9

God appreciated the genuine expression of Solomon's heart. He answered his request in a wonderful way. None with an ability to judge so wisely as Solomon was ever found again among imperfect men. No record has been made of any, before or since, who have had as understanding a heart as Solomon possessed. Because of his unselfish request, God also promised, "I will give thee a long life, and riches, and honor and no king ever again on earth, in all thy days, will have such riches. Obey and walk in my ways and I will prolong thy life." These words are a beautiful picture of the church class—those men and women whom God is drawing out from among mankind now, because he finds in them a heart attitude he can use. Ah yes!

As Solomon awoke from his dream, he enjoyed the realization that he had been pleasing to God in his request. He went ahead with his plan for offering the peace offerings and burnt offerings before the Ark of the Covenant. (I Kings 3:14,15) And he undertook the great task of building the Temple!

We recall how all the stones and the timbers were prepared, shaped, and marked for their particular places in the Temple, and only when ready brought to the site. Every part fitted perfectly, and each came together with the next without

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the sound of a hammer, without the sound of an ax, or a tool of iron of any kind. Although each section of this great Temple had been prepared in different parts of the country, when they were brought to the place destined for its erection nothing at all had to be changed!

What a lesson this is for the Christian! We must not think for a moment that we can bide our time carelessly, and that when we come to the end of our lives, all of a sudden, miraculously, we will be fit for our place in the royal temple! This is the time of preparation. We have got to be shaped and chiseled, polished, and numbered **now**, for the special place the LORD has in mind for us in his spiritual temple **later**.

We realize that Solomon's Temple pictured a greater temple, the "temple of the living God." (II Cor. 6:16) The time for shaping, the time for laboring in the preparation of that church is now. When each piece has been made ready on this side of the veil—prepared in the midst of this crooked and perverse world—each member of that living temple of God will be fitted into its proper place in the heavenly realm.

The LORD may allow some of the pieces—the stones or the timbers or the vessels—to remain here for a while after they have been completely prepared for his use. Sometimes we might wonder why particular ones, perhaps elderly and worn, are permitted to endure difficult experiences; what we fail to realize is that they have already been shaped, they have already been fitted, and the LORD is just waiting to place them in position. He will do it in his own good time, of which he is entirely aware, although we may not be.

There was much joyous celebration connected with the dedication of Solomon's Temple. And there will be great joy in heaven and in earth when the Christ, the living temple, is complete, assembled, and when God's glory enters in. Yes, all the earth will benefit from the completion of that temple and will be blessed even as natural Israel reached the zenith of its prosperity under Solomon's reign.

Leaving the wise King Solomon at this point in his life, we will return to a consideration of our day. We find that the



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Heavenly Father's invitation is still going forth to those in whom he finds a measure of man's original likeness to himself. Those that possess the original quality of love and obedience to God, respond to an even greater invitation and service than that of Solomon, or any other noble characters of past ages. The very fact that we still see some dedicating their lives to God in consecration to him, to follow in the footsteps of the Master, is evidence to us that this polishing, this chiseling, this calling-out work, is still going on. We realize that this is indeed the method for working out the plan of salvation proposed long ago by the Heavenly Father. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that he called according to his purpose, "for whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."—Rom. 8:29

This scripture informs us that a predetermined class—the church—must be copies, images, of God's Son. No one can become perfect as Jesus was, try as hard and long as he may. Nor can any take this honor upon themselves by their own choice. If you were invited to become a footstep follower of Jesus, this honor was extended to you by God.

Ah, this throws light upon the matter for when we look at our fellow Christians, realizing they received the same invitation which we received, we will treasure their fellowship correspondingly. We have accepted the Father's invitation—his gracious provision of Jesus' sacrifice making it possible for us to accept—with thankful hearts. By so doing, by putting on the robe of Christ's righteousness to cover our imperfections, making us acceptable to God, we gladly consecrate our all to begin to do those things which are pleasing to our Heavenly Father, even at great cost to ourselves.

Before we take this important step, we must have counted the cost of what it means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus—to become a copy of him. One's affections must be set on things above; the new will, the new mind, must develop the fruits of the Spirit. To become a copy of Jesus one must strive

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at all times to develop and to exhibit the graces from within. All sentiments that are pleasing to God and in harmony with the Spirit of the LORD must be striven after, although this will take a lifetime of development under the shaping influences of the Heavenly Father.

Not only must love for the LORD, and the truth, and the brethren be demonstrated, but there must also be a loving, sympathetic concern for the world. To be in the likeness of the Lord Jesus, we must have a deep regard for the groaning creation—even for our enemies, those who would spitefully use us.

The wise man said in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." In the case of the church class, our right to future life will be determined upon how we develop our hearts now. We have this treasure in an earthen vessel, and the burdens of the world—our work, our weaknesses of the flesh—will attempt to draw us away from our goal. But as with father Adam, or King Solomon, or even our Lord Jesus, we also have free choice in the matter of deciding to whom we shall render our heart obedience. We have not been coerced into serving the LORD or the truth, or serving the brethren—it is our free choice. But, with our eyes fixed on Jesus, we can become like him. Our desire to walk the way Jesus walked, is a lofty one. Our goal is to fill the place in the Temple for which the Father has so graciously invited us, and it can only be reached by becoming conformed to the image of his dear Son.

Have you ever wondered what you will look like when you are resurrected as a spiritual being, when you are blessed with the marvelous privilege of hearing his words, "Well done my good and faithful servant. Come up higher"? Let us see if the Scriptures give any information on this subject!

The Apostle Paul tells us, "If we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom. 6:5) What is our Lord's 'likeness' since his resurrection? Hebrews 1:3 tells us what we are going

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to look like in the heavenly realm! Jesus is the express image of God! There will be 144,000 (plus one—the Lord Jesus, our Head) with God, who will look like him—all members of the divine family!

This is a further thought with regard to the expression: 'express image'. It is true that our Lord had been in the likeness of the Father in his pre-human condition as the **Logos**. Even when he came to earth as a human being he was in the likeness of God, because his character was always in complete harmony with God. But the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus "sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high," having been obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, and because of this, God highly exalted him and gave him a name that is above every name. Jesus is now, even more completely, in the **image** of the invisible God, sharing the divine nature.—Phil. 2:8,9; Col. 1:15

Again we read, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he [it] shall appear [**Strong's Concordance**, 'become apparent'] we shall be like him [God]; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."—I John 3:1-3

And so we see that Paul and John agree; our Lord Jesus now **looks like** God. Jesus has been given this reward because of his faithful service. He never wavered in his submission to do God's will, despite the cost. God has highly exalted him, and he is pleased to do the same for the members of the church, Jesus' bride, Jesus' body, the 144,000. These will be in the likeness of the Lord Jesus! This is a magnificent promise which we can, and will, inherit, if we are obedient even unto death! (Rev. 2:10) Paul stated it this way, "Ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (Col. 3:9,10) Again he said, "As we have

borne the image of the earthly [after the likeness of God], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [after the likeness of God]"!—I Cor. 15:49

Amen!

If I in thy likeness, O LORD, may awake  
And shine a pure image of thee,  
Then I shall be satisfied when I can break  
The fetters of flesh and be free.

—*Hymns of Dawn*, #105 ☐



**"FRANK  
&  
ERNEST"**

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- 15-God's Remedy for  
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- 22-Prepare to Meet  
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- 29-Creation and  
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To the left is a suggestion for a small advertisement in your local newspaper. This outline is designed for three and one-half inches in one column.

## JULY SPECIAL

On Sunday, July 15th, "Frank and Ernest" will discuss a topic of interest to many. Attractive circulars are available for announcing this program, and you are invited to send for as many as you can use. They are free. Address your request to:

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### Discerning Good and Evil

***“Solid food is for adults – that is, for those who through constant practice have their spiritual faculties carefully trained to distinguish good from evil.”***

***– Heb. 5:14, Weymouth Translation***

FROM THIS TEXT we gather the thought that exercise and experience in the Christian way are necessary for proper development in learning to discern between good and evil. Paul, in another place, wrote concerning particular talents given to the apostles and disciples in the Early Church by God. He says: “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same LORD. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as it will.”—I Cor. 12:4-11

The word discerning means ‘judicial estimation’, according to ***Strong’s Concordance***. And as an example of this meaning we refer to the experience of Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-11) It was recorded that the Apostle Peter discerned that something was not right and brought these two deceitful brethren to account before the LORD. And, by the judgment of the apostle, they lost their lives. This may seem to have been a very harsh judgment on Peter’s part, but when we find

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an illustration of this kind in the Scriptures, it is always necessary for us to learn what lesson the Heavenly Father intended in it for the benefit of the church.

We recall a similar instance when Uzzah put out his hand to steady the Ark of the Covenant. (II Sam. 6:6) It was being carried improperly in a wagon, instead of on the shoulders of the Kohathites, as God had commanded. Uzzah also lost his life for disobeying the Law, despite his obviously good motives. The Ark must not be touched under any circumstances. This incident assisted in bringing about a great reformation in Israel, and an increased respect for the observance of God's commandments.

Here again, this circumstance was recorded for our admonition and instruction, for, in fact, there is nothing in the LORD's Word that has not been placed there for our benefit. Let us keep these things in mind, weigh them carefully, and as our study progresses, perhaps we can come to a conclusion concerning what Jehovah's lesson is.

In our Lord's magnificent prophecy concerning the end of the Gospel Age, he pointed out that there would continue to be those who would work great deceptions among the brethren. He warned that throughout the entire age there would be misunderstandings and disceptions. He warned them, "If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before."—Matt. 24:23,25

By these words of our Master, the true church was forewarned and motivated to keep their knowledge of the kingdom pure. Until the proper time would come for it to be established upon the earth they must not be deceived into believing that the kingdoms of this world in any way represented God's true kingdom upon earth.

Our Lord's prayer, shortly before his crucifixion, contains wonderful encouragement. He said, "I pray for them [those

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down throughout the Gospel Age who would believe on him]: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.”—John 17:9,10

What a beautiful expression of oneness of purpose and heart harmony between the Lord and his church! This statement emphasizes the thought that *what* we believe is important to our relationship of oneness with the Lord. The early disciples understood that Jesus was the promised Messiah, sent of God. They clearly appreciated the relationship of the Father to his Son—“I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.”—vss. 7,8

As Jesus prayed on behalf of believers in this age, he appreciated that their call and development was a preparatory work, a necessary step to ultimately accomplish God’s great purpose to bless all the families of the earth. He thought about the church’s future share with Christ in bringing about the glorious promised blessings for all. And he added, “Now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me.” (vs. 11) They would be ‘kept’ faithful and strong through their understanding of God’s glorious character, standards, and principles—through God’s ‘own name’!

His prayer was, in reality, that the Heavenly Father would so reveal himself to the true church who believed upon him, that they would be kept by this knowledge and made one in the purpose of his kingdom which the Father had planned: “That they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition [Judas]; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now I come to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”—vss. 11-13

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How wonderful! Jesus prayed that the Heavenly Father would fulfill his promise to make it possible for his followers to enter into a covenant relationship with God, and receive justification and spirit-begetting through the Holy Spirit, thereby eventually, to receive the same glory he would possess with his Father. "Now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil ['evil one', Wilson's *Diaglott*]." The 'evil one' is, of course, the great Adversary of God, our Adversary, the Devil, who goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and of whom the church is truly his principal target.

These words do not indicate that Jesus did not love the world of mankind. Nor do they indicate that he did not realize that he was going to taste death for every man in the world. He clearly knew that he was going to be the ransom or corresponding price for father Adam, who had forfeited his perfect human life through disobedience and sin. He knew that it was necessary for God to send his own Son, even himself, in the likeness of sinful flesh, but without sin, to die voluntarily for the entire human race.

Jesus also knew well that his church was to be tested as he had been tested. Therefore he prayed to his Heavenly Father that he would be with them as they shared his experiences. They would need his strength and assistance as they walked in the same way that Jesus had walked; as they shared the same besetments; as they were exposed to the same Adversary; as they became vulnerable to the same unbelief, resentment, and opposition of the worldly he had suffered. They must experience the same things their Master had endured because only under similar conditions would his followers become like him. He had said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." And again, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth."



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From Jesus' words it become apparent that the truth of God is necessary to become sanctified. Although many read the Bible and deduce a multitude of ideas from their study, yet they are not sanctified by the host of diverse errors which their minds concoct. Rightly divided, God's Word conveys truth to those ready to receive it, and it becomes a sanctifying influence in their lives. "If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."—John 8:31,32

The entire Gospel Age church has been left *in* the world, although they are not *of* the world. The result of this plan of action has been to make it possible for them to learn to discern between good and evil—to make wise choices in harmony with truth and righteousness and to shun error and unrighteousness. It was said of Jesus that he "loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."—Heb. 1:9

There were many reasons why our Lord spoke the heart-warming prayer recorded in John 17. He was well aware of the trials and difficult experiences which lay ahead for his people during the age just emerging. He later revealed some of these problems in vision to the Apostle Paul, who wrote about them in detail. In II Thessalonians 2:10 Paul recorded that some would stealthily enter into the church, whose working would be after the fashion of Satan, "with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." These men had not embraced the truth because they had an appreciation for it, or because they desired to be sanctified by it in their hearts, or minds, or lives. They were looking, rather, to use the truth as a means of controlling others, of exerting power, or of gaining prominence among men, or of winning their praise.

"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusions, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be [con-

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demned] who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Again, the Apostle Paul—in bonds at Rome—wrote to his beloved brethren at Philippi, saying, "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of goodwill."—Phil. 1: 15

Can you imagine anyone preaching Christ through envy and strife? They surely had altogether missed the point of Jesus' doctrine of righteousness, had they not? Their motives for following the Master were entirely wrong. Someone, probably one person alone, even preached Christ to make Paul's life more difficult! "The one preached Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds," the apostle concluded.—vs. 16

Jesus told his disciples, in his great prophecy, that such deceptions would be in evidence. He pointed out that a time would come that some would actually think they were doing God a service by casting out his true people. Men who would be deceived into believing they were serving God in the persecution of his saints, would be an example of those who had not learned to properly discern between good and evil.

And in order for us not to make the same mistakes that they did, we must search our hearts and our motives to discover whether they are truly pure. Are we seeking the peace and prosperity of the LORD's people? Are we seeking the furtherance of the truth in its purity? Are we willing and eager to reduce ourselves to the place where we ought properly to be—only a vessel used of the LORD? An affirmative answer to all of these questions will show that we are still being guided by the LORD, taught of him to properly discern good and evil.

"The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." (Rom. 1:18) What a hard statement! Does it mean that some could 'hold the truth' in *unrighteousness*? Apparently this is possible, and so we are instructed and warned by the apostle against being deceived into such an unthinkable position. Again in II Thessalonians 2:12, Paul spoke about those who "had pleasure in unrighteousness,"

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and to them "God had sent a strong delusion that they should believe a lie." However, he continues, saying, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the LORD, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Whereunto he called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!"—vss. 13,14

Just think of the reward for learning to properly discern between good and evil! Paul assured us that it will lead us to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ! He continues, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work!"—vss. 15-17

What a wonderful prayer! What a wonderful benediction upon faithful brethren! How these words should help us to purify our hearts—examine our motives—be alert and aware as to where we might give a helping hand—to put self in the background—to minister to the truth in our love for it, and for his people!

The truth concerning God's plan of salvation for mankind was given through our Lord Jesus, and the apostles. The 'falling away' came later, bringing with it its effulgence of error. It has always been this way. The truth was given first by God in the Garden of Eden; the lie came later through Satan. The test for God's people is to *hold onto* the truth; to discern good from evil. In order to do this we need God's help. We need our Lord's help. We need the operation of the Holy Spirit in our lives to sanctify us through the truth.

Yes, we are being prepared for an inheritance with the saints in light, to share in the glorious work of his kingdom. This hope is too precious to take lightly. May the LORD help us to be more aware of his dealings with us, revealing to us

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any seeds that might begin to take root in our hearts which would hinder our spiritual growth. May we always seek first the best interest of the truth—its Scriptural purity—the spirit in which it is handled and sent forth—and in this way seek always the best interest of God's consecrated, spirit-begotten, faithful children.

All others will have a blessed opportunity under the favorable conditions of the next age, when we will rejoice in the privilege of helping them to be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God—perfect human sons—and when they too will come to properly discern between good and evil. ☐

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## TALKING THINGS OVER

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### General Convention Bulletin

**QUESTIONS ANSWERED**—All who are registered for the Bible Students' Convention at Houghton this year will be provided with blankets and pillows, including those who provide their own linens. If you bring your own linens, they should include pillow slips, sheets, towels and washcloths.

If you have any questions concerning convention arrangements, please **do not** contact the College. **Contact**, instead, Walter Blicharz of the General Convention Committee: (313) 743-1553. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**—Any children who play musical instruments and who would enjoy being involved in an ensemble, please bring your instruments with you. There is a possibility that there will be an opportunity for the children to present a musical ensemble at the convention.

**REGISTRATION FORMS**—Get yours in as quickly as you can! The convention is not far distant! ☐

# Registration Form

## Bible Students General Convention Houghton, NY – July 21-26, 1990

All Names \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check items that apply to you:

- ☐ I must have a first floor room or elevator service for physical reasons.
- ☐ There is a child under five years old in our party.

Please fill in all applicable boxes. If you are registering for the **Package Rate** for the entire week, please do not fill in Daily Rate boxes on the next page. If you want **Daily Rates**, do not enter anything in this table.

Weekly Package Rate					+
Number of Persons ↓		Weekly Rate	Convnt. Subsidy	Linen Discount	You Pay
Age 14, up		\$139.10	-\$21.00	-\$21.00	
5 to 13 years		\$116.35	-\$21.00	-\$21.00	
4 yrs or less	FREE				
Make calculations on scrap paper. Enter totals on this form.			Total Due⇒		
			Deposit⇒		

**Instructions:** Subtract the convention subsidy (and the linen discount if you are bringing your own linens and towels) from the weekly rate. Multiply that value by the number of people and write the result in the last column. Add the values of the two age categories together to get "Total Due." Enter the amount of your deposit (at least 50% of Total Due).

Use these tables if you will attend the convention for less than the entire week.

Daily Lodging Rates				+	
Number of Persons ↓		Daily Rate	Convnt. Subsidy	Linen Discount	You Pay
Age 14, up		\$10.15	-\$3.00	-\$3.00	
5 to 13 years		\$10.15	-\$3.00	-\$3.00	
4 yrs or less	FREE				

Daily Meal Rates				
Number of Persons ↓		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Age 14, up		\$2.50	\$3.85	\$5.00
5 to 13 years		\$1.70	\$2.25	\$3.35
4 yrs or less	FREE			

Make calculations on scrap paper. Enter totals on this form.	Total Due ➡	
	Deposit ➡	

**Arrive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Depart:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Subtract the convention subsidy (and the linen discount if you are bringing your own linens and towels) from the daily rate. Multiply by the number of people and number of days. Write the result in the last column. Total the cost of meals and multiply by the number of people and number of days. Add lodging and meal costs to get "Total Due." Enter the amount of your deposit (at least 50% of Total Due).

### **BUFFALO AIRPORT PICKUP INFORMATION:**

Airline Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **AMTRAK PICKUP INFORMATION:**

Arrival Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **MAKE CHECKS TO HOUGHTON COLLEGE**

#### **AND MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO:**

Director of Conferences, Houghton College, Houghton, NY 14744

## SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

### Ministering the Glorious Gospel of Christ

*These speakers are routed through the Pilgrim Department of the Dawn, or by classes associated with the Pilgrim Service. Their visits are furnished free upon request. Write to: Dawn Bible Students Association, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. A visit will be arranged whenever possible.*

<b>W. Bilcharz</b>		Kalispell, MT	11
London, Ont.	July 1	Spokane, WA	12
<b>D. Bruce</b>		<b>G.M. Jeuck</b>	
Chilliwack, B.C.	July 1	Los Angeles, CA	June 30-July 1
Edmonton, Albt.	4		
Prince Albert, Sask.	5	<b>F. Nemesh</b>	
Preeceville Sask.	6-8	Los Angeles, CA	June 30-July 1
Havre, MT	9	<b>G. Tivador</b>	
Pincer Creek, Albt.	10	Chatham, Ont.	July 15

"Thy Word  
 Is a  
 Lamp Unto My Feet,  
 and a Light Unto My Path."  
 —Psalm 119:105



## OBITUARIES

*The following brethren have recently finished their Christian course. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the families and friends in the loss of these dear ones. We appreciate information concerning any brethren to be included in this list.*

Sister Vicki Lewicki, Grand Rapids, MI—April 27. Age, 87.

Brother John E. Pearson, Piqua, OH—May 5. Age, 97.

## CONVENTIONS

*These conventions are listed at the request of the classes who sponsor them. In order to ensure your convention being accurately placed in these columns, please make your request IN WRITING and mail it to this address at least two months before the date of the convention: The Dawn, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073*

**STURGIS-CANORA, SASK.,**  
**July 7,8**—Preeceville Legion Hall.  
For information call: Doris Karutsky:  
Phone: (306) 548-2872

**CINCINNATI, OH, July 15**—At  
the Harp's Home, 2609, Merrittview  
Ln. 54231  
Phone: (513) 825-4112

**BIBLE STUDENTS GENERAL  
CONVENTION, July 21-26**—  
Houghton, NY. See Bulletin in this  
issue.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA  
CONVENTION, August 10-12**—  
Travelodge Hotel (formerly Vis-  
count), 200 W. 48th Avenue,  
Denver, CO 80216. Contact: Linda  
Veach, 2870 Hartwick Circle,  
Longmont, CO 80503  
Phone: (303) 776-3845

**INTERNATIONAL CONVEN-  
TION, August 11-17**—Willingen,  
Germany. Write Int'l. Conv. of Bible  
Students, 1425 Lachman Lane, Pac.  
Palisades, CA 90272  
Phone: (213) 454-5248

**JACKSON, MI, September  
1,2,3**—Fa-Ho-Lo Park, 3000 Mt.  
Hope Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240  
Contact: Mrs. Ray Lumley, 2531  
Ashton Road, Jackson 49203  
Phone (517) 782-7252

**NEW YORK, NY, August 31,  
September 1,2**—Contact: Mrs.  
Ann-Truth Lange, 76 Longview  
Ave., White Plains, NY 10605.  
Details to follow.  
Phone: (914) 948-5428

**SEATTLE, WA, August 31-Sep-  
tember 3**—Convention held in  
Bellevue. Contact: David Bruce,  
2300 99th Ave., N.E., #34, Bel-  
levue 98004, for information.

**CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA,  
September 29,30, October 1**—  
Canberra Pensioners' Clubroom,  
Barry Drive & Marcus Clarke St.,  
Limited motel rooms available.  
Make reservations early. Write:  
Graeme Smith, Kaleen ACT,  
Australia  
Phone: (062) 4-4863



**OD . . . HATH APPOINTED** a day, in the which  
he will judge the world in righteousness by that  
Man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath  
given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from  
the dead.—Acts 17:31